

# PERSONAL FINANCE AND FAITH

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Personal Finance and Faith course is to encourage students in an understanding of personal financial planning and the acquisition of sound money management skills rooted in biblical truth and to change the way they view money and money management. This course will explore how students can live out their faith through every aspect of their financial lives. It will equip them to not only make wise financial decisions, but make those decisions in light of how they reflect and impact their faith. It is critical to provide this education as early in life as possible because competence in managing one's finances results from certain attitudes and behaviors toward money which are more easily taught early in life. Personal financial planning education will equip students to meet the challenges they face in their life with respect to handling whatever resources come through their hands.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Demonstrate the ability to create a personal financial plan that reflects biblically based convictions about finances.
- B. Demonstrate a proficient knowledge and applied understanding of the Four Hs model for financial decision making.
- C. Analyze current debt, spending, giving, and saving situation and set SMART goals in at least two of these four areas.
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of compound interest, as it relates to both debt and savings, and its effect on long term financial constraints and capabilities

## COURSE MATERIALS

- A. Course Materials Google Drive Folder: (<https://rb.gy/boyd7q>)
- B. Syllabus: (<https://rb.gy/bs36kp>)
- C. Required Book:
  - a. Blue, R., & Guess, K. (2017), *Never Enough?: 3 keys to financial contentment*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.
- D. Other Recommended Books:

- a. Blomberg, C. (2000), *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*, New Studies in Biblical Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: IVP Academic.
- b. Blue, M. (2020), *Free to Follow: Discover the riches of a surrendered life*. Austin, TX: Thirsty Land Press.

## CONTENT ORGANIZATION

The content is broken down by Unit and Topic.

*There are 8 Units which represent relatively equivalent workloads (4 to 6 hours of seat time). These Units can be divided up across multiple weeks in a traditional semester format or left as units in a self-paced or eight-week format.*

*There are 11 Topics which represent blocks of related content within the Units. Some Units contain multiple Topics and others contain only one Topic. This structure breakdown is intended to facilitate your ability to schedule the content out over the time allotted for the course.*

To help you navigate the course materials, we've provided some icons within each Unit and Topic. They are:



**Reading:** Assignments from the main textbook and various collections of articles.



**Video:** Explanatory and teaching videos on the applicable subject matter.



**Assignment:** Exercises to be completed by the students as they complete the material.



**Discussion Board:** Places for interaction through your LMS discussion board section.



**Quiz:** Quizzes over the material covered in a Unit or Topic.

Each icon will be followed by a brief heading which describes the content provided. Following that will be the student prompt you can load onto your LMS and then in some cases a further description of the content or assignment.

Below is a breakdown of the reading, assignments, and suggested point allocations which you will find in each Unit. Feel free to modify these however you desire.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Reading &amp; Study</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1</b>	Blue & Guess: Chapters 1,2, and 3	DB 1: 1 Initial Post & 2 Replies	50
		Assignment: Four H Tool Assessment	20
		Quiz 1: Comprehension Check	20
		DB 2: 1 Initial Post & 2 Replies	50
<b>2</b>	Optional: Sermon Reading	DB 3: 1 Initial Post & 2 Replies	50
		Assignment: Interview or Sermon	50
<b>3</b>	Blue & Guess: Chapters 4 & 5	Quiz 2: Comprehension Check	20
		Final Project: Reflections - Health & Habits	10
<b>4</b>	1) Boyce & Blue: "Why Give"	DB 4: 1 Initial Post & 2 Replies	50
	2) Grow Reading Packet	Quiz 3: Comprehension Check	20
	3) Blue & Guess: Chapters 7 & 10	Additional Material: Biblical Giving Themes	
<b>5</b>	1) Taxes Reading Packet	DB 5: 1 Initial Post & 2 Replies	50
	2) American Debt & Credit Cards Reading Packet	Assignment: Debt Snowball Simulation & Pay Stub Analysis	50
	3) Blue & Guess: Chapters 8 & 9	Quiz 4: Comprehension Check	20
<b>6</b>	1) Checking versus Savings Account	DB 6: 1 Initial Post & 2 Replies	50
	2) How to choose the best budget system	Assignment: Live	50
	3) Blue & Guess: Chapter 6	Quiz 5: Comprehension Check	20
<b>7</b>	1) Goal Setting Reading	DB 7: 1 Initial Post & 2 Replies	50
	2) Communication Tips About Money	Assignment: Balance the Budget	50
	3) Blue & Guess: Chapter 11	Quiz 6: Comprehension Check	20
		DB 8: 1 Initial Post & 2 Replies	50
<b>8</b>		DB 9: Initial Post	50
		Complete Final Project - Financial Plan	200
<b>Total</b>			1000

Now that we have all of that behind us, let's dig in to the content! Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to us at the Ron Blue Institute with any questions. We are here to support your work! Now, let's go!

