A. Course: 37:575:250:06 Finance for Personal and Professional Success (3)

B. Pre-Requisite: None

C. Meeting Times: Monday, 7:15 PM to 10:05 p.m.

D. Location: Loree 020

E. Course Description: Overview of core financial concepts and techniques useful both at work and in personal life; interest, credit, insurance, investments, present value; and net worth

F. Relationship to SAS Learning Objectives:

- **Goal x** (Apply effective and efficient mathematical or other formal processes to reason and to solve problems.) Specifically the focus is on the mathematics underlying the process of investment, and borrowing/saving money. The student will learn to apply concepts from algebra necessary to specify and solve equations related to loans, savings, mortgage, credit and insurance using compound interest.
 - Goal w (Formulate, evaluate, and communicate conclusions and inferences from quantitative information)

Other Learning Objectives:

- Familiarize students with core concepts of interest, present value, risk, diversification, and insurance,
- Improve student skills in using spreadsheets and other tools in common use for analyzing financial information, and
- Introduce students to major types of financial instruments including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and to investments in real estate.

Assessment of Learning Objectives: Project assessments will be used to evaluate these objectives.

G. Text - Required: Madura, I., **Personal Finance**, Pearson-Addison/Wesley, 4e, 2011,

ISBN 978-0-13-611700-1. The text is needed by the <u>first week of class</u>. I am unsure if the international version is equivalent (i.e., has the same homework, etc.)

Text - Recommended: Dworsky, L. N., **Understanding the Mathematics of Personal Finance**, Wiley, 2009, ISBN 978-0-470-49780-7.

- H. Instructor: Deborah S. Lewitter
- I. **Email ID**: <u>Lewitter@work.rutgers.edu</u>
 - a. **Please note that there may be other e**-mails listed for me. I will only guarantee responses to e-mail sent to Lewitter@work.rutgers.edu
- **J. Phone**: E-mail contact is only available at this time.
- **K. Office Hours**: Prior to class by appointment and after class
- **L. Special Needs** Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and accessibility of online information. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Kreeger Learning Center, 151 College Ave, 732-932-2848. I look forward to talking with you soon to learn how I may be helpful in enhancing your academic success in this course.
- **M. Assessments:** This class is hands-on and features assessment of projects and assignments, rather than a lecture course that uses exams to assess learning. Course assessment is calculated as a weighted average of the following projects.

Note: The full assignment specifications can be found on Sakai, under Resources, in the first document under Folder #3, Assignment Related Documents.

Assignments Overview

	Tits Overview		
Assignment #	Course Assignments	Target Due Date	Weigh t (%)
	Note 1: Please go to Sakai, under Resources, to Folder #3, Assignment first document in the folder for the specifics of these assignments.	s. Please go	to the
	Note 2: Assignments 1-4 are supported by key course documents on the Personal Financial Plan chapters and the Brad Brooks cases. A copy of under Resources, Folder #3, under MACs.		Sakai
Assignment 1	Selected Homework Problems, Chapters 3, 4, & 5		10.0
20%	Brad Brooks, Part 1 - Chapter 4	February 20	10.0
	Personal Financial Plan Worksheet, Chapters 1, 2 and 5		10.0
	Web Project and Selected Homework Problems, Chapters 6, 7, &		
Assignment 2	9 Bard Bard & Bard & Olassian &		15.0
20%	Brad Brooks, Part 2 - Chapter 8	March 19	
	Brad Brooks, Part 3 - Chapter 10		
	Personal Financial Plan Worksheet, Chapter 8		5.0
Assignment 3	Web Projects, Review Question, and Selected Homework Problems, Chapters 14 and 16		15.0
25%	Brad Brooks, Part 4 - Chapter 13	April 9	
	Pareto Analysis - (See ExcelParetoChart-Version+2011G.xls on Sakai under Assignment Related Documents under Resources). (See Worksheet 3A)		10.0
	Personal Financial Plan Worksheet, Chapter 14		5.0
Assignment 4	Web Projects and Selected Homework Problems, Chapters 17 and 19		
20%	Brad Brooks, Part 5 - Chapter 18		10.0
	Brad Brooks, Part 6 - Chapter 20 Stock Market Project (See Worksheet 4B)/ Leasing Project (See Worksheet 4D)	April 30	5.0
	In-Class Literacy Assessment (Must be present in class) (See Worksheet 4C)		5.0
	Personal Financial Plan (Post one Excel file of completed chapters 1, 2, 5, 8, and 14 on the Assignment Folder in Sakai.)		
	For any non-working websites, please first check Yahoo and/or Google as alternatives. Otherwise, please e-mail me.		10.0
Total	In-class assignments/speaker reviews/etc		10.0 100.0

In-Class Projects: Ethical Dilemma, films, etc.

