

PSYCHOLOGY OF MONEY (PSY 290)

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Office Hours: This semester I have class from 9-10:50 am and 12-12:50 on M-W-F, and 1:30-2:45 on T-Th. So, typically, I will be in my office 11-11:45 and 1:00-3:00 on M-W-F and 9:00--1:15 on T-Th.

Course Objectives and Format

The primary objective in this course is to help you gain a greater understanding of how psychology applies to our attitudes and behaviors concerning money. Topics include how we make decisions pertaining to spending, saving, investing, gift-giving, and so forth. Additionally, we will be applying personality psychology to better understand individual differences in orientations toward money. Last, we will examine how money intersects with romantic relationships and personal happiness.

Readings

There are readings to complete before particular class meetings. All such readings, and brief instructions, are online, with links and directions at www.SmellsLikeCollege.com/PsyofMoney.

Expectations / Grading

Take-Home Exam (60 possible points): Near the end of the course there will be a take-home essay exam. There will be three possible questions or topics from which to choose, and you will be given the questions or topics approximately one week prior to the due date. The exam must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font (Times New Roman). There is no need for a title page or for references. Simply dive into addressing the objectives. The limit is two typed pages. For each day an exam is turned in past the due date, 2 points (3%) will be deducted from the final grade.

Threaded Discussion Entries (20 possible points each): To practice applying the concepts in the course, and to continue the discussion outside of the classroom, we will maintain a small set of threaded discussions through the course portlet on Koala Connection. When you post an entry within one of the discussions, I will check the entry for conformity to the basic format and requirements (see grading rubric below). If the entry meets all of the basic checklist requirements, it will be graded for content and a total score assigned. If any of the checklist requirements are not met, you will receive a copy of the grading rubric with those missing requirements unchecked. If you still wish for this entry to be considered for a grade, make the changes to the entry and resubmit the rubric you received. At that point, your entry will be graded, regardless of whether it now fulfills all of the basic requirements. You are encouraged to continue to contribute to the threaded discussions even after your two graded entries have been completed. However, only the first two graded entries will count toward your course grade.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Although it is perfectly fine to discuss the exam topics with your classmates, under no circumstances should a student copy what another student has written. Students suspected of any unethical behavior will be turned over to the appropriate personnel on campus for investigation.

Final Grade: The total number of possible points in the course equals 100, and your grade in the course is: 90-100 = **A**, 88-89 = **B+**, 80-87 = **B**, 78-79 = **C+**, 70-77 = **C**, 60-69 = **D**, less than 60 = **F**.

In Case of an Emergency School Closing

If we have an unexpected evacuation or closing of the college, continue to follow the assigned reading schedule. If an exam falls on a cancelled day, the exam will be held the next time the class meets (so be

prepared to take the exam). If the college closes for a substantial length of time, monitor Koala Connection and your college e-mail account for information and directions. You can contact the instructor via e-mail at Michael@mindingthemind.com and/or mwiederman@columbiasc.edu.

Special Individual Arrangements

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in the event the building must be evacuated, please see me.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Aug. 25	Introduction to the Course
Aug. 27	Markets, Materialism, Universals vs. Individual Differences
Aug. 30	Mental Accounting . . . When All Dollars Are Not the Same
Sept. 1	Rewards, Losses, and Frames
Sept. 3	Money Illusions . . . When a Dollar isn't Worth a Dollar
Sept. 6	<i>No Class</i> – Labor Day
Sept. 8	Investing . . . When Ego Wreaks Havoc
Sept. 10	Investing Continued . . . and perhaps Shopping
Sept. 13	Shopping, Buying, Selling, and Negotiating
Sept. 15	Motives and Money Types (or Personalities)
Sept. 17	Money and Close Relationships
Sept. 20	Money and Close Relationships (<i>Continued</i>)
Sept. 22	Gifts and Social Markets
Sept. 24	Course Wrap-Up: Money and Happiness

Rubric for Threaded Discussion Entry Date of Entry: _____ Score: _____

If there is no score/grade, you have the opportunity to correct any of the missing components indicated below and return this form. Returning this form will cue me to re-evaluate and grade your entry as it is at that point.

_____ Complete Sentences _____ Proper Capitalization _____ Proper Punctuation

_____ All Sentences Relevant Comments on Content: _____
