

# **FINA 7397 - Personal Financial Planning**

**Spring 2014, Second Half-Semester, Tuesdays from 6:00-9:00 pm**

## **Books to be used:**

*The Ultimate Financial Plan* by Jim Stovall and Tim Maurer (UFP)

*Millionaire Teacher* by Andrew Hallam (MT)

*The Elements of Investing* by Charles Ellis (EOI)

## **Supplemental reading and websites:**

www.morningstar.com, www.marketwatch.com, www.gurufocus.com, *The Wall Street Journal*, handouts, articles and videos.

## **Course objectives:**

To gain a broad understanding of personal financial planning with an emphasis on practical application in the students' lives. This course will also be useful to those who want to pursue careers in financial planning. Course will focus on integral personal financial planning topics with emphasis on investments. Specifically, topics to be addressed include the following: the value of financial planning, understanding money, behavioral finance, risk management, retirement accounts, asset allocation, the panoply of investment choices, learning important factors for individual stock selection, and considerations when choosing an investment manager and financial advisor.

## **Grades:**

20% of grade: Participation, based on deliberate, thoughtful participation. It's quality, not quantity. Participation involves attending, actively engaging in discussions and providing value-added input.

20% of grade: Projects throughout the quarter.

60% of grade: Developing your own personal financial plan addressing the topics covered during the course.

Instructor: Rob Shoss

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<b>Class</b>	<b>Materials Covered</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	UFP: Chapters 1-4 MT: 1-2, & EOI: 2	Introduction and why financial planning Value and importance of money How to reach financial goals-debt vs. saving and power of compounding
<b>Week 2</b>	Handouts EOI: Chapter 4	What is behavioral finance and why is it important Key to success is avoiding mistakes
<b>Week 3</b>	UFP: Chapters 5-8	Risk management decisions with focus on different types of insurance to control risk
<b>Week 4</b>	UFP: Chapters 10-13	Retirement planning and maximizing retirement options Education planning Deciding between tax vs. tax-exempt investments
<b>Week 5</b>	Video, Handouts	Examining the spectrum of investment choices and the advantages and disadvantages of each Understanding stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs, alternatives, commodities
<b>Week 6</b>	EOI: Chapter 2, 3, 5, 6 MT: Chapter 5	Making asset allocation decisions Considering passive vs. active management, international vs. domestic choices, different investment styles and capitalization Importance of diversification, rebalancing, dollar-cost averaging
<b>Week 7</b>	Handouts	Learning about individual stock selection analysis Considerations when choosing active managers Understanding the role of and selecting financial advisors
<b>Week 8</b>	Project Presentations	