

Please note: This is a preliminary syllabus and is subject to change. It provides useful introductory detail and additional course insight as you prepare for the application process.

FNCE 002: Essentials of Personal Finance

Course Details

Instructor:	Mehran Ebrahimiyan	Summer 1: May 24 - June 30, 2021
Meeting Days:	Mondays and Thursdays	Office Hours: TBD (online)
Meeting Times:	8:00am - 10:00am (EDT)	

Course Description & Objectives

This course introduces students to the key financial concepts through the lens of personal financial decisions, centering on financing one's education, culminating in a capstone project evaluating student loan offers.

Course Overview

This course is divided into 7 weeks. Course content is delivered via video lectures, synchronous class sessions and online assignments, discussions and exercises.

Course Materials

Required Books:

Bodie, Kane, and Marcus, *Essentials of Investments*, 11th Edition, McGraw Hill.

- Portions of this book will be assigned.
- We will assign chapters, homework, and problems linked to this material and you will be marked via the online portal.

Kapoor, Dlabay, Hughes and Hart, *Personal Finance*, 13th Edition, McGraw Hill.

- Portions of this book will be assigned.
- We will assign chapters, homework, and problems linked to this material and you will be marked via the online portal.

Olen & Pollack, 2017, *The Index Card: Why Personal Finance Doesn't Have to Be Complicated*, Penguin.

- Paperback book, will not be in Canvas.

Course Content & Schedule

Classes 1 & 2

Intro/Overview of Financial & Economic Concepts

- Basic mathematics of finance: interest and time value of money
- Intertemporal decisions: saving and borrowing

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Classes 3 & 4	<div>Overview of Life Cycle Economic Decision Making</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Budgeting- Constraints: income, wealth, cost of living, access to financial markets, taxes- Asset classes- Behavioral biases, misconceptions, and mistakes
Classes 5 & 6	<div>Saving and Borrowing</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Banking: savings accounts, CDs, etc.- Consumer credit (credit cards, etc.)- Credit scores- Peer-to-peer lending and other emerging forms of credit
Classes 7 & 8	<div>Investing for the Future</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Decisions involving risk: insurance, diversification- Investing in risky assets: stocks vs. bonds; mutual funds, ETFs, etc.- Robo-advisors: promises and pitfalls- “Alternative” investments: gold, crypto, and beyond...
Class 9	<div>Financing Investment in Education</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Human capital as an investment- Financing education: 529's, student loans, other- Workers are “human capitalists:” equity-linked compensation (e.g. stock options), partnership- Diversifying/hedging the risk in human capital