

J-Term, 2015
PERSONAL FINANCES FOR RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONALS – CM 135
January 12-15, 2015; 6 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.
1 CREDIT HOUR

Instructor Information

Course Facilitator: Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Professor of Church Leadership, Wesley Theological Seminary, Kresge, K-104 (Lewis Center for Church Leadership), lovettw@wesleyseminary.edu, 202-885-8621. Seminary office hours are 8:30 – 4:30 Monday – Friday. Accessible by email after hours and on weekends.

Instructors:

Lovett Weems, Geoff Brown, Lazetta Rainey Braxton, Rebecca Parker, and Edith Kirk

Course Information

Course Description: Introduction to basics of personal financial management, including link of financial health to overall health, consumerism, debt management, tax considerations, legal issues, saving and investing, risk management and insurance, and health care and retirement benefits. The course complements without duplicating two other courses in the curriculum: Healthy Stewardship in the Local Church and Church Finances.

Prerequisites: None. This course can be applied toward the total of three hours credit required in church leadership and administration.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of the basic components of personal finances.
2. Engage these components from the perspective of theology as well as the particularities faced by religious professionals.
3. Learn trusted sources for further learning and for assistance as needs and circumstances change.
4. Understand the connections between healthy personal finances and overall health and between responsible personal finances and effective religious leadership.
5. Develop greater confidence about personal finances and greater comfort discussing them.

Wesley's Curricular and Non-Curricular Objectives Addressed in The Course

Non-Curricular Objectives for the Professional Degree Programs

- N1.** Continuing growth in faith as evidenced by public and personal faith disciplines;
N2. Demonstration of moral integrity;

Curricular Objectives for the Professional Degree Programs

III.A.1. Knowledge of the opportunities, functions and demands of the varied forms of ministry in the church;

III.A.3. The sources and methods of the behavioral sciences that contribute to effectiveness in administration, education, caring for persons, and counseling;

III.B.2. Development of effective skills for working with individuals, the community of faith, and the wider social community through planning, practice, guidance, and evaluation;

III.B.6. Church administration,

III.C.4. Recognition of the claims of inner and outer authority in the responsibilities of ministry;

Required Textbooks and Readings

Chatzky, Jean. *Money Rules: The Simple Path to Lifelong Security*. New York: Rodale, 2012, ISBN-13: 978-1609618605, Also available in Kindle edition.

Hamilton, Adam. *Enough*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009, ISBN-13: 978-1426702334, paperback, Also available in Kindle edition.

One reading posted on Blackboard

Supplementary Materials

Quinn, Jane Bryant. *Making the Most of Your Money Now*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009, ISBN-13: 978-0743269964, Also available in Kindle edition. (suggested as a long term reference)

Ramsey, Dave. *The Total Money Makeover: Classic Edition*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2013, ISBN-13: 978-1595555274. Also available in Kindle edition.

Assignments and Participation

Class Attendance: Because of the intensive course schedule, students are expected to be present for every class session in its entirety.

Pre-class Assignment

Reading (to be done prior to the first class session)

Read the two required textbooks plus the reading available on Blackboard.

Post-class Assignment. Due: Friday, January 30

Write a final paper in which you demonstrate your understanding of the lessons of the course in a way that connects learnings to your particular life and ministry goals. *The paper should be at least five and no more than six, double-spaced pages using the outline below.*

1. Identify the aspects of the course that represented new learning for you.
2. Discuss how you see healthy personal finances connected to your effectiveness as a religious leader
3. Identify those aspects of personal finances that you anticipate will be most important for you in:
 - a. The next one to five years
 - b. Five to fifteen years
 - c. Beyond fifteen years
4. What aspects of personal finances present the greatest challenges to you?
5. Sketch out a simple plan for steps you will take now to implement some of the things you have learned in this course.

Email final assignments by Friday, January 30, to lovettw@wesleyseminary.edu. Receipt will be acknowledged. Feedback and grade will be received by email.

Schedule/Course Calendar

Monday, January 12 – 6 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13 – 6 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14 – 6 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Thursday, January 15 – 6 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Friday, January 30 – Post-class assignment due

Grading Procedure:

Grading for this course is Pass/Fail. To pass requires attendance, participation, and completion of all assignments.

Students With Disabilities

If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability and might require accommodations in this course, please contact the Associate Dean for Community Life (Asa Lee, alee@wesleyseminary.edu) early in the semester regarding Wesley's policies and procedures for documenting and accommodating disabilities.

Technical Support

Students are responsible for meeting course deadlines. If you experience technical problems, please exercise one or all of the following options:

- Blackboard Support at blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu
- By phone at (202) 885-6091

Technical Considerations

In order to access our course Blackboard site students need to go to MyWesley webpage and use student log on.

Blackboard site requires use of:

- An Internet connection. – A high speed Internet connection is highly recommended
- An Internet browser. (supported browsers include: Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari)
- An appropriate web browser configuration.

Any computer capable of running a recently updated web browser should be sufficient to access our Blackboard site. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can greatly affect performance. Those using dial-up connections will experience longer page load times and much slower performance. For Blackboard Support: (202) 885-6091 or blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu

Academic Misconduct

All students have signed the Covenant of Professional Ethics and Behavior. This must be adhered to, particularly in regards to academic honesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The Faculty regards the following as forms of plagiarism or dishonesty:

- copying from another student's paper
- giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination
- using unauthorized material during an examination
- borrowing and presenting as one's own (i.e., without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another.

The mutilation, defacement, or stealing of library materials are examples of academic dishonesty and/or professional misconduct and are also subject to disciplinary action.

Weather Policy

If the seminary is open we will have class. If the seminary is closed, class is cancelled. If the seminary is closed there will be a recorded message at the main switchboard number: 202-885-8600.

Inclusive Language Policy

Bearing in mind that language reflects, reinforces, and creates social reality, the Seminary expects class conversation and written work to employ language that respects the equal dignity and worth of all human beings. In particular, linguistic sexism and racism are to be avoided.