Department of Economics

Lund University - 2026

Topics in Household Finance

Teacher: Kaveh Majlesi

Email: Kaveh.Majlesi@monash.edu

Course Information

This course provides a graduate-level introduction to the field of Household Finance. Rather than attempting to offer an exhaustive overview of the literature, the course uses ten 90-minute sessions to explore selected topics in depth. These include the determinants and consequences of households' wealth allocation, with particular emphasis on participation in and investment in risky assets, as well as household consumption and borrowing decisions. The course is designed to develop students' ability to read and critically evaluate the academic literature and, ultimately, to use it as a basis for developing new ideas for their own research.

Grading

Grading will be based on a final research paper. Students can choose to write the paper individually or in a group of two. There is no deadline for submitting the final papers, but you can only expect to pass the course when you submit the paper.

Course Structure

	Topic
Nov 1 – Session 1	The Big Picture: Why Household Finance?
Nov 1 – Session 2	The Big Picture: Evidence on Household Balance Sheets
Nov 2 – Session 1	Participation and Asset Allocation: Demographics, Life cycle, and Background Risks
Nov 2 – Session 2	Participation and Asset Allocation: Nature vs. Nurture
Nov 3 – Session 1	Participation and Asset Allocation: Wealth Effects
Nov 3 – Session 2	Asset Holding and Wealth Inequality
Nov 4 – Session 1	Consumption: Wealth Effects I
Nov 4 – Session 2	Consumption: Wealth Effects II
Nov 5 – Session 1	Consumption: Behavioral Responses
Nov 5 – Session 2	Debt, Credit, and Consumption