O. Target Week	Proposed Chapter Series Notes: Guest lecturers may result in modifications to the schedule. As a courtesy to our guest lectures, please turn off all laptops and communication devices.
1 January 23	Chapter 1 (Overview of a Financial Plan); Excel Components and Developing a Financial Plan Excel spreadsheets, graphics and financial applications Pre-Assessment of Financial Literacy Brainstorm goal setting (short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term)
2 January 30	Chapter 2 (Planning with Personal Financial Statements); and 4 (Using Tax Concepts for Planning) Factors that affect cash flows; creating a budget Discussion of tradeoffs regarding: What's it worth to reduce my spending and understanding the Latte Factor Introduce Stock Market Project
3 February 6	Chapters 3 (Applying Time Value Concepts) Future and present value of a single dollar amount Future and present value of an annuity To be a millionaire, how long would it take with different rates of savings and rates of return, etc. Brainstorm for Excel Pareto Project
4 February 13	Chapters 5 (Banking and Interest Rates) and 6 (Managing Your Money) Types of financial institutions and their banking services; Interest rates; Money market investments and their risk How to choose a bank, with given minimum deposits, balances, monthly fees, check-writing charges? How do you evaluate choosing between two CDs? How much do you need to save to purchase a car? How should you plan to purchase a condo?
5 February 20	Chapters 7 (Assessing and Securing Your Credit) and 8 (Managing Your Credit) Credit cards; dealing with credit debt Evaluate your preparedness to defend against identify theft Assignment 1 Due - All course projects must be posted on the Sakai Drop Box by 6:45 PM. Paper copies are to be submitted in class. Guest Lecturer TBD
6 February 27	Chapters 9 (Personal Loans) and 10 (Purchasing and Financing a Home) Evaluation of personal loans, auto loans and 30-year mortgages Evaluate what you can afford to borrow to finance the purchase of a home Valuation of a home How much can I borrow? Guest Lecturer on Real Estate: TBD Introduce Leasing Project
7 March 5	Chapters 11 (Auto and Homeowner's Insurance) and 12 (Health and Disability Insurance) Managing risk; factors that affect auto insurance premiums; homeowner's and renter's insurance What insurance should I have?
8 March 19	Chapters 13 (Life Insurance) and 14 (Investing Fundamentals) Types of life insurance and determining the amount of life insurance needed Types of investments; tradeoffs between return and risk How much life insurance do I need? How do my investment decisions impact my wealth? Assignment 2 Due - All course projects must be posted on the Sakai Drop Box by 6:45 PM. Paper copies are to be submitted in class.

9 March 26	Chapters 15 (Investing in Stocks) and 16 (Investing in Bonds) Analyzing the firm's annual report; industry analysis of stocks; stock valuation (Price-earnings method and price-revenue method) Stock Exchanges; purchasing or selling stocks; buying stock on margin and assessing performance of stock investments What stocks meet my criteria? How do I compare and contrast them? How do I assess analysts' comments and earnings estimates? Types of bonds; valuing a bond; risk from investing in bonds; bond investment strategies Type of mutual funds; return and risk of a mutual fund How do the purchase of bonds impact my protecting of assets and income, as well as my retirement? How do I select mutual funds that best meet my individual financial goals?	
10 April 2	Chapter 18 (Asset Allocation) How diversification reduces risk; strategies for diversifying; asset allocation strategies; factors that affect your asset allocation decision Is my asset allocation conservative, moderate or aggressive? Guest Lecturer: TBD	
11 April 9	Chapters 17 (Investing in Mutual Funds) Assignment 3 Due - All course projects must be posted on the Sakai Drop Box by 6:45 PM. Paper copies are to be submitted in class.	
12 April 16	Chapter 19 (Retirement Planning) Social Security; employer-sponsored retirement plans (defined-benefit and defined-contribution plans) Retirement plans offered by employers; Keogh Plan, SEP, IRAs, etc. How do my savings decisions and what types of plan(s) contribute to impact my retirement?	
13 April 23	Chapter 20 (Estate Planning) Purpose of a will; estate taxes; trust, gifts, and contributions What key events and changes in my assets impact the review and change of my will? In-Class Project Financial Literacy Assessment	
14 April 30	Chapter 21 (Integrating the Components of a Financial Plan) Budgeting, managing liquidity; personal financing; protecting your assets and income; managing investments; retirement planning; maintaining your financial documents How can I further improve my financial health? Assignment 4 Due - All course projects must be posted on the Sakai Drop Box by 6:45 PM. Paper copies are to be submitted in class.	

