

Course Description/Objective:

Introduction to financial planning and money management. Emphasis will be placed on practical personal financial management concepts and skills.

Course Content:

Financial statements, budgeting and resource allocation, tax strategies, banking, cash and debt management, purchasing strategies, insurance planning, investing fundamentals, risk management, retirement and estate planning.

Course Materials:

Required: **Focus on Personal Finance** by Kapoor, Dlabay & Hughes, 2nd edition (online at www.coursesmart.com)
Notebook, **Calculator** (not your *#@&in' cell phone!), Dedication, Organization, Motivation, Hard work, Jokes

Attendance and Lateness:

Do not miss class! Your grade depends on it. *Do not come late to lecture!* It is disrespectful to your fellow students. Come early and make friends. You'll need them. *You are responsible for all information covered in class.* This is **not** a valid excuse: *"But I was absent that class."* Attendance and lateness are graded. Please see the *Attendance Assignment* for further details. (In essence, attendance and lateness count for approximately one exam. *Don't miss class! Don't come late!*)

Grading:

The course grade will be based upon class participation, homework and assignments, short quizzes, exams and a comprehensive final examination. The required format and documentation will be defined by the instructor. All work will be graded and returned as quickly as possible. *Any work turned in after its due date will be automatically penalized at least ten percent unless prior consent of the instructor is obtained.* Any work which is deemed to be plagiarized will result in an automatic zero for that work and possible disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook. It is great to work in teams but *do your own work!* Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A – 90% of all possible assignment, short quiz, exam, attendance, and participation points
- B – 80%
- C – 70%
- D – 60%
- F – less than 60%

Time Requirements:

The Southwestern College catalog indicates that for every one college unit, two hours should be set aside for homework. Therefore, you should plan to spend approximately six hours per week for homework. The actual time spent varies from individual to individual. The best rule of thumb is to set aside *one hour each day* for personal finance. Don't procrastinate and try to do all the reading and assignment work Saturday afternoon before the big party that night! That is not learning.

Accommodations:

Southwestern College recommends that students with disabilities discuss academic accommodations with their professors during the first two weeks of class. An alternative format of this syllabus is available upon request.

Academic Success Center Referral:

To further your success, reinforce concepts, and achieve the stated learning objectives for this course, I refer you to the Academic Success Center learning assistance services. Upon request for tutorial services, you will be automatically enrolled in NC 3, Supervised Tutoring, a free non-credit course that does not appear on your transcripts. Services are located in the ASC (420), the Writing Center (420D), the Reading Center (420), Math Center (426), the Library/LRC Interdisciplinary Tutoring Lab, MESA, specialized on-campus school tutoring labs, the HEC, and the SYEC. Online learning materials and Online Writing Lab (OWL) are available at www.swccd.edu/~asc.

Instructor Availability:

Office: 210F
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 to 2:20 p.m.
Thursday 2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
E-mail: fpaiano@swccd.edu
Work phone: 619-421-6700x5692
Home phone: 619-223-5264 (emergency – not after 8:30 p.m. please)
Web site: www.WonderProfessor.com

Or simply make an appointment!

Student Learning Objectives:

Student will create at least four written goals each including a measurable objective, a time frame, the actions needed to accomplish the goal, and the priority of the goal. Student will complete a cash flow statement (a.k.a. income statement) and a net worth statement (a.k.a. balance sheet) with either their own financial data or simulated data.

The following course schedule is subject to change as the course progresses. If you have any suggestions about the course material, please feel free to tell me personally or interject them into the classroom discussion. We will attempt to cover all this material but our emphasis is always placed on everyone understanding and using what is covered. However, I will make every attempt to satisfy those students who are anxious to move ahead on their own with extra assignments. Beginning with the fourth week, an assignment is due *every* week. The single most frequent reason for students dropping the class is because they get behind. ***If you get behind, please contact me or come see me for extra assistance in my office.***

Wk	Dates	Topics	Chap	Exam
1	Jan 15, 17	Introductions & Welcome; Getting Started Part 1: Planning Your Personal Finances Personal Financial Planning in Action	1	
2	Jan 22, 24	Money Management Skills: Financial Statements & Budgeting	2	
3	Jan 29, 31	Taxes in Your Financial Plan	3	
4	Feb 5, 7	Taxes in Your Financial Plan (<i>continued</i>)	3	#1*
5	Feb 12, 14	Part 2: Managing Your Personal Finances Savings and Payment Services	4	
6	Feb 19, 21	Consumer Credit: Advantages, Disadvantages, Sources, and Costs	5	
7	Feb 26, 28	Part 3: Making Your Purchasing Decisions Consumer Purchasing Strategies and Wise Buying of Motor Vehicles	6	
8	Mar 5, 7	Selecting and Financing Housing	7	#2*
9	Mar 12, 14	Part 4: Insuring Your Resources Home and Automobile Insurance Health and Disability Income Insurance	8 9	
10	Mar 19, 21	Financial Planning with Life Insurance	10	
11	Apr 2, 4	Part 5: Investing Your Financial Resources Investing Basics and Evaluating Bonds	11	#3*
12	Apr 9, 11	Investing in Stocks	12	
13	Apr 16, 18	Investing in Mutual Funds	13	
14	Apr 23, 25	Investing in Real Estate and Other Investment Alternatives	lecture	
15	Apr 30, May 2	Part 6: Controlling Your Financial Future Starting Early: Retirement Planning	14	#4*
16	May 7, 9	Estate Planning	14	
17	May 14, 16	Review & Catch-up; Topics of Your Choice; Baffle the Broker		
18	May 21	Final Exam: Note day and time! Tuesday, May 21 st , 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.		Final

* Always check www.WonderProfessor.com for date of next exam.