

FINA 7A97 (class 20823)
Personal Financial Planning
Spring 2015, Session 5
Tuesday 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Prerequisite: FINA 6A35

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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.

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.

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

Class	Materials Covered	Topics
Week 1	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
Week 2	Handouts EOI: Chapter 4	What is behavioral finance and why is it important Key to success is avoiding mistakes
Week 3	UFP: Chapters 5-8	Risk management decisions with focus on different types of insurance to control risk
Week 4	UFP: Chapters 10-13	Retirement planning and maximizing retirement options Education planning Deciding between tax vs. tax-exempt investments
Week 5	Video, Handouts	Examining the spectrum of investment choices and the advantages and disadvantages of each Understanding stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs, alternatives, commodities
Week 6	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
Week 7	Handouts	Learning about individual stock selection analysis Considerations when choosing active managers Understanding the role of and selecting financial advisors
Week 8	Project Presentations	

