

Course: 37:575:250:90
Spring 2025
Finance for Personal and Professional Success
Synchronous (virtual live)
(Tentative Syllabus)

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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.

Course Description:

Overview of core financial concepts and techniques useful both at work and in personal life; budgets, taxes, Time value of money, banking, interest, credit, personal loans, student loans, 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.

Course Delivery Format

This course is delivered in an online lecture format. For this specific class, it is appropriately designed for the virtual synchronous students. 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.

CLASS AND LECTURE FORMAT

***Although this class can support synchronous and asynchronous students, this class is **more appropriately** designed specifically for **synchronous students** who prefer live (virtual) lectures and interaction, and to facilitate accessibility, flexibility, and uninterrupted fluidity in the learning environment. ***

This class can support virtual lectures or synchronous lectures (through live drop-in Webex meeting during designated lecture times) and limited **Asynchronous** accommodations (with recorded lectures). It has been designed to be flexible in the ability to accommodate different learning styles or needs and to be accessible.

But is not a replacement for a completely Asynchronous course. Contact me if you need clarification.

This class is appropriate for students who prefer live lectures at regularly scheduled times and appropriate for all types of learning styles.

Class will be conducted using lectures and during-class exercises that are designed to help you apply the course concepts immediately to your everyday life as well as your future profession. Students are expected to attend every class and view the materials for every class.

Lecture periods will include in-class questions, case studies and sometimes guest speakers. These exercises help to apply course concepts related to real world examples, or your professional or personal future. Participating in these exercises will also provide real-world cases related to course concepts and will often give you the opportunity to interact with fellow students.

It is important for you to be present during the class time and fully participate in the class activity.

If you **must** miss a class due to an **EXCUSED ABSENCE**, then there is an option to **asynchronously** attend that specific session.

(EXCUSED absence or a need for accommodation):

This class is designed for students who want virtual *interaction at designated meeting times with the instructor*. It can accommodate all types of learning styles.

**DEI: This class strives to accommodate the diverse, student body, learning styles, needs and circumstances by offering flexibility.*

***Recorded lectures, materials and slide decks are already made available on Canvas a few days before the designed class meeting time, under the appropriate **Modules tab** and topics. *If it is possible* (dependent on room technological ability and video quality to record live in-person lectures), *any recently* recorded lectures will be made accessible (between 1 to 2 days) after the lecture.*

NOTE: Our highly flexible class format allows you to complete you education without interruption. It is designed for accessibility, fluid movement and flexibility of the learning environment. You can be synchronous most of the time, or you might need an Asynchronous accommodation for a period of time. That is fine and acceptable in this class, but please remember to follow the instructions for assignments, keep up with your *"To Do List"*, *Assignment tab* or *course calendar* and submit things by their **due dates**.

***Invitation for remote class lectures will be sent via Canvas before the beginning of each class.** We will be using WebEx.

MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CANVAS NOTIFICATION IS "ON" to receive announcements and any push notifications.

For Synchronous :

- 1) You need to attend lecture, online, on Saturday morning 9am to 12pm.
- 2) You need to complete the same assignments and projects and submit by the due date.
- 3) You are responsible for understanding how the course is run and my assignment policies.
- 4) You are responsible for completing your assignments by the due dates.

- 5) You are responsible for attending office hours (during office hour time slots) when you need help or sending me an email.
- 6) You are responsible for contacting me if you need clarification.
- 7) You are responsible for contacting me for any excused absence or missed class.

For Asynchronous accommodations (in cases of excused absences):

- 1) You must contact me **FIRST for permission** before attending the course asynchronously **for any** lecture or week.
- 2) If it is a **long-term Asynchronous** accommodation, then you are required to check-in (via email) **every** week, **once** a week at least.
- 3) You are responsible for understanding how the course is run and my assignment policies.
- 4) You are responsible for completing your assignments by the due dates.
- 5) You are responsible for attending office hours (during office hour time slots) when you need help or sending me an email when you need help.
- 6) You are responsible for contacting me if you need clarification.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

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.

