Finance for Personal and Professional Success
Fall 2026
(Tentative Syllabus)

Instructor: Mary Evans
Course Number: 37:575:250:01

Class Location: Frelinghuysen Hall, (Room B-2). On College Ave campus
Class Time: **Friday, 12:10pm to 3:10pm**
Office Hours: By appointment (Thursday afternoons)
Quick Meets: Before/after class
E-mail: Mary.Evans@Rutgers.edu
Class Materials: https://canvas.rutgers.edu/
Mailbox: Janice Levin Building, Livingston Campus

Classroom Assistant: Olivia Horan
E-mail: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a comprehensive course where you will learn core financial concepts and techniques that are useful both at work and in personal life; goal setting, budgets, taxes, Time value of money, banking, interest, credit, personal loans, tackling student loans, auto loans, protecting your assets, options for going to college for FREE, buying a home, children and family finance, insurance, investments, retirement planning, estate planning, starting a business, passive income, actively managed income, present value; and net worth. You will learn about financial independence, generational wealth and planning for the present as well as your future.

COURSE DELIVERY FORMAT:

- This class is **more appropriately** designed specifically for ***students who prefer in-person lectures***, and to facilitate accessibility, flexibility, and uninterrupted fluidity in the learning environment. This class is designed to have some FLEXIBLITY and conducted via ***live in-person*** with ***in-class lectures*** and meetings at designated times each week, please see your schedule for times and days
- There will be a few extra credit opportunities for community engagement, community service and experiential learning. **TBD once a date is finalized. This will give you an opportunity to apply what you have learned and to make a difference. **
- We will be using Canvas learning management system to access learning materials, post announcements, and submit Assignments.
- Be sure to check the site frequently for announcements and instructions. Make sure that your notification is turned ON.
- **Note:** Whenever anything is posted to this site, you will automatically receive a notification to your rutgers.edu email account. Check that email account frequently.

CONTACTING PROFESSOR:

- Students, have the responsibility to inform the professor of any changes to their emails and class performance or situations affecting their learning.
- Use "**37:575:250 plus your section**" in the Subject section to avoid being placed in my email spam / junk box. ***Make sure to sign your full name in all e-mail correspondence.***
- You should 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.
- **NOTE**: For Emergencies No Phone calls/ text messages…please email me. In the subject of your email, please include your name, the course and the section. Please check your Rutgers email in case of any class cancellations.

OFFICE HOURS/ EXTRA HELP:

- Quick meetings are prior to classes by appointment, and immediately after every class.
- Office hours are by appointment and during my designated time (Thursday afternoons). They do not act as a replacement for missing class time or absences.
- They can be remote or in-person meetings during the scheduled time for office hours.
- Extra help is available before and after class meeting times (aside from office hours, if you need extra tutoring, you can attend the tutoring sessions conducted by the Learning centers, or our TA).
- For tutoring with me (during my office hours or quick questions before or after class), make sure you are prepared with your questions and ready to show me the work that you have already attempted. If you cannot make it to my office hours or meet with me before or after class, you can also email me with any questions, making sure to COPY and PASTE your actual questions and your attempts, along with an explanation of what you are struggling with.
- *****IF you cannot access Canvas or the class materials for ANY REASONS, please let me know ASAP! I will work with you so that you can gain access for my class and be successful. DO NOT Procrastinate, let me know right away!**

COURSE PRE-REQUISITE:

- None (If you are Math phobic or fearful of math, BUT *hardworking* and *very willing to learn*…you are welcome in my class! If you are not hardworking or willing to learn…seek elsewhere….)
- This class is hands-on and features assessment of projects and assignments, rather than a lecture course that uses exams to assess learning.

TEXTBOOK - OPTIONAL:

- (*Online enrollment via Canvas e-textbook is the easiest and most cost efficient way to purchase it.*) **Introduction to Personal Finance: Beginning Your Financial Journey**, by John Grable and Lance Palmer, Wiley publishing. When you purchase the e-textbook, you also get access to WileyPlus (which will make life easier for you!)
- **Text – Recommended (**Not required, but Optional**)**: Dworsky, L. N., **Understanding the Mathematics of Personal Finance**, Wiley, 2009, ISBN 978-0-470-49780-7.

REQUIRED:

Statistical software in Microsoft Excel is required for some homework, related cases, and team assignments. You can download the entire Microsoft Office Suit from the Rutgers Software Portal for FREE if you are a student. Mac or Apple users can use the Numbers program if they don't have Microsoft Excel… BUT must convert documents to PDF format BEFORE submitting it on Canvas. (Do not submit Google sheets or a link for Sharepoint).

