

Math 201

Personal Finance

Course Credit: 3 Semester Hours

I. Course Description

This course is designed to teach the basic skills needed to manage household finances, such as how to budget, the importance of saving money, the importance of avoiding debt, and planning for the future. Underlying all of those things, however, is our Christian ethos, and so we will also explore how we as Christians should view money, the importance of being good stewards, and how we can use our money to serve God and our neighbor. This course is intended to be practical, with each lesson being practically useful to the students in their day-to-day lives.

Even though not every chapter is assigned for a specific lesson, it is assumed that the students will read through the book *The Total Money Makeover* in its entirety.

II. At the conclusion of this course, students will have:

- A. Learned how we as Christians should relate to our money and what God asks of us in terms of our personal finances.
- B. Put together a monthly family budget that assigns a role to every dollar of income.
- C. Put together a plan for paying off any outstanding debt as quickly as possible and avoiding debt in the future.
- D. Put together a longer-term family financial plan, including a will, life insurance, and a plan for how to prepare for retirement.

III. Materials Needed

- A. *The Total Money Makeover* by Dave Ramsey (Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2013)
- B. Orthodox Study Bible
- C. Other reading supplements for various lessons will be provided in the online classroom
- D. Optional Materials:
 - a) Budgeting software, especially: YNAB (You Need A Budget www.ynab.com) or Every Dollar.
 - b) *On Living Simply* by St. John Chrysostom

IV. Course Content

- Lesson I: Money and the Christian Life
- Lesson II: The Budget: Your Financial Blueprint
- Lesson III: Planning for the Future: How to Create a Stable Financial Ship
- Lesson IV: The Emergency Fund
- Lesson V: Getting Rid of Debt
- Lesson VI: Saving For Retirement
- Lesson VII: Paying Off Your Mortgage
- Lesson VIII: Planning for the End
- Lesson IX: An In-depth Dive into Tithing
- Lesson X: Putting It All Together

V. Assignments

Assignments may consist of reading assigned texts, viewing video presentations, viewing presentation slides, writing short essays (250-500 words each), and creating presentation slides. Rubrics for essays and presentations will be provided with each assignment. Faculty will give substantive commentary on all assignments. Final exam details, if applicable, are explained in the virtual classroom content on moodle.com.

VI. Attendance

We do not have an official attendance policy due to the nature of being a self-paced course (faculty are expected to engage with each student at least once per week through moodle).

VII. Participation

All students must engage at least once per week in the asynchronous forum discussion group. Access is made available in the virtual classroom.