EXAMINATIONS

There are no in-class exams or 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.**

CUMULATIVE FINAL PROJECT

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.

***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.**

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.

Text - 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!)

*Topic readings for the week need to be done prior to class.

Text – Recommended (Not required, but Optional): Dworsky, L. N., **Understanding the Mathematics of Personal Finance**, Wiley, 2009, ISBN 978-0-470-49780-7.

NOTE

Required: Statistical software in Microsoft Excel 2003 (or higher) are included in the course through Rutgers software portal, which 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.

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.

Study Groups: 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. I highly encourage you to form your own study group.

***Classroom Etiquette:** Common courtesy is **always** expected. 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, which can make it hard for you to focus in class. If you are distracted, the video of the lecture is available, and you can always email me any questions. This is a VERY personal class that will force you to face many things. I ask that you please be courteous to me and to each other ALWAYS. Do not lash out. Do not name call. Do not TROLL online or CYBERSTALK.

Online and in-class Etiquette Guidelines:

- #1) Please MUTE yourself in the beginning of the class unless you are speaking to the Professor in relation to the topic during the class discussion. If you have questions that are personal or off topic...then see me after class (in-person, online, or email) and we can discuss it more.
- #2) Once class begins, please turn off your video so that we are not distracted by what you are doing. You may turn it on if you are speaking.
- #3) Do not interrupt another person who is speaking. Please wait your turn. Or if online, use the “raise your hand button” next to your name on the chat...or type your question in the chat box.
- #4) For personal questions or issues, please email or schedule a private meeting. You can also meet me before class or after class to discuss any questions or issues.
- #5) Do not BLURT things out during class time. Our class may be recorded.
- #6) For Personal Accommodations please schedule a remote meeting with me privately or just email me. I am always willing to work with you. Thank you!
- #7) HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying) is a prosecutable offense. BE A GOOD HUMAN or I will report you!

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 cause of any class cancellations.

Office Hours/ Extra help: Prior to classes by appointment, and immediately after every classes. They can be remote or in-person meetings during the scheduled time slot. The same link for class lecture can be used for the office hours before and after class, to avoid confusion on juggling many links. 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). For tutoring with me, make sure to come prepared with your questions and ready to show me the work that you have already attempted. You can also email me with any questions, making sure to COPY and PASTE your actual questions and your attempts, along with an explanation on 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!**

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@nbc.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 is 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(***)

B) CLASS RESOURCES:

Go to our Class Canvas

→ MODULES tab

→go to appropriate topic

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.

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 have gotten to know well (having had many conversations with). 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.

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 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 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>

******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 Mathphobic, *but hard working and willing to learn*...you are more than welcome to my class!

- **All materials, EXCEPT** for the E-textbook or textbook (which should also include WileyPlus access) are provided in class on our Canvas site, under MODULES. You can purchase your e-textbook 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.
- ***Invitation for remote class lectures will be sent via Canvas Announcements (5 to 10 minutes) before the beginning of each class.** We will be using WebEx. (You can set up your account on <https://rutgers.webex.com>)