ACCESSING CLASS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- ***NETID Needed.*** Rutgers uses the Canvas system. https://canvas.rutgers.edu/
  In order to use this system, you must have a NETID and Password. A NETID is an account on one of the main systems at Rutgers (Pegasus, Eden, Scarlet mail, Rutgers, Andromeda or RCI). - **If you have a NETID,** you can log into the system.
- *NOTE:* **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

***CANVAS* (CLASS SITE)**:

- To facilitate class learning, please access and download course documents needed for class from the course management system known as Canvas.

  Quick Start for Canvas:
  https://canvas.rutgers.edu/students/getting-started-in-canvas-students/
- Go to your course tab and find our class. Our course number is 37:575:250 followed by your section.
- If you do not see this course listed, then the site in likely in the "Courses" dropdown box to the Left of your tabs.
- Read the syllabus. Course documents are posted in Modules for each lesson.
- You should have a "To-Do" list on our Canvas class home page (found on the right side).
- The To-do list will list upcoming assignments and things approaching by their due date.

  Accessing assignments and projects:

  NOTE: You can also find Projects, Lesson Questions, Finals rubric, etc…**under ASSIGNMENTS TAB in our course page.**

  ASSIGNMENTS and Projects:

- Go to our Class CANVAS
- → To-do list **or** Course Calendar **or** Assignments tab –
- → open link-→ follow instructions-
- → (***Make sure it is submitted in an acceptable and compatible format to receive a grade. PDF or Microsoft compatible format only***)

- **<u>CLASS RESOURCES AND SLIDE DECK</u>**:

  Go to our Class Canvas
  → MODULES tab
  →go to appropriate topic

<u>STUDY GROUPS</u>:

- Forming study groups will facilitate learning by keeping you focused, involved, and current in the course.
- In this type of course, Student who have formed study groups tend to do better than students who work alone. They have a better understanding of the material, can talk it over and catch mistakes that each person makes.
- Study groups facilitate collaboration and participation, sharing ideas and individual stories and lessons learned. This is a way for you to be exposed to other worldviews and prospectives and to learn how to understand each other. It is also a way to learn compassion and become involved. I highly encourage you to form your own study group.

<u>EXAMINATIONS:</u>

- ***There are no in-class exams or in-class quizzes in this class.***
- Instead, there are a variety of ways that your performance and comprehension of the material is assessed. This includes the weekly assignments, weekly projects, in-class work, guest speaker reflections and the final project (which acts as your final).
- ***Note: All work submitted MUST be your own, not AI or another person's work. You will earn a Zero for the course for academic dishonesty.**

<u>CUMULATIVE FINAL PROJECT:</u>

There is a cumulative final project, which will be due on the last day of the class. It is open from the beginning of the semester until the end of the semester. You can work on it throughout the semester and ask any questions or seek help, up until the due date. It must be in audio / visual format (such as video or recording).

***Note All work submitted MUST be your own, not AI or another person's work. You will earn a Zero for the course for academic dishonesty.**

RULES OF COMMON DECENCY:

- Common courtesy is **always** expected.
- Do not lash out.
- Do not name call.
- Do not TROLL online or CYBERSTALK.
- Support each other
- Show up positively
- Cheer each other on
- Be Compassionate to everyone's situation
- **NOTE:** There will be people that you disagree with. There will be very personal things that you are going through right now that can be stressful and hurtful. This is a VERY personal class that will force you to face many things. I ask you please be courteous to me and to each other ALWAYS.

You are limited to 3 absences per semester. For Reasonable Accommodations, please email or come and talk to me.

EXCUSED ABSENCES INCLUDE:

- Illness (verified by a note from a doctor).
- Work conflicts
- Inclement weather only when the Rutgers Information Service (848-932-INFO) indicates that Rutgers is closed, or if it presents a hazard to commute to the lecture location.
- Religious holidays or federally observed holidays.
- OR when the instructor emails the class announcing class is suspended.
- Emergencies that have been discussed with the instructor and an arrangement has been made.

OVERARCHING MATH PHILOSOPHY/OBJECTIVES OVERVIEW: MATHEMATICS OF LIFE:

Imagine that you are taking a vacation next year. You have many financial choices to make. How big is your vacation budget and how do you want to allocate it? The more money that you save now, the more you will have to spend on your vacation.

