PERSONAL FINANCE
FIN 107 Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Office: 220 Martin Hall & Mall
Office hours: Posted in Blackboard

***IMPORTANT*:**

- ☑ The recommended browser to use with the current version of Blackboard is Mozilla Firefox. Other browsers are inconsistent in their performance with Blackboard. When taking tests or quizzes, USE a wired connection.
- ☑ Check your VCCS email regularly and respond/keep in touch with your instructor.
- ☑ Mall Site will **NOT** have Saturday summer hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Description: This course presents you with a framework of personal money management concepts, including the principles of saving, your credit report, insurance, taxes, buying and selling a house, buying and selling a car, investing, retirement, and estate planning. This course will normally transfer to a four-year school as elective credit. This course will transfer to Radford University as FINC251 and to Old Dominion University as a GNRL elective credit. NRCC offers this course 100% online; you will never need to visit the campus.

Prerequisite: None

Credits: 3
Submissions: Students will take tests in Blackboard
Online Activities: 1) study PP lecture slides 2) take tests 3) post WSJ summaries

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook: Personal Finance: Beware of Wolves in Sheeps Clothing. This book is available in the NRCC bookstore for a nominal price and free online. The password is on the START HERE page of the Fin107 Blackboard web site.

Note: NRCC assumes no liability for virus, loss of data, or damage to software or computer when a student downloads software for classes.

The Student's Guide to Distance Education is available at http://www.nr.edu/de/pdf/stuguide.pdf.

COURSE INFORMATION

Prepared By: Ken Long **Approved By:** Dr. Janice Shelton

A. INTRODUCTION

This is a Distance Education course designed specifically for those students whose learning styles are best served by providing instructional opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting.

B. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate that you can save $100 - $200 more a month than you presently are saving
- Describe how you can make your saving automatic
- Explain how you have utilized credit cards to your own benefit and to pay less interest than before you took this course
- Evaluate information and its sources critically and demonstrate an improvement in your financial knowledge
- Explain how you can fashion a credit report to your favor and demonstrate this by earning a higher credit score than before you took this course
- Explain why you buy insurance
- Show how you can save money on your taxes and demonstrate this by paying less taxes than the year before
- Show how you can buy a house and sell a house by learning the research tools available on the Internet
- Demonstrate how you can retire with comfort later in life by opening a Roth or traditional IRA
- Develop skills and understanding to increase your financial well being

C. COURSE CONTENT

Chapter One:	First Things First
Chapter Two:	Plugging the Holes
Chapter Three:	Credit Cards
Chapter Four:	Your Credit Report
Chapter Five:	Insurance
Chapter Six:	Buying, Selling, and Leasing a Car
Chapter Seven:	Home Ownership vs. Renting
Chapter Eight:	Taxes
Chapter Nine:	Bonds and Mutual Funds
Chapter Ten:	Stocks and Annuities
Chapter Eleven:	Building a Secure Retirement
Chapter Twelve:	Estate Planning

D. GRADING/EVALUATION

1. The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:
   A = at least **720** points (8 x 90 = 720)
   B = at least **640** points (8 x 80 = 640)
   C = at least **560** points (8 x 70 = 560)
   D = at least **480** points (8 x 60 = 480)
   F = **479** points and below

   Students can earn points as follows:
   * 800 possible points on the 8 tests
   * 40 possible points for participating in the WSJ Group

E. WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy
A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first sixty percent (60%) of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

a. If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.

b. After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of sixty percent (60%) of a session, a student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a course will be assigned a grade of "W." A grade of “W” implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the class at the time of withdrawal, that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.

c. After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of "F" will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance.

A retroactive grade of “W” may be awarded only if the student would have been eligible under the previously stated policy to receive a “W” on the last date of class attendance. The last date of attendance for a distance education course will be the last date that work was submitted.

Late withdrawal appeals will be revised and a decision made by the Coordinator of Student Services.

No-Show Policy
A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in distance learning courses by the last date to drop for a refund. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to attend/participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a course will adversely impact a student’s financial aid award.

Instructor Initiated Withdrawal
Since attendance is not a valid measurement for Distance Education (DE) courses, a student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her DE course plan for the instructor's policy.

In accordance with the No-Show Policy, a student who has not attended class or requested/accessed distance learning materials by the last day to drop the class and receive a refund must be withdrawn by the instructor during the following week. No refund will be applicable.

The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office. An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor.

F. CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY

A grade of zero will be awarded to any writing assignments or tests that show cheating or plagiarism. To plagiarize is "To use and pass off as one's own the ideas or writings of another." (Definition adapted from the American Heritage Dictionary.) Remember that plagiarism includes lifting words or ideas from Internet sites, as well as copying from print sources.

G. DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The NRCC community values the pluralistic nature of our society. We recognize diversity including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, age, gender, sexual orientation and physical or mental capability. We respect the variety of ideas, experiences and practices that such diversity entails. It is our commitment to ensure equal opportunity and to sustain a climate of civility for all who work or study at NRCC or who otherwise participate in the life of the college.

New River Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations, 217 Edwards Hall, 540-674-3600, ext. 4241.

H. DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please register with the Center for Disabilities Services located in the Counseling Center in Rooker Hall for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.