GRADING COMPONENTS		EACH	TOTAL PER COMPONENT
<p>TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENTS (OPENED FOR 3 WEEKS EACH)</p>	<p>TAKE HOME 1, TAKE HOME 2, TAKE HOME 3</p>	<p>13.33% EACH</p>	<p>40%</p>
<p>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. YOU WILL HAVE A FEW WEEKS TO COMPLETE EACH INDIVIDUAL ONE. AFTER 1 WEEK LATE, SUBMISSION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THAT LATE ITEM, UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.</p>			
<p>PROJECTS (OPEN AND AVAILABLE FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER)</p>	<p>VISION BOARD BUDGETS, STATEMENTS, OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE TRACKER BANKING PROJECT ANNUAL CREDIT REPORT AND IDENTITY THEFT ASSESSMENT PARETO COSTS NEEDS ANALYSIS RISK TOLERANCE LIFE EXPECTANCY RETIREMENT PLANNING</p>	<p>2.5% 2.5% 2.5% 2.5% 2.5% 2.5% 2.5% 2.5% 2.5%</p>	<p>25%</p>
<p>GUEST SPEAKERS</p>	<p>VARIOUS</p>		<p>10%</p>
<p>PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLAN (OPEN AND AVAILABLE FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER)</p>	<p>DUE MAY 3TH, 11:59PM</p>		<p>25%</p>
		<p>TOTAL</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>NOTE: THESE CAN ALL BE FOUND UNDER THE <i>ASSINGMENT TAB</i> IN CANVAS. TAKE HOMES ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE A FEW WEEKS APART, WHILE PROJECTS ARE ASSIGNED MORE FREQUENTLY. PLEASE CHECK OUR CLASSROOM SITE!</p> <p>Notes: Guest lecturers may result in modifications to the schedule. After each guest speaker, a 2- paragraph Max reflection is due for them in Canvas, under the link for their name. Please submit it after you have heard their presentation.</p>			

PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLAN GRADING RUBRIC

<u>Personal Financial Plan</u> (This is 25% of your overall grade and AVAILABLE from the beginning of the course) Grading rubric	Max Possible points earned
On-time (Do not be late on your submission!)	10%
<u>FORMAT</u> NO AI usage, No BOTs, ChatGPT, etc...MUST be your own work. Create a YouTube Presentation, or Vlog, or Video presentation, or PowerPoint presentation, or Prezi (must still incorporate all Rubric requirements to earn max points), recorded Webex or recorded Zoom presentation, etc... MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AUDIO working for your presentation or schedule a “live” presentation.	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%
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In-Class Projects: Ethical Dilemma, films, etc. (TENTATIVE)

<p>Target Week</p>	<p>Proposed Chapter Series</p> <p><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></p>
<p>Week 1 Jan 25th</p>	<p>First Day of Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus, • Course expectations, • Layout of class <p><u>In class:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a <i>Bucket List</i> • <i>Opportunity cost (how much does it cost to miss a class)</i> • <i>Case study question</i> • Intro to Out-of-Pocket tracking project • <i>Creating a Vision Board and Goal Setting (Short term, Intermediate, Long-term)</i> <p><i>Due next class: Vision Board presentations</i></p>
<p>February 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision Board Presentations are Due <u>BEFORE</u> class • Present Vision Board (1 to 3 minutes) • Vision Board Bingo <p>INTRODUCTION TO COMPONENTS OF PERSONAL FINANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Topics will we cover and what that entails • Learning Goals and Objectives in the course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning with Personal Financial Statements Factors that affect Cash flows; • Creating a budget • Creating 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) <p><i>Due next week: budgets, goals and balance sheets</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

<p>Feb 8</p>	<p>Applying Time Value Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <p><i>To be a millionaire, how long would it take with different rates of savings and rates of return, etc...</i></p> <p><i>Due next by next week: Out-of-pocket Project</i></p>
<p>February 15</p>	<p>Tax planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p><i>*DEI:</i> <i>Tax planning and the financial marriage advantage in filing status for all. Why does it matter financially if same-sex marriages are legally accepted or not, how does that affect tax filings and returns?</i></p>