## UNIT AT A GLANCE

*This Unit is designed to welcome and orient students into the course. The students will have a chance to be exposed to the Four Hs of Financial Wisdom framework from which this course will be taught. They will begin reading in their primary textbook and will have a chance to familiarize themselves with the course project. This Unit is designed as an easy on-ramp into the course with opportunities to begin thinking more deeply about the subject matter of the course.*

## TOPIC 1 – Course Overview



(1.1) Course overview video [8:51]: <https://vimeo.com/418971643/35a5477c69>

Watch this picture in picture PowerPoint presentation, where Michael Blue provides an overview of the course with an introduction to the Four Hs of Financial Wisdom (Heart, Health, Habits, Hope). Michael provides an outline of the course content over the eight units, an overview of what to expect in Unit 1, and some instructions on how to approach the class long project.



(1.2) Textbook reading: *Never Enough?* chapters 1, 2, & 3

Read the first three chapters of *Never Enough?*:

ch. 1: A New Money Story

ch. 2: Who Owns It?

ch. 3: Perspective Changes Everything



(1.3) Why this course? The Four Hs overview video [5:31]:

<https://vimeo.com/533186059/647ac72f3a>

Watch this video, where your virtual instructors, Ron Blue, Karen Guess, and Michael Blue, introduce themselves and Ron provides a simple introduction to the Four Hs of Financial Wisdom.



(1.4) Christians and money – Why this matters [16:53]:

<https://vimeo.com/422998123/6b9a201787>

Watch this video to hear Michael Blue talk about the dangers of Christians using and viewing money no differently than anyone else. He challenges us to get to know what

the Bible says about money and to live distinctly from the world in our pursuits. He challenges us to view and use our money in light of eternity.



#### (1.5) Article and Discussion Board: Katherine Tsay

Read the article about Katherine Tsay and then answer the related Discussion Board prompt.



*Discussion Board prompt:* "What three words do you want to be remembered by? Explain each one. How do these words relate to your financial life, if at all? Provide a 250 word initial post by \_\_\_\_\_ and reply to at least 2 classmates' post with 100 - 200 word replies by \_\_\_\_\_."

*NOTE: the Katherine Tsay article can be found as a PDF in the Course Materials Google Drive Folder - "Reading (wk1) - Katherine Tsay Reading.pdf"*



#### (1.6a) Setting pre-course financial goals - FINAL PROJECT.

In the final project file, take some time to reflect on your pre-course financial goals. You are not required to submit this section today, but you will need to complete it and submit it by Unit 8.

*NOTE: The final project file can be found in the Course Materials Google Drive Folder - "Assignment - Final Project.docx".*



#### (1.6b) Four H Tool assessment assignment.

Print out and complete the assessment found in the Four H Tool Assessment handout. Submit your assignment either by email or by scanning and uploading to the LMS.

*NOTE: The assignment file can be found in the Course Materials Google Drive Folder - "Assignment (wk1) - Four H Tool Assessment".*



#### (1.7) Discussion Board: Unit 1 money memory

Respond to the following discussion board prompt: "Describe a money memory before the age of 12, what it taught you about money, and respond to 2 other posts. Provide a 250 word initial post by \_\_\_\_\_ and reply to at least 2 classmates' post with 100 - 200 word replies by \_\_\_\_\_."



#### (1.8) Quiz

This quiz covers the reading from chapters 1-3 of *Never Enough*.

*NOTE: There are quiz questions provided over chapters 1-3 of Never Enough. Choose however many questions you want to use in order to test reading comprehension and completion. You can find these questions in the Course Materials Google Drive Folder - "Quiz Questions (wk1)".*