
**MOS 2277a- Personal Financial Planning
Course Outline: Section – 002 / Fall 2014**

1. Course Information:

1.1. Class Location and Time:

SSC 3006
Monday 6pm-9pm

1.2. Instructor: Nicholas Kahnert

Office: SSC 4434

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30pm - 5pm in SSC 4035 (Department of Economics)

Email: ntkahner@uwo.ca

Website Address: <https://owl.uwo.ca>

DAN Management and Organizational Studies strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2111 ext 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>

2. Course Description

This course is designed to give students the tools necessary to manage their own finances over their lifetime. It would be of interest to anyone who plans to have a job, buy a car, buy a house, have a family, and retire to a comfortable life.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

2.1. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe key financial concepts (DK)
2. Identify appropriate financial methodologies to allow them to communicate different personal financial alternatives and select between alternatives (CS)
3. Demonstrate financial literacy skills (AK)

2.2. Antirequisite(s): [MOS 2295A/B](#), if taken between 2012–2013.

2.3. Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in MOS Honors Specialization, Specialization or Major.

2.4. You are responsible for ensuring you have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

3. Required Text:

Kapoor, J.R.; Dlabay, L.R.; Hughes, R.J.; Ahmad, A.; Personal Finance, Fifth Canadian Edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Toronto. ISBN: 978-0-07-040108-2

4. Topics Covered

(Note: this list is tentative and subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.)

- I. Planning Your Personal Finances (Chapters 1-3)
 - Financial Planning, Money Management, Tax Strategies
- II. Managing Your Personal Finances (Chapters 4-7)
 - Banking services, Consumer Credit, Housing Finance
- III. Insuring Your Assets (Chapters 8,9)
 - Home & Automobile Insurance; Life, Health & Disability Insurance
- IV. Investing Your Financial Resources (Chapters 10-13)
 - Fundamentals of Investing, Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds
- V. Controlling Your Financial Future (Chapters 14-15)
 - Retirement Planning, Estate Planning
- VI. Special Topics (Time permitting)

5. Evaluation

	Percentage of Course Grade
Midterm Examination (October 24, 6:30pm-8:30pm)	40%
Final Examination (date set by registrar)	40%
Quizzes	10%
Assignment	10%

Students are **REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ALL COMPONENTS** of this course. There are no exceptions to this. Extra assignments to improve grades will **NOT** be allowed. Grades will **not** be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

6. Class Policy & Student Responsibilities

- 6.1. Material covered in lectures will not always be the same as material covered in the textbook. These two sources should be viewed as complimentary and not redundant. As such, students who want to do well in this course are **strongly encouraged** to attend lectures on a regular basis. Please note that the instructor may not be providing copies of lectures notes or overheads. Therefore, if you miss a lecture, you should try to obtain this material from another student.

6.2. Quizzes

There will be a total of four (4) equally weighted quizzes throughout the semester. All four quizzes will count towards your final grade. Late quizzes will not be accepted. You are responsible for following the instructions on how and by when to complete each quiz. Failure to complete by the due date and time will result in a grade of zero.

At the Instructor's discretion, each quiz will either be given in class or assigned to be completed online. All quizzes are to be completed independently, without help from or in cooperation with other groups or individuals. Details regarding quizzes will be given in class and posted on the course website. Instructions on how to access the quizzes will also be available on the course website. Failure to comply with quiz rules may result in a grade of zero on the quiz in question.

6.3. Assignment

This grade component will be composed of one (1) culminating assignment to be assigned in the second month of the semester and to be submitted at the end of the semester. Guidelines for this component will be discussed in class and made available on the course website in due course.

6.4. Exams

Each exam will be scheduled for **2 hours** and will be a closed book examination. The format of the exam will be discussed in class prior to the exam date. Dictionaries and translators are **NOT** allowed into the examinations. Only **non-programmable calculators** will be allowed into the exams. Make-up exams will only be scheduled once the student has provided adequate documentation to Academic Counselling and the proper forms have been completed (see below for process). Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures **as well as** the assigned material in the text. Exams will not be returned to students but may be reviewed in the instructor's office.

7. EMAIL POLICIES

The following policies apply to all emails between students and the Instructor. Please respect the fact that the Instructor receives hundreds of emails from students and must deal with those emails in a fair and organized manner. Non-acceptable emails will receive a reply saying only "Please see Email Policies on the course outline". You are responsible for ensuring that sufficient space is available in your e-mail account to accept new e-mails.

7.1. UWO Email Addresses Only

For privacy reasons, students must use their Western email accounts to contact the Instructor. The Instructor will not respond to emails from non-uwo.ca addresses (e.g. hotmail.com, gmail.com, etc.).

7.2. Subject Line MUST include Course and Section number

The subject line of emails must contain the name or number of the course, and the section number in which the student is enrolled. The Instructor teaches different courses and sections and cannot properly respond to questions if he does not know which course or section you are enrolled in.

