

Finance 4328
Principles of Personal Finance
Spring 2018

Instructor: Professor John C. Lopez
Office: The Starbucks in Melcher Hall;
Office Hours: Before and after each class or by appointment
Email: Message through Blackboard Learn
Textbook:



**PFIN (with PFIN Online, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card),
6th Edition**

Randall Billingsley; Lawrence J. Gitman; Michael D. Joehnk

ISBN-10: 1-337-11700-5

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Textbook can be purchased from bookstore, the publisher, or by going directly from the assignments in Blackboard.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn the comprehensive elements of the Personal Financial Planning process.

Students will:

- 1) Calculate their current financial net worth,
- 2) Create 3 personal cash flow statements,
- 3) Put together a 3 month spending plan,
- 4) Describe their spending habits,
- 5) Calculate Time Value of Money problems,
- 6) Describe using investment vehicles to build wealth,
- 7) Set personal financial goals and outline the necessary steps to become financially secure and financially independent.

Topics studied will include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Economic concepts (opportunity costs) | Personal Financial Statements |
| Budgeting | Credit/Debt Management |
| Cash flow Management | Personal Income Taxes |
| Purchasing Strategies for Autos, Homes and Goods and Services | Personal Insurance and Risk Management |
| Applications of Time Value of Money | Achieving Financial Security and Financial Independence |
| Fundamentals of Investing | Basics of Estate Planning |

PRE-SEMESTER ACTIVITIES:

Create a name tent showing the name you wish to be called. You will have this in front of you during class;

Make it nice!!

Review the functions for Time Value of Money in your financial calculator. **WE WILL BE USING FINANCIAL CALCULATORS.**

THIS IS A FINANCE CLASS SO BRING YOUR CALCULATORS TO EVERY CLASS.

Please be sure you have a TurningPoint clicker and bring it with you to every class.

GRADING:

Success in this class is achieved by coming to class, paying attention and turning in assignments on time.

Since grading will contain some element of subjectivity and instructor perception, impress me!

If you wish to be an A performer then do the things an A performer does.

| Activity | Points Available |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 2 Balance Sheets | 50 (25 pts. ea.) |
| 3 Personal Cash Flow Statements | 150 (50 pts. each) |
| Online Homework Assignments | 300 |
| In-Class Clickers* | 300* |
| Final Spending Plan | 200 |
| Extra Credit Opportunities | Tax Return - (10) Credit Report - (10) Auto Insurance - (10) |

*There will be a 15% curve on clicker questions. This is to allow for clicker malfunctions, forgotten clickers and absences.

Grading Intervals:

A 950+points

A- 900+points

B+850+ points

B- 800+points

C+750+ points

C- 700+points

D+650+points

D- 600+points

F <600 points

During our first class I will discuss how the points will be determined.

CLICKERS:

Each class will contain clicker questions which must be answered correctly to receive credit. The clicker questions serve as a review of the topics discussed in class. Pay attention in class and you'll do well.

You are responsible for bringing your clicker to class for this activity.

Sharing of clickers or utilizing a clicker not assigned to you is a violation of the Ethical Code of Conduct of the Bauer College of Business and will result in receiving an F for all of the parties involved.

In other words, do your own work and don't agree to facilitate someone's shortcomings....it will be expensive!

Online Homework:

Online Homework assignments will be due by 11pm on the date assigned. Check the class schedule for assignment dates. It is perfectly acceptable to complete these assignments early and to be ahead in getting these done. Some students may wish to complete all assignments during the grace period provided by the publisher.

ASSIGNMENTS:

It is incumbent on students to stay abreast of class activities and assignments by regularly referring to Blackboard.

All written assignments will be uploaded into the Assignment section in Blackboard. An assignment not received in Blackboard by the due date will be marked zero. **No exceptions.**

Any assignment not received by the due date will receive a score of zero. No exceptions, no excuses.

BLACKBOARD:

The syllabus and class schedule as well as other items of interest will be posted in Blackboard.

Blackboard Message will be utilized to communicate with students and with instructor. If you need to send the instructor an e-mail, do so through Blackboard Message.