P. Attendance: Attendance is of critical importance. It is essential to keep up with the class material. Attendance will be taken in each class. If a student misses/will miss a class, then the student needs to send a courtesy e-mail message to the professor.

Q. Required: Statistical software in Excel 2003 (or higher) or, for MACs, StatPlus/Analyst Soft as an alternative, is required for homework, related cases, and team assignments. Reading assignments must be completed prior to each lecture. **Communication Devices:** No communication devices (cell phones, palm pilots, beepers, pagers, etc.) can be used in the classroom.

R. Assessment:

Posting of Grades, http://www.acs.rutgers.edu/grades

Assessment Policy:

Letter Grade	Scores Based on Course Components
A	90-100
B+	85-89
В	80-84
C+	75-79
С	70-74
D	60-69
F	< 60

Note: The thresholds for final letter grades will be re-scaled if a conventional standard seems unreasonable.

- **S.** Academic Integrity: All students are responsible for locating, reading, and abiding by the University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students. The policy is available on-line at http://cat.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html
- **T. Recommendations:** Requests for recommendations must be made in writing after completion of the course.
- **U. Assignments:** All assignments are posted on Sakai under Resources. The Excel Assignments document has several worksheets. Assignments must be handed in on time in their entirety;

Penalty: 10% for every assignment is submitted late, with a **max of one week**. Submissions must be complete; no partial assignments can be submitted.

Note: Project due dates are tentative until confirmed.

V. Communication:

1. NETID Needed

Rutgers uses the Sakai system. In order to use this system, you must have a NETID and PW. A NETID is an account on one of the main systems at Rutgers (Pegasus, Eden, Andromeda or RCI).

- If you have a NETID, you can currently ensure that you will be able to login to the system.
- If you do not have a NETID, please use the following page to attain one: http://netid.rutgers.edu/
- **If you have any problems**, please contact your local RUCS Help Desk. You can reach them at help@nbcs.rutgers.edu or 732-445-Help

2. Sakai

To facilitate class learning, please access and print course documents needed for class from the course management system known as Sakai. Course documents are posted in folders under <u>Resources</u>.

Quick Start for Sakai:

https://sakai.rutgers.edu/access/content/public/quickmember.html

Sakai website:

http://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal

If you do not see this course listed, then the site in likely in the "More" dropdown box to the right of your tabs. You can rearrange the order of your sites or hide sites from previous semesters by using the Preference tool in My Workspace and clicking on the "Customize Tabs" action button.

W. Student E-Mail and Phone Numbers:

a. A student can forward mail from his/her Eden/Pegasus address to a preferred e-mail address. Go to http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/tools.php and click on forwarding. Enter your NetID and PW. Then fill in your preferred e-mail address.

<u>Cautions</u>: Hotmail has problems with e-mails with attachments. Also, some corporations spam e-mails with attachments.

- If you have any problems, please contact your local RUCS helpdesk at help@nbcs.rutgers.edu
- b. Students, also, have the responsibility to then inform the professor of any changes to their phone numbers (day and evening). Please use "37:575:250:06" in the Subject section to avoid being spammed. *Please sign your full name in all e-mail correspondence.*

- c. Please check your e-mail regularly, especially on the day of class, to learn if there are any changes in the class schedule, class requirements, or for other general announcements.
- **X. Study Groups:** Forming study groups will facilitate learning by keeping you focused, involved, and current in the course.
- Y. Classroom Etiquette: Common courtesy is expected at all times.
- **Z1.** Parking Impacts: Special events may impact parking.
- **Z2.** University/Campus Closings: 732-932-INFO (New Brunswick); http://campusstatus.rutgers.edu