SYLLABUS

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will explore at an advanced level the issues associated with personal finance including financial concepts like the “time value of money”, compounding, dollar cost averaging, etc. We will seek a comprehensive overview of issues that impact individual households with regard to financial decision-making such as saving, spending, the use of credit, investing and taxes. There will be a special emphasis on personal investment strategies and financial markets. We will seek to apply theoretical ideas with current events and real life situations.

TEXTBOOK (may share with other students)

Personal Finance (customized e-book version available at Rutgers bookstore)
Authors – Kapoor, Dlabay and Hughes
10th Edition or later
McGraw Hill Irwin Publishers

TEACHING METHODS

The readings in the textbook provide useful background information. Students are expected to maintain a reading pace that corresponds to the weekly topic. In addition to the lecture, students will learn in a collaborative environment through class discussion and outside readings. Students are expected to read topical articles in business publications such as the Wall Street Journal, Money Magazine, etc.

Attendance and engagement are the keys to success!

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 – 3. Personal Financial Planning

- Time value of money
  - The magic of compounding
  - Interest is the “price of money”
- Personal financial statements
  - Income statement and balance sheet
- Income tax basics

Week 4 – 6. Managing Personal

- Savings plans
  - CDs, money market funds
• Consumer spending
  o Creating a budget

• Use of credit
  o Types of credit
  o Credit scoring
  o Credit strategies

• Insurance

Week 7 – 9.

• Housing and real estate
  o Lease vs. buy
  o Mortgages

Week 10 -13. Investments

• Capital markets
• Stocks and bonds
  o Analyzing different investments
• Personal investment strategies
  o Dollar cost averaging
  o Tax-free investing

Week 14-15
• Taxes
  o Types of taxes
  o Estate planning

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

3 Homework assignments (brief research and writing assignments) – 30 points
Mid Term Exam – 25 points
Final Exam – 30 points
Attendance and Engagement – 15 points

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are only legitimate when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged. The principles of academic integrity entail simple standards of honesty and truth. Each member of the university has a responsibility to uphold the standards of the community and to take action when others violate them. Students are expected to know, understand and adhere to the policies on academic integrity outlined in the University Code of Academic Conduct.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who are seeking an accommodation because of a disability are directed to the website http://learn.camden.rutgers.edu/disability/disabilities.html or they can contact the Camden campus Disability Coordinator, Mr. Tim Pure at 856-225-6442, Armitage Hall Room 362. The email address is disabilityservices@camden.rutgers.edu. All contact will be considered confidential.