



COURSE NAME: Personal Finance

COURSE NUMBER: 11:373:353 **SEMESTER:** Spring 2024 **MEETING DAYS, TIMES, AND PLACE:**
Meets Online

PREREQUISITE: Microeconomics: 11:373:121 or 01:220:102

CONTACT INFORMATION:

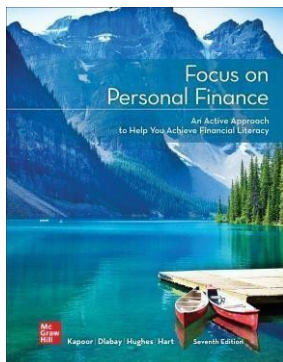
Instructor(s): Dr. Isaac Vellangany

Office Location: Cook Office Building, Room 112

Phone: 848 932 9131 Email: isaacv@sebs.rutgers.edu Office Hours: Available
by email, phone, or zoom.

COURSE WEBSITE, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

Course: [11:373:353:01 PERSONAL FINANCE](#) via Canvas.



- Textbook **Connect Access via Canvas:** Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 7th Edition, 2022, McGraw-Hill. To access the Smart Book course materials, click on the following link: <https://video.mhhe.com/watch/4q72PpEpzkXAd3hW4o52c8> •
The McGraw Hill tech support number 1-800-331-5094
- **Calculator-** A basic calculator (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are the only necessary functions). If you have a more advanced (i.e. scientific or financial) calculator that you feel comfortable with, do not purchase a basic calculator for our class purposes. Your cell phone probably has a calculator, and your computer probably has Excel, so you probably do not need to purchase anything.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will teach economic and financial strategies used to accumulate, manage, and protect personal assets, with an emphasis on income generation, expense reduction, investment selection, and wealth creation to meet future needs and goals. Topics include investing (mutual funds, stocks, etc.), annuities, deferred savings, insurance, retirement planning, estate planning, and real estate finance.

Topics will include household budgeting, banking services, insurance, income taxes, consumer credit, and time value of money. Emphasis will be placed on helping students understand and make decisions about buying health and life insurance, buying versus renting a home, car buying decisions, creating a budget, investment planning and managing personal income tax. The course will utilize an introductory textbook in Personal Finance.

The course is designed to develop critical thinking skills and analyses of financial data. Students will be able to directly apply what they have learned to their future lives to become successful financially.

LEARNING GOALS:

Note: This course is designed to be an introduction to personal finance.

1. Understand and evaluate the financial planning process including: ● Exploring decision making methods. ● Defining quantitative techniques for evaluating options. ● Identifying “best practice” situations.
2. Develop life-skills for financial decision making.
3. Examine methods to protect and enhance personal wealth.
4. Evaluate current events in terms of their effect on personal financial situations.

On completion of the learning goals, graduates from this program will have attained the ability to:

1. utilize and explain core economic, management, financial and accounting concepts.
2. demonstrate quantitative reasoning skills.
4. recognize the role of ethical values in economic decisions.
5. demonstrate critical and effective communication skills.

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES, GRADING & ASSESSMENT:

Course Assignments:

- Weekly Chapter Readings & LearnSmart (*Connect via Canvas*): Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw-Hill.
- One Online Threaded Discussion to Introduce Yourself to the Class (*Canvas*)
- Online Threaded Discussions on Personal Financial Topics (*Canvas*)
- Personal Financial Planner Sheets (*Connect via Canvas*)

- Application-Based Activities (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Final Exam (*Connect via Canvas*)

Assigned Readings & LearnSmart (Connect): Readings are from the required text listed above. Each week you will be expected to read all the assigned materials and answer the LearnSmart questions practice sessions in each chapter. The readings associated with each chapter are meant to provide an overview of the weekly course topic and contribute to the development of your knowledge of personal financial planning. The questions reinforce the concepts in the text.

Online Threaded Discussion: Throughout the semester, you are expected to contribute to 4 to 5 online discussions. After completing the weekly assigned readings, you are required to respond to online discussion questions and activities drawn from the readings, as well as respond to your peers in the threaded discussions. You will also be divided into smaller groups to facilitate more in-depth discussion. The specific discussion questions will be indicated in the Threaded Discussion tab of each Weekly Content section. It is expected that you will participate fully by addressing each question and acknowledging the responses of others when responding to threaded discussion questions.

The threaded discussions allow students to discuss weekly course topics and weekly assigned readings as well as practice leadership skills and competencies. This includes sharing your thoughts, knowledge about the discussion topic, the outcomes of your self-assessment, and insights about what you have learned from the contributions of others.

As part of the discussion, it is important that you incorporate the readings and provide constructive responses regarding the ongoing conversation. The objective of the threaded discussion is not to just repeat what other students have said, but to add something new to the ongoing discussions. These discussions allow the professor to determine if you comprehend and can apply the course content. During online threaded discussions, please reference course materials, quote from the text, provide your opinions agree or disagree with text or classmates, expand on the ideas of others, and present a new perspective regarding discussion topic. When you are citing, quoting, or paraphrasing additional source materials, make sure references are included. Your online contributions should be A MINIMUM of 150 words in length. Proper grammar and word usage are also required.