Now imagine that you are planning your financial future. You have many choices to make. How will you pay off your student loan? How much of your budget should be allocated to food and utilities? How much can you afford to spend on clothes? Should you buy a house? Should you buy a new car? What investments should you consider? When do you want to retire? All of these decisions require detailed planning.

Financial planning, prudent financial management, and careful spending can help you achieve your financial goals, which affect one's standard of living in the future.

The **financial planning process** enables you to understand the key components of a **financial plan** and to develop a **personal financial plan**. The simple objective of financial planning is to make the **best use of your resources to achieve your financial goals**. The sooner you develop your goals and a financial plan to achieve these goals, the easier it will be to achieve your objectives. Topics in personal finance include financial and career planning, budgeting, tax management, cash management, credit cards, borrowing, major expenditures, risk management, investments, retirement planning and estate planning.

Success in Life. A solid understanding of personal finance topics offers you an increased probability of success in facing life's financial challenges, responsibilities and opportunities. Such successes might include: paying minimal credit costs, not paying too much in income taxes, purchasing automobiles at low prices, financing housing on good terms, buying appropriate and fairly priced insurance, selecting successful investments that match your needs and tolerance for risk, planning for a comfortable retirement, and passing on your estate with minimal transfer costs.

Basic Mathematical models underlie all these financial analyses. The mathematics behind the time value of money can be applied to determining how much **current** savings will be worth in the **future,** or how to reach your goal of saving for a house or starting a business. If you were to win the lottery, should you take the lump sum or annual payments (annuity). If you have to invest, how do you know what is a good return? How much does a credit card really cost? How much money do you need for retirement? Debt also grows through mathematical models. There are tax implications as well.

Critical thinking plays a major role in financial analysis, as there may be more than one way to accomplish a goal. For example, if you decide to reduce your housing expenses you can, for example, either move to a cheaper unit and/or take in a room-mate. If you're saving for retirement, and can't save enough each month to meet your goal; consider alternatives such as: later retirement, reducing current or future expenses, or investing differently.

The measures of performance in this class will be referred to as authentic assessments. That is, student performance is evaluated based upon realistic life decision assignments, including:
a series of math problems,

- an ongoing case analysis,

- course projects, such as assessing a lease and managing stocks in the stock market; planning for retirement planning using the time value of money; finding the best bank to fit your needs,

- Excel applications; one project applies the Pareto Principal (80:20 Rule) to tracking your frivolous expenditures (non obligations of rent or mortgage, insurance, etc.) using Excel.

- developing your personal financial plan.

This is in sharp contrast to the types of assessments based on multiple choice, short answer, etc. in a timed environment. Clearly this type of assessment will provide the student the same type of environment as s/he will have during his/her life.

Rutgers CORE 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)

Instructor's 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.

SMLR Learning Objective:

- Apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods for research workplace issues. (goal II).

LABOR STUDIES DEPARTMENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

- Formulate, evaluate and communicate conclusions and inferences from quantitative information (goal 12).

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Project assessments will be used to evaluate these objectives.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Requests for Letters of recommendations must be made in writing after completion of the course and are only given to students that I know well (meaning that I have had many conversations with you) and have kept in touch.
- I do not feel comfortable giving recommendations to individuals who were not very involved within my course, or who I have not had a chance to get to know.
- Participation within my course, quality of work, social interactions with their peers, and my interactions with the student are things that I include in my letters of recommendations.

PARKING IMPACTS:

- Special events may impact parking.

UNIVERSITY/CAMPUS CLOSINGS:

- 732-932-INFO (New Brunswick); http://campusstatus.rutgers.edu

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 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 Lucy Stone Hall, A Wing.**
- **I look forward to talking with you soon to learn how I may be helpful in enhancing your academic success in this course.**

STUDENT RESOURCES:

– this link directs students to the appropriate resources if they are in need of help in the areas of (a) mental health, (b) academic coaching, and (c) financial assistance: https://smlr.rutgers.edu/about-smlr/fall-2022-information-smlr-students

SCHOLARSHIPS: – to ensure that all students are aware of SMLR's scholarship offerings, we encourage you to include a link to our scholarships on your syllabi: https://smlr.rutgers.edu/academic-programs/scholarships

DISCLAIMER:

******Make sure that your Canvas notification preference is ON. *******

In this course, we will cover various topics of Personal Finance and learn how to manage our finances through various tools, projects, and exercises. This is a ***VERY*** involved course and will **require 100% commitment** and hands-on participation. If you are not ready to take it seriously or cannot commit the time right now, then I would suggest that you *wait* to take the course when you can get the most out of it. It will be the most important course of your life.

