

# Building Wealth: How Ordinary People Become Millionaires and Extraordinarily Generous

**Professor:** Jennifer A. Jones, Ph.D  
**Class Meetings:** Wednesdays 3:00pm – 3:50pm  
Zoom Links Available on Canvas  
**Office Hours:** Book a Time: <https://calendly.com/jenniferamandajones/office-hours>  
Email Dr. Jones to book an appointment at a different time

## About the Course:

Published in 2019, the book *Everyday Millionaires* presents the findings of the largest study ever conducted on millionaires. Author Chris Hogan worked with a research team to survey more than 10,000 millionaires to identify how they built wealth. The findings debunk common myths about how millionaires live and become wealthy, and about the role of generosity in wealth-building. The goal of this course is for students to think strategically about handling money. Following what Hogan learned about millionaires, students in this course will learn to develop a zero-based budget, explain the benefits of compound interest, explain the differences between retirement investment vehicles, identify the character traits associated with wealth-building, and develop a philanthropic giving plan for their life. No prior financial literacy training is needed—bring your questions, concerns, and hopes!

## Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Develop a zero-based budget.
- Calculate compound interest.
- Explain retirement investment vehicles.
- Describe the character traits associated with wealth building.
- Develop a philanthropic giving plan for their life.

|  | <b>Points</b> |
|--|---------------|
| Weekly Reading Reflections                                       | 25            |
| Assignment #1: Retirement Savings & Compound Interest Assignment | 15            |
| Assignment #2: Developing a Zero-based Budget                    | 20            |
| Assignment #3: Philanthropic Giving Plan                         | 20            |
| Assignment #4: Student Led Class Opening                         | 10            |
| Class Attendance and Participation                               | 10            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>100</b>    |

## Major Assignments

Assignment #1: Retirement Savings and Compound Interest

Using investment calculators, students will calculate compound interest for a variety of investment amounts and develop a realistic retirement savings plan.

Assignment #2: Develop a Zero-Based Budget

Students will develop a zero-based budget. The budget must account for sinking funds for expected costs (e.g., medical costs, car repairs, etc.). For extra credit, students can follow their budget in November and reflect on the experience.

Assignment #3: Philanthropic Giving Plan

Students will develop a philanthropic giving plan for their life. This may include monthly giving, future major gifts, and bequests. It may also include informal giving such as giving to family as culturally appropriate.

Assignment #4: Student Led Class Opening

Each week, a different student will be responsible for opening the class. The student should a) select an “Everyday Millionaire” segment to share with the class (should be about 5 minutes in length), and, after the class has watched the video, b) share for 2-3 minutes on is the most important take-away lesson from that video.

*Class Participation and Attendance*

Class participation will be measured during regular in-class activities. Attendance will be monitored daily. Unexcused absences result in zero points for the day. Absences will be excused if they meet UF’s policies and the student provides written documentation. See Attendance under the Class Policies section below.

*Extra Credit*

Minimal extra credit may be offered during the course of semester.

**Grading**

| <b>Grading Scale: Letter Grade</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| A                                  | 95+           |
| A-                                 | 90-94         |
| B+                                 | 87-89         |
| B                                  | 83-86         |
| B-                                 | 80-82         |
| C+                                 | 77-79         |
| C                                  | 73-76         |
| C-                                 | 70-72         |
| D+                                 | 67-69         |
| D                                  | 63-66         |
| D-                                 | 60-62         |
| E                                  | <60           |

## Class Policies

### Attendance

See prior section for information about absences. Absences will only be excused if they meet UF's policies and the student provides written documentation. Students missing class for religious holidays must notify the professor in advance.

All students will be given one "freebie" attendance pass to count as an unexcused absence. The "freebie" was created because sometimes students are too sick to come to class but not sick enough to seek medical attention. It is recommended that students reserve their "freebies" for such situations.

One the first day of class, students will share how they wish to be addressed. Students are also advised to change their Zoom name to the name they wish to be called and add pronouns (e.g., she/her/hers, he/him/his, or they/them/theirs). Roll will never be called orally.

### Attendance and Make-Up Work

Attendance and Make-Up Work Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### Late Assignments and Make-up Assignments

Late assignments are accepted and will be penalized 10%.

### UF Computing Help Desk

This course is run on Canvas. Additional readings, course information, and grades will be available on Canvas. It is your responsibility to successfully utilize Canvas. The UF Computing Help Desk is there to assist you with all your computing questions. Please use the following information to contact the help desk:

- Phone: (352)392-HELP (4357)
- E-mail: [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) Location:
- CSE 214/520 URL: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

## University of Florida Policies

### Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

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### **Online Course Evaluation Process**

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

### **Academic Honesty**

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

## **Student Resources**

I strongly encourage students to be proactive in seeking resources that will help them succeed and, also, to let me know how I can best support them.

Here are some of the resources available at UF.

### **Field and Fork Pantry**

Many students operate on a very tight budget. For those struggling with access to food, UF offers free non-perishable food, toiletries, and fresh vegetables through the Field and Fork Pantry.

<https://fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>

If you have read this far, congratulations! Email Dr. Jones a brief paragraph about yourself and you will receive 1 extra credit point. Put as the subject line of the email, "I read the syllabus!"

### **U Matter, We Care**

At UF, Every Gator Counts. U Matter, We Care serves as UF's umbrella program for UF's caring culture and provides students in distress with support and coordination of the wide variety of appropriate resources. Families, faculty and students can contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) seven days a week for assistance for students in distress.

<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>



### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

### **Campus Helping Resources**

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)

- Counseling Services
- Groups and Workshops
- Outreach and Consultation
- Self-Help Library
- Wellness Coaching

Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)