Your contributions to the online discussions will be graded for quality i.e.: your ability to critically evaluate the question/information you are discussing.

Since this is a personal finance class, thus you will fill out personal financial planner worksheets that are in your textbook to help you reach your personal financial goals.

Basis for Grading: Students are assessed on quality and effort of their work, timeliness, and participation.

Grading Criteria	Percent Value
Weekly Chapter Readings & LearnSmart (<i>Connect via Canvas</i>)	20%
Application-Based Activities (<i>Connect via Canvas</i>)	20%
Personal Financial Planner Sheets (<i>Canvas</i>)	20%

Threaded Discussions (<i>Canvas</i>)	20%
Two Exams (midterm and Final - <i>Connect via Canvas</i>)	20%
Total	100%

Your final grade is determined using the following scale:

Grade	Definition	Numerical Equivalent
A	Excellent	4.0
B+	Outstanding	3.5
B	Good	3.0
C+	Satisfactory	2.0
C	Below average	1.5
D	Poor	1.0
F	Failing	0.0

ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. Full policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

ABSENCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all online class activities; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: January 16 – 21 Introductions and Personal Financial Planning in Action

- Threaded Discussion Number 1: Introductions (*Canvas*)
- Weekly Reading and LearnSmart: Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw-Hill. Chapter 1, pp. 2-43 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Personal Financial Planner Sheets: Setting Personal Financial Goals Using the Time Value of Money (*Canvas*)

Week 2: January 22 - 27 Money Management Skills

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- Weekly Reading and LearnSmart: Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw-Hill. Chapter 2, pp. 44-73 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing - Budgeting with Reduced Income (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Personal Financial Planner Sheets: Financial Documents, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, Personal Budget (*Canvas*)

Week 3: January 29 – February 4 Taxes in Your Financial Plan

- Weekly Reading and LearnSmart: Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw-Hill. Chapter 3, pp. 74-105 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activities: Role Playing - Estimating Federal Income Taxes (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Personal Financial Planner Sheets: Estimating and Planning for Paying Your Federal Income Tax (*Canvas*)

Week 4: February 5 - 11 Financial Services: Savings Plans and Payment Accounts

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 4, pp. 106-139 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activities: Role Playing - Financial Services: Savings Plans and Payment Accounts (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Personal Financial Planner Sheets: Comparing Savings Plans and Using Savings Plans to Achieve Financial Goals (*Canvas*)

Week 5: February 12 – 18 Consumer Credit: Advantages, Disadvantages, Sources, and Costs

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 5, pp. 140-185 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Threaded Discussion Number 2: Credit Report (*Canvas*)

Week 6: February 19 – 25 Consumer Purchasing Strategies and Wise Buying of Motor Vehicles

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 6, pp. 186-215 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activities: Role Playing - Consumer Purchasing Strategies: Buying a Motor Vehicle (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Threaded Discussion Number 3: Purchasing Decisions (*Canvas*)

Week 7: February 26 - March 3 Selecting and Financing Housing

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 7, pp. 216-245 (*Connect via Canvas*)

- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing – The Housing Decision (*Connect via Canvas*)

Week 8: March 4 - 08 – Home and Automobile Insurance

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 8, pp. 246-281 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing – Property and Motor Vehicle Insurance (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Threaded Discussion Number 4: Home and Auto Insurance (*Canvas*)

Spring Break: March 09 – 17

Week 9: March 18 – 24 Health and Disability Income Insurance

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 9, pp. 282-317 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing – Health, Disability and Long-Term Care Insurance (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Personal Financial Planner Sheets: Health, Disability and Long-Term Care Insurance (*Canvas*)

Week 10: March 25 – April 31 – Financial Planning with Life Insurance

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 10, pp. 318-345 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing – Financial Planning with Life Insurance (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Threaded Discussion Number 5: Life Insurance (*Canvas*)

Week 11: April 1 - 07 E-Investing Basics and Evaluating Bonds

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 11, pp. 346-383 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing – Investing in Bonds (*Connect via Canvas*)

Week 12: April 08 – 14 Investing in Stocks

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 12, pp. 384-419 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing – Investing in Stocks (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Threaded Discussion Number 6: Investing in Stocks (*Canvas*)

Week 13: April 15 - 21 Investing in Mutual Funds

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- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 13, pp. 420-457 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing – Investing in Mutual Funds (*Connect via Canvas*)

Week 14: April 22 – 28 Starting Early: Retirement and Estate Planning

April 29 – Last day of class

- Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes, and Hart, *Focus on Personal Finance*, 6th Edition, 2019, McGraw Hill. Chapter 14, pp. 458-491 (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Application-Based Activity: Role Playing – Starting Early: Retirement and Estate Planning (*Connect via Canvas*)
- Personal Financial Planner Sheets - Review Financial Plan from Chapter 1

FINAL EXAM/PAPER DATE AND TIME

Online Final exam Schedule: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

Week 15: May 2 –8 **FINAL EXAM PERIOD. Exact date will be announced later** (*Connect via Canvas*)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academicintegrity-policy>. The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that.

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- all student work is fairly evaluated, and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.

- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES

Just In Case Web App <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 8489321181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics

(732) 247-5555 / <https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlisteners> Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.