7.3. Acceptable Emails

- questions about the course content or materials
- asking to set up an appointment to ask questions or review an exam
- notification of illness or other special circumstances
- providing constructive comments or feedback about the course

7.4. Unacceptable Emails

- questions that may be answered on OWL or on this course outline
- asking when grades will be posted
- asking what grade a student received
- asking where or when an exam is scheduled or the material covered on an exam

- requests for grade increases, extra assignments, or reweighting of course components

8. University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

- 8.1. Cheating on exams will not be tolerated; students are referred to the university policy on scholastic offenses (see section 9.0 below). Looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, or obtaining information about a test in advance are all examples of cheating. Students found cheating will receive a zero (0%) on that exam. A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, examination supervisors (proctors) of the tests may ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students' papers, remove baseball caps, etc. This is not meant as a personal affront or as an accusation of cheating, rather as vigilant attempts at proctoring. A copy of guidelines about how to avoid cheating can be obtained from the office of the Ombudsperson, Room 251 University Community Centre, (519) 661-3573.
- 8.2. Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offenses in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offenses include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate, consult your instructor. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" will not be accepted as an excuse.
- 8.3. The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offense include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

9. Procedures For Appealing Academic Evaluations

- 9.1. In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Assistant Program Director or Designate of the BMOS program. If the response of the Assistant Director is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty in which the course of program was taken. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean, may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

10. University Policy Regarding Illness

10.1. Illness

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, **in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation supplied (see below for process) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.**

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy [<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/general/privacy.pdf>].

Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty.

Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities. (Note: it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student was seen for a medical reason or was ill.)

A form to be completed by off-campus physicians is available at:

<http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/forms/medicalNote.pdf>

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation **in advance of due dates, examinations**, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

In the case of a final examination in the course, the student must arrange for a Special Examination or Incomplete through their Dean's office, for which you will be required to provide acceptable documentation.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and the Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. In general, retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered.

10.2. Make Up Examinations

10.2.1. The student must write a make-up exam if the regularly scheduled exam is missed for reasons for which adequate documentation is received by the instructor (this documentation must be supplied by the Academic Counseling office).

10.3. Attendance

10.3.1. It is expected that students will attend all classes. The Instructor does not provide access to lecture notes. Students are encouraged to obtain missed lecture notes from a fellow student.

11. Support Services

11.1. Support Services

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca> Student Support Services (**including the services provided by the USC listed here**) can be reached at: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

11.2. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

12. Other Policies & Issues

12.1. Grade Policy

The DAN Program has a grade policy which states that for courses in the 2000 range, the class average must fall between 65% and 70% for all sections of a course taught by the same instructor. In very exceptional circumstances only, class averages outside this range may be approved by the Assistant Director or Director. Class averages are not grounds for appeal.

12.2. Short Absences.

If you miss a class due to minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or exam. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow the missed lectures notes from a classmate.

12.3. Extended Absences.

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed about your difficulties.

12.4. Academic Concerns.

If you are in academic difficulty, it is strongly recommended that you see your academic counsellor.

12.5. Important Dates:

September 4, 2014 Fall Session classes begin.
September 12, 2014 Last day to add a full or first-term half course
October 13, 2014 Thanksgiving
October 30-31, 2014 Fall Study Break
November 5, 2014 Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty
December 3, 2014 Fall Session classes end.
December 4 & 5, 2014 Study Days
December 6-17, 2014 December examination period

13. Other Information

- Bring student identification to exams.
- Nothing is to be on/at one's desk during an exam except a pen, pencil, an eraser, an approved calculator (if permitted) and the individual's student card
- **Dictionaries are NOT allowed into the examinations.**
- **Only non-programmable calculators will be allowed into the exams.** If you are unsure, please ask your Instructor to check your calculator.
- Do not wear baseball caps to exams
- Do not bring music players, cell phones, beepers, or other electronic devices to exams

For The University of Western Ontario Senate Regulations, please see the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy at: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Tentative Timetable for MOS 2277a Section 002

Class	Date	Topic	Chapter	Notes
1	8-Sep	Introduction to Financial Planning, Financial Statements & Budgeting	1,2	
2	15-Sep	Planning your tax strategy	3	
3	22-Sep	Financial Institutions & Banking services	4	Quiz 1 (1-3)
4	29-Sep	Introduction to Consumer Credit; Credit Alternatives	5,6	
5	6-Oct	Cost of Credit Alternatives; The Finances of Housing	6,7	Quiz 2 (4-6)
	13-Oct	Thanksgiving Day (No Class)		
6	20-Oct	The Finances of Housing, Exam Review	7	
	24-Oct	MIDTERM EXAM- 6:30pm-8:30pm Location: TBA		
7	27-Oct	Insuring your Assets: Home, Auto, Life, Health & Disability Insurance	8,9	
8	3-Nov	Fundamentals of Investing; Investing in Stocks	10,11	
9	10-Nov	Investing in Bonds; Investing in Mutual Funds	12,13	Quiz 3 (8-10)
10	17-Nov	Retirement Planning	14	
11	24-Nov	Estate Planning	15	Quiz 4 (11-13)
12	1-Dec	Exam Review		Assignment Due

*This table represents the plan for this class and will be continuously revised as the term progresses. Please make sure to check the course website for updates.