**Arts & Sciences 1138, Freshman Seminar**

**1 Semester-hour Credit**

***How Much Is Too Much? Balancing Life in College***

**Instructor:**  Dr. Ida Mirzaie, Department of Economics

**Class Meetings:**  TBA (**Wednesdays any time before 11am and after 1pm or anytime on Monday afternoons)**

**Office:**  423 Arps Hall (1945 North High Street)

**Course Page** http://carmen.osu.edu

**Office Hours:** TBA

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**Course webpage**: <https://carmen.osu.edu/>

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will help students to learn about the value of their time and the importance of using available resources efficiently in order to be successful in their College life. In this course, they will learn that all decisions they make, from morning to night, are economic decisions. Thinking like an economist with help them to allocate their resources more efficiently. Most people when making choices, they usually consider money value of costs rather than their opportunity costs. They are also usually concerned about their short time gains disregarding their long term goals. In this course, we emphasize the implicit costs as defined as forgone opportunities in addition to explicit costs. Furthermore, the course will help students to understand not only the value of the money but also the value of time. Students will learn about their limited resources and how to draw budget constraint and choose the best possible options in a given time and circumstances.

# REQUIRED TEXT

College Success: A Concise Practical Guide, David Strickland, Sixth Edition, 2015

**ADDITIONAL READINGS**

Handouts on selected economic concepts will be provided by the instructor.

**Course Policies**

* Since majority of learning in this course occur through social interactions, class attendance is required and active participation in class discussions is expected from students. In case of emergency absences, students should inform the instructor via email.
* All activity reports will be due by the beginning of the following class. While students may work in group on activates when appropriate, Each student should submit his/her own version of the report.
* Students are required to attend two campus events during the semester. The events include, but not limited to cultural, sporting, and social events. After attending an event, the student should summarize the event and then write her/his reaction to the event. The timeline will be announced during the first week of the class.

**Grading policy**

Your total grade will be calculated based on earning points on assignments and class activities.

Class activities 100

Activity Reports 600

Campus Events and Reflection Papers 200

Total 900

Your % Grade = (Your total points/900)\*100

When assigning the letter grades for the course, the OSU standard grading scheme will be used. This means, if you earn 90 percent of the total points, you are guaranteed a minimum letter grade of A-.

I reserve the right to consider factors such as attendance, exceptional participation, cheating, etc to determine the final letter grade. The issues will be discussed with the individual student if any adjustment necessary.

**Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf>).

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

#### Weekly Schedule

### **Week 1 – Topic**

Introduction to the course

Getting adjusted

### **Week 2 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 1

Understanding opportunity costs

Scarcity and Choices

Adjusting to College, Chapter 1, Strickland

Activity 1: Write your own definition of success in college

### **Week 3 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 2

Implicit costs vs. Explicit Costs

Understanding Sunk Costs

Organizing, Chapter 2, Strickland

Time management

Activity 2: Identify your implicit and explicit costs of attending college. Give examples of your sunk costs. Create a template for a typical week using the blank “Weekly Study Appointment Sheet,” then, provide examples of your opportunity costs of following your schedule.

### **Week 4 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 3

Opportunity Cost and Marginal Decision Making

Listening and note taking, Chapter 3, Strickland

Activity 3: Monitor your decision makings throughout a day and find examples of circumstances that you used marginal thinking when making decisions.

**Week 5 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 4

Time Management and Opportunity Costs

Reading and Responsibility, Chapter 4, Strickland

SQ3R Learning Method

Activity 4: Develop an extensive study plan for your courses while considering your opportunity costs.

### **Week 6 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 5

Dealing with Temptation and Procrastination

Time Inconsistency and Commitment Device

Focus on Learning, Chapter 5, Strickland

Goals and Responsibility

Activity 5: Use real life examples and define time inconsistency and explain how it accounts for procrastination and other problems with self-control. Give some examples on how this may affect your success in college.

### **Week 7 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 6

Free Rider Problem & Group Work

Statistical discrimination and working with people

Learning Styles, Chapter 6, Strickland

Activity 6: Finding your own Learning Style: Your Results and Analysis

### **Week 8 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 7

Efficiency and Effective Usage of Resources

Connecting to People

Connecting to Resources, Chapter 8, Strickland

Activity 7: Practice Finding Resources (TBA)

### **Week 9 – Topic**

Connecting to Resources, Chapter 8, Strickland

Technology

Guest Speaker from ODEE

Activity 8: Practice Finding Resources (TBA)

### **Week 10 – Topic**

Connecting to Resources, Chapter 8, Strickland

#### Places

Learning your way around the campus

Activity 9: Practice Finding Resources (TBA)

### **Week 11 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 8

Limited Resources and Unlimited Needs

How much is too much?

Balancing College Life, Chapter 9, Strickland

Activity 10: Maintaining Balance in Life during College (TBA)

### **Week 12 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 9

Short Term vs. Long Term Goals

Economic Concept of Incentives

Planning for the Future, Chapter 10, Strickland

Activity 11: Design your Long-Term Graduation Plan and then identify your short term goals that will help you to achieve that. Are there any short term goals that may counteract with your long term objectives? Identify possible strategies that can help you to find a balance.

### **Week 13 – Topic**

Basic Insights of Economics 10

Time value of money

Financial Value of College

Budget Constraint and the Cycle of Budgeting

Managing Money in College and in the Future, Chapter 11, Strickland

### Activity 12: Monthly Budgeting (TBA)

### **Week 14 – Topic**

Review and Wrap-Up