Note: there are no Pre-Requisites for this class. If you are an individual who is Math phobic, *but **hard working and willing to learn***...you are more than welcome to my class!

- **All** materials**, EXCEPT** for the E-textbook or textbook (and WileyPlus access), are provided in class on our Canvas site, under MODULES. You can purchase your e-textbook and WilePlus using our Canvas e-textbook link and it will integrate with our Canvas class site.

- Tutoring and Office hours are also still made available for students who need it. Times will be announced based on TA availability and my office hours.

AI Policy and Usage in the Classroom

Warning: Never input your personal information into any AI model. Your privacy is important and need to be safe guarded. AI is allowed as a *learning support tool*, but not as a replacement for student judgment, analysis, or decision-making.

Allowed Uses

Students may use AI for:

- Explaining concepts
- Summarizing readings
- Brainstorming or outlining early-stage ideas
- Grammar, clarity, APA formatting
- Creating tables/charts *only after* they produce the underlying data
- Checking understanding of formulas

Prohibited Uses

Students may **not** use AI for:

- Generating assignment answers, case study solutions, or compensation analyses
- Producing job evaluation decisions or pay structure recommendations
- Fabricating data or salary information
- Hiding AI use or presenting AI-generated content as their own

Required Disclosure

You required a short “AI Use Statement” at the end of assignments. Example you drafted:

“I used Microsoft Copilot to help brainstorm initial ideas and clarify the definition of compound interest and annuities. All analysis, calculations, and final writing are my own.”

Definition of “Your Own Work”

- Your goals, plans, calculations
- Your interpretation
- Your analysis and decision-making
- Your reasoning behind your plans
- Your application of course frameworks

Consequences

Misuse = academic integrity violation. Possible outcomes: redo assignment, grade penalties, referral.
Deep Fake or manipulation of video, images or likeness = prosecutable offense and lawsuit

If Unsure

Students should ask before submitting.

GRADING COMPONENTS		EACH	TOTAL PER COMPONENT
TAKE HOME EXAMS (EVERY 3 WEEK)	25 QUESTIONS, DIVIDED BY TOPICS. A TOTAL OF 3 TAKE HOME EXAMS THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER	13.33%	40%
NOTE: THERE ARE NO MAKE UPS FOR TAKE HOMES. A 10% PER DAY LATE PENALTY WILL BE APPLIED FOR ALL LATE TAKE HOMES, THEY MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DUE DATES. AFTER 1 WEEK LATE, SUBMISSION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THAT LATE ITEM, UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.			
PROJECTS (OPEN AND AVAILABLE FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER)			25%
	VISION BOARD	2.5%	
	BUDGETS, STATEMENTS,	2.5%	
	OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE TRACKER	2.5%	
	ANNUAL CREDIT REPORT	2.5%	
	HOME INVENTORY	2.5%	
	COSTS NEEDS ANALYSIS	2.5%	
	HEALTH IS WEALTH ASSESSMENT	2.5%	
	INVESTMENT RISK TOLERANCE	2.5%	
	RETIREMENT PLANNING	2.5%	
	ESTATE PLANNING	2.5%	
GROUP PROJECT	PRESENTATION ON TOPIC OF INTEREST		5%
GUEST SPEAKERS	VARIOUS		25%
PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLAN (OPEN AND AVAILABLE FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER)	DUE DEC 4TH, 11:59PM	TOTAL	100%
		TOTAL	100%
		TOTAL	100%

PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLAN GRADING RUBRIC	
Personal Financial Plan **(This is 25% of your overall grade and AVAILABLE from the beginning of the course).** NO AI usage, No BOTs, ChatGPT, etc…MUST be your own work.	
Grading rubric	Max Possible points
On-time (Do not be late on your submission!)	10%
FORMAT:_ Must have Visual and Audio. Create a YouTube Presentation, Vlog, Video presentation. Audio and Visual must be working for your presentation. Alternatively, you can schedule to present it "live" to me at a scheduled time.	10%
Appendix: Charts, budgets, income statements or balance sheets, computations, pictures, etc. **NOTE:** If you are doing a presentation the charts, budgets, financial visuals are part of your presentation, and you will be speaking about them in detail.	5%
Current situation: (what is your story and how does it affect your current financial situation) and Goals (Short-term , intermediate, long-term), family status (current and future), what does your finances currently look like.	5%
Budgeting, Savings plan (It would be helpful to have charts or visuals to refer to)	5%
Banking	5%
Taxes (current and future)	5%
Personal Loans (auto, home, education, business, etc…)	5%
Credit and credit cards (managing and assessment of credit)	5%
Identity theft (awareness, habits, and preventing and action preparedness)	5%
Insurance (life and medical, disability… how much do you need? Supplemental insurance outside of employment?)	5%
Insurance (auto and home)	5%
Healthcare planning (long term care, advance health directive)	5%
Investing (risk tolerance, asset allocation, diversification, asset classes, passive income, portfolio, timed goals, kids college fund, creating generational wealth? etc…)	5%
Retirement planning (401k, IRAs, ROTHs, life expectancy, saving for retirement, retirement income, inflation, supporting parents? Supporting children? Retiring overseas? Retiring early? Medicare, Medicaid, social security, long term care)	5%
Estate planning (Wills, trusts, power of attorney, trustees, executor, beneficiary, insurance benefits, retirement account benefits, Paid-upon-death accounts, joint tenants, exclusions of persons in Wills, probate, intestate, leaving your legacy behind…)	5%
What you learned from class and are applying to your life, guest speakers	5%
Back-up plans and overcoming future obstacles	5%
TOTAL	100%

In-Class Projects: Ethical Dilemma, films, etc. (TENTATIVE)

<table>
<tr><td>Target Week</td><td>Proposed Chapter Series

<u>NOTE: We try to cover all of these topics in a timely manner, but it is not always precise! Please note that if we do not finish one topic, then we will continue to cover it in the next class.</u>

Take Home Question Sets are Assigned Every Week.

Projects are Assigned Weekly and</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sept 4</td><td>First Day of Class:

• Syllabus,
• Course expectations,
• Layout of class
• Opportunity cost (how much does it cost to miss a class)
• Case study question
• Intro to Out-of-Pocket tracking project

• Creating a Bucket List
• Creating a Vision Board and Goal Setting (Short term, Intermediate, Long-term)

Project Due next week: Vision Board presentations

• Vision Board Presentations are Due <u>BEFORE</u> class
• You will need to Present your Vision Board (1 to 3 minutes).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sept 11</td><td>Vision Board class presentations – (1 to 3 minutes)

INTRODUCTION TO COMPONENTS OF PERSONAL FINANCE

• Learning Goals and Objectives in the course
• Planning with Personal Financial Statements Factors that affect Cash flows;
• Creating a budget and a Balance Sheet
• Assets and Liabilities
• Net worth
• Ratios
• Creating a Savings plan
• Projecting our budget
Case Study
• Intro to Pareto (80/20 rule of efficiency)</td></tr>
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	Due next week: • ***Project: budgets, goals and balance sheets*** • **Take home Question Set 1**
Sept 18	**Applying Time Value Concepts** • Future and present value of a single dollar amount • Future and present value of an annuity • Rule of 72 • Simple interest • Compounding interest • Inter-year Compounding • Cost of waiting • Annuity versus lump sum compounding • What happens if you win the lottery? *To be a millionaire, how long would it take with different rates of savings and rates of return, etc…* ***Due by next week:*** • ***Out-of-pocket Project*** • ***Take Home Set 2***
Sept 25	**Tax planning** • Learn to file your own TAXES! • W-2, W-4, 1099, 1040 • Filing status • Adjusted Gross Income • Capital Gains • Capital losses • Gains and Loss harvesting • SALT tax • Charity donations • Standard deduction vs Itemized deductions • What can I deduct? • What are my tax credits? • How do I LEGALLY reduce my taxes? • Tax planning for the future ***Due next by next week:*** • ***Take Home Set 3***

October 2	**BANKING AND MANAGING YOUR MONEY** • Banking • Interest Rates • FDIC (what is covered?) • Credit union versus Banks • Managing Your Money (Where can I put my money that will make it accessible when I need it and still gain some interest?) • What is Bank churning? • What is a CD ladder and how do I open up a CD or create a ladder? • What products are offered by a bank or financial institution and how can I identify them? Types of financial institutions and their 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? Or between a CD and a T-bill?* **Due next week:** • **Bank comparison Project** • **Take Home Set 4**
October 9	**CREDIT AND CREDIT CARDS (they are not the same thing!)** • Assessing and Securing Your Credit • Managing Your Credit or Fixing poor credit • Evaluating Credit cards • What is credit churning? • Identifying credit card company tactics and how to beat the credit card game • Identity theft tactics • Evaluating your Identity theft awareness and vulnerabilities • Actions to prevent or correct Identity theft when it happens

