

**Economics 70, Personal Finance:  
Making Better Decisions and Building a Better Financial System**

**In-Class Budgeting Exercise Part 1, Thursday September 7**

This sheet is for your personal use. You will not hand it in or show it to anyone else.

During the last seven days, from Thursday August 31 through Wednesday September 6, how much did you spend on each of the following categories of expenses?

- Drinks (sodas, coffee, alcohol, etc.)
- Food (snacks, pastries, meals out, etc.)
- Transport (T, Uber, etc.)
- Personal items (CVS, hair products, etc.)
- Clothing
- Books (including textbooks, both e-books and physical books)
- Entertainment (including streaming charges)
- Other online purchases (Amazon, etc.)
- Recurring charges (phone bill, streaming subscription)
- Other expenses

Please add all spending categories to get a total for the week.

Please calculate the percentage share of each category above in your total spending. Which category is the largest share of your expenditure?

Which expenses above are recurring, and which are one-time expenses for the start of the semester?

Follow-ups:

- 1) Do you find it hard to recall your expenses? Do you find the exercise useful? Can you suggest improvements to the categorization above? What are the most meaningful broad categories for your expenses? (For in-class discussion today.)
- 2) The second part of the budgeting exercise is to forecast expenses for the coming month. (We will do this at the start of class on Tuesday.)