	<p>Due next week: Take Home Exam 1</p>
<p>February 22</p>	<p>BANKING AND MANAGING YOUR MONEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <p>Types of financial institutions and their services; Interest rates; Money market investments and their risk</p> <p><i>How to choose a bank, with given minimum deposits, balances, monthly fees, check-writing charges?</i></p> <p><i>How do you evaluate choosing between two CDs? Or between a CD and a T-bill?</i></p> <p><i>*DEI: The financial rights of women were enabled not that long ago.</i> <i>*DEI: How women became financially independent from men.</i></p> <p>Due next week: Bank comparison of your area.</p>
<p>March 1</p>	<p>CREDIT AND CREDIT CARDS (they are not the same thing!)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to prevent or correct Identity theft when it happens <p>Credit cards; dealing with credit debt , how to fix your credit, how to CORRECTLY use your credit cards and credit.</p> <p><i>Evaluate your preparedness to defend against identify theft</i></p> <p><i>*DEI: History of credit, women’s struggle to qualify and establish credit, the importance of credit for minorities, immigrants communities.</i></p> <p><i>*DEI: Laws passed to ensure fair credit access and treatment equality</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Due next week: Identity theft Assessment Project</p>
<p>March 8</p>	<p>PERSONAL, AUTO, STUDENT AND HOME FINANCING.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Evaluation of personal loans, auto loans and 30-year mortgages</p> <p>Evaluate what you can afford to borrow to finance the purchase of a home</p> <p>Valuation of a home</p> <p><i>How much can I borrow?</i></p>

	Due next class: Annual Credit report Project
March 15 th -23 th	Spring Break! Make sure that you make a photocopy of everything in your wallet and keep it stored in a secure place (in case your wallet gets stolen). Also make sure that you create a home inventory list, just in case.
March 29 th	<p style="text-align: center;">PROTECTING YOURSELF and YOUR ASSETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p style="color: red;"><i>Due next Week: Take home exam 2</i></p>
April 5 th	<p style="text-align: center;">HEALTH CARE PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?) <p><i>What insurance should I have?</i> Types of life insurance and determining the amount of life insurance needed</p> <p><i>How much life insurance do I need?</i></p> <p>*DEI: Women and insurance, why it’s needed more than ever. * DEI: Women (the main caretakers) and healthcare planning for multigenerational families and the sandwich generation. *DEI: Healthcare planning for uniquely abled individuals, medically at risk individuals, etc... *DEI: Insurance coverage for LGBTQ communities and their unique needs.</p> <p>Due next week: Capital Needs analysis project and Risk Tolerance Project http://www.insurancebrokerageamerica.com/capital-needs-analysis-calculator.html</p>
<p>April 12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INVESTING FUNDAMENTALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p><i>How do my investment decisions impact my wealth?</i></p> <p>Types of investments; tradeoffs between return and risk</p>

	<p>Analyzing the firm’s annual report; industry analysis of stocks; stock valuation (Price-earnings method and price-revenue method)</p> <p>Stock Exchanges; purchasing or selling stocks; buying stock on margin and assessing performance of stock investments</p> <p><i>What stocks meet my criteria? How do I compare and contrast them?</i></p> <p><i>How do I assess analysts’ comments and earnings estimates?</i></p> <p>Types of bonds; valuing a bond; risk from investing in bonds; bond investment strategies</p> <p>Type of mutual funds; return and risk of a mutual fund</p> <p><i>How do the purchase of bonds impact my protecting of assets and income, as well as my retirement?</i></p> <p><i>How do I select mutual funds that best meet my individual financial goals?</i></p> <p>Due next week: Take Home Exam 3</p> <p>Due next week: Retirement calculator</p>
<p>April 19</p>	<p>RETIREMENT PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>*DEI: How is FIRE beneficial for women, minorities and LGBTQ and hetero communities?</p> <p>*DEI: Women and retirement planning, what is the trend?</p> <p><i>How do my savings decisions and what types of plan(s) contribute to impact my retirement?</i></p>

April 26	<p>Estate Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of a will; • estate taxes; • Advance Health Directives • Guardianships • Probate • trust • gifts • and contributions • <i>Creating a Will</i> <p><i>What key events and changes in my assets impact the review and change of my will?</i></p> <p>*DEI: Estate planning for nontraditional families *DEI: How to leave money to charity for good causes</p>
	<p>Integrating the Components of a Financial Plan</p> <p>Budgeting, managing liquidity; personal financing; protecting your assets and income; managing investments; retirement planning; maintaining your financial documents</p> <p><i>How can I further improve my financial health?</i></p>
May 3rd	<p>PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLAN DUE By 11:59pm</p>