	Credit cards; dealing with credit debt , how to fix your credit, how to CORRECTLY use your credit cards and credit. *Evaluate your preparedness to defend against identify theft* **Due next week:** • **Identity theft Assessment Project** • **Take Home Set 5**
October 16	**PERSONAL, AUTO, STUDENT AND HOME FINANCING.** • Personal Loans • Predatory lending • Secured and Unsecured debt • Student Loans • How to handle student loans after graduation and what are the differences between Federal versus Private student loans • What is Loan forgiveness and how does it work • How can I go to college for Free? Or Get more student aid? Grad school tuition? • Auto Loans • How to evaluate and negotiate for a car • Purchasing and Financing a Home • Comparing interest for different types of home loans • How to get the best rates • Refinancing • Borrowing from Home Equity • Is a home addition or renovation worth it? • Creating and using Loan Amortization tables • Trends 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?* **Due next class:** • **Take Home Set 6** • **Annual Credit report Project**

Oct 23	**PROTECTING YOURSELF and YOUR ASSETS** • **Auto Insurance** • What is the minimum insurance needed to drive in NJ • Getting adequate insurance coverage • Limiting your liabilities • Lowering your premiums • **How to find the best car insurance for you** • **Homeowner's Insurance** • Managing risk; • factors that affect insurance premiums; • homeowner's and renter's insurance • Umbrella Insurance • LLC and how to limit liabilities in a business or rental property **Due next class:** • **Take Home Set 7** • **Home Inventory Project** • **Capital Needs analysis project** *http://www.insurancebrokerageamerica.com/capital-needs-analysis-calculator.html*
Oct 30	**HEALTH CARE PLANNING** • Health insurance • What types of coverages? • How to buy health insurance and evaluate them • What if I stop working for my employer, how do I navigate insurance coverage? • What is an HSA? FSA? • Disability Insurance (from employer or individual) • How do I evaluate and purchase disability insurance? • Life Insurance • Types of Life insurance • Calculating my life insurance needs • How do I evaluate and purchase life insurance Long term Care Insurance • Do I need it? • What does it do? • Medicare and Medicaid (how does it work?)

	What insurance should I have? Types of life insurance and determining the amount of life insurance needed *How much life insurance do I need?* **Due next week:** • **Take Home Set 8** • **Your Health is Your Physical Wealth (Assessment)**
Nov 6	**INVESTING FUNDAMENTALS** • Risk Tolerance • Investing in Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, ETFs, Indexes • Create and evaluate your own Portfolio. • Learn to Research and analyze companies, • Learn about the varies products • Learn how to figure out the expected annual returns • Bond ratings and what does it mean? • Comparing fees • Diversification and Asset Allocation • Market capitalization of a company • Public or Private investments • Trends (crypto, NFTs, etc…) • Passive income • Creating Generational Wealth • Gifting a security *How do my investment decisions impact my wealth?* Types of investments; tradeoffs between return and risk 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?* **Due next week:** • **Take Home Set 9** • **Risk Tolerance Project**
Nov 13	**RETIREMENT PLANNING** • FICA (Social Security + Medicare) • Employer Sponsored plans (401k, 403b, 457, defined benefits, defined contributions) • Individual retirement plans (IRAs, Roths) • Self-employed retirement options • Passive income in retirement • RMDs (Required Mandatory distributions) • Tax Planning in Retirement • Early Retirement and how to plan for a forced retirement (just in case) • How NOT to outlive your money in retirement, but instead leave a legacy. • FIRE Movement (what is that?) • 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?* *Due next week:* • **Retirement calculator Project**
Nov 20	**Estate Planning** • Purpose of a will; • estate taxes; • Advance Health Directives • Guardianships • Probate

	• trust • gifts • and contributions • *Creating a Will* *What key events and changes in my assets impact the review and change of my will?*
	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?*
November 27th	**THANKSGIVING BREAK.** **IMPORTANT: (If you do not have any plans for Thanksgiving, please know that you are always invited and welcome to join me for Thanksgiving.)**
Dec 4th	**PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLAN DUE Before By 11:59pm**