

FINA 200

Personal Finance - Section EC

Winter 2023

This syllabus is subject to change and any changes will be posted in the Announcements section of your eConcordia course.

Disclaimer: In the event that the University is unable to provide services or that courses are interrupted due to events beyond the reasonable control of the University, including classroom or online disruptions, the University reserves the right to modify any element contained in the course outline including but not limited to the grading scheme and the weight accorded to exams or assignments.

About the Course

Program:

Undergraduate: 3 credits

Term: Winter (January 9 – May 2, 2023)

Faculty: John Molson School of Business

Department: Finance

Instructor

The instructor for this course is **Nadine Parla**.

About the Instructor

Nadine Parla is a CPA, CA with over 15 years of financial planning experience.

Contact Information

You can email the course professor at: fina200@econcordia.com. This email address allows you to contact your Professor directly with any general inquiries. If you have any questions or concerns about the course, or if there is a delay in hearing back from your Teaching Assistant (TA), please do not hesitate to use this email.

The TA that has been assigned to you is listed on the course Contact Page. The Teaching Assistants are:

- **Ali Rouhghalandari:** ali.rouhghalandari@econcordia.com
- **Ashrafee Hossain:** ashrafee.hossain@econcordia.com
- **Majid Maleki:** majid.maleki@econcordia.com
- **Hamidreza Adibi:** hamidreza.adibi@econcordia.com

Note: Please email your TA with any questions or concerns you have, or if you require further feedback. Also, allow for a 24-hour response time during the week (Monday-Friday). Teaching Assistants check their messages once over the 48-hour weekend period and are not available on statutory or university holidays.

See the main page under **Contact** to see which TA has been assigned to you.

Course Description

This course is offered online. It is designed to help students better understand the planning and management of their current and future financial affairs. The course introduces the terminology and basic concepts underlying personal financial management. It helps students set goals and develop skills to conduct basic research when making personal financial decisions.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will learn the fundamentals of personal finance and understand how to:

- Establish and prioritize personal financial goals with the consideration of the time value of money on your savings and investment plan.
- Prepare your personal financial statements (net worth statement, cash flow) and create a budget.
- Understand how to calculate your federal personal tax liability.
- Build and maintain good credit through debt management (i.e. credit cards and consumer loans) and understand loan payment calculations (including mortgages).
- Manage risk through insurance.
- Analyze different investment options to build a savings and investment plan.
- Plan for retirement by estimating planned retirement income, spending needs and housing needs.
- Understand the importance of having an estate plan.

Online Course Material

The material for this course can only be accessed through eConcordia, and is hosted on **eConcordia Moodle** (This course does not use Concordia Moodle). This online course consists of the required online textbook and the FINA 200 course website which includes the cases, quizzes, practice exams, videos, Q&A Forum and other course material.

Each lesson module contains three sections:

1. Lesson's To Do List – containing an intro video, readings, corrections/updates, review questions and financial planning problems
2. Lesson's Helpful Resources – containing summary notes and lesson glossary
3. Time to Test Yourself – containing a practice quiz.

The only text required for this course is available through eConcordia via the course website and is included in the online textbook fee.

Online Textbook

Madura, Jeff, Singh Gill, Hardeep, Personal Finance, Pearson Canada Inc., 5th Canadian Edition **is only available through the course website**. As the cases, quizzes and final exam are based on this version, no

other edition can be used as a substitute. Please consult the documents under **Corrections/Updates** to be read jointly with the online textbook.

- In order to access your textbook, please see the Textbook Access instructions under the Getting Started section of your course.

Calculator

Students also require a calculator to complete the problems on the quizzes, cases and final exam. The calculator must not be programmable. A financial calculator is strongly recommended for this course. I personally suggest the Texas Instruments BAII+ as the online textbook uses this model with their examples.

Course Website

The course website can be accessed at www.econcordia.com, through the Moodle Dashboard.

Your account will allow you to access the online course material, which includes videos, notes, Q & A Forum, all graded course components, useful links, readings and many more resources from the course website for the duration of the term.

Students will have access to the course content for 6 months after the end of the term for which you are registered. After 6 months, students will still have access to their grades through their eConcordia account.

Assessments

Graded Assessments

2 Quizzes + 2 Case Studies	Chapters Covered*	70%
Online Individual Quiz 1	Chapters 1-6	15%
Online Individual Case 1	Chapters 1-7	20%
Online Individual Quiz 2	Chapters 7-10, 13 -15	15%
Online Individual Case 2	Chapters 8-10, 13 -16	20%
Online Individual Final Examination	All assigned chapters covered: Chapters 1-10 and 13-16	30%

*Please refer to the Summary Notes for which Learning Objectives are examinable material for Chapters 5, 6, 8, 9, 14 and 15.

Description of Graded Assessments

Online Individual Quizzes

All quizzes are individual and due by 11:59 p.m. on the date indicated in the *Outline* (“individual” means that you, and you alone wrote the solution; please review the Academic Code of Conduct). All online quizzes will be composed of 30 multiple choice questions chosen at random from a test bank. Please refer to the *Outline* for the chapters to be covered and the quiz dates. For each quiz, students will sign onto the website (select the corresponding quiz link on the *Assessments* page to access and submit your quiz) for a timed 60 minute-period on the date indicated (plus a 5-minute grace period for a total of 65 minutes). **You will be able to start the 65-minute quiz as of 5:00 p.m. on the date indicated in the *Outline*, with completion by 11:59 p.m. sharp on the date indicated in the *Outline*. At the deadline, the “Attempt quiz now” link is removed. To be clear, you decide when you start the quiz within this period. Timing (“count down” clock) for the 65-minute quiz begins as soon as the quiz is started.** Additional instructions will be given in the *Announcements* section as the quizzes approach. Sample quizzes will be made available on the *Assessments* page.

Online Individual Cases

The cases are individual and due by 11:59 p.m. on the date indicated in the *Outline* (“individual” means that you, and you alone wrote the solution; please review the Academic Code of Conduct). Please refer to the *Outline* for the chapters covered and the due dates. For the cases, students will sign onto the website (select the corresponding case link on the *Assessments* page to access the Word document and to submit your case). Please do not wait until moments before the deadline to submit your case as, due to heavy traffic, you may be unable to upload on time. If you make an error in your case solution or wish to revise what you have submitted, you will be limited to five (5) additional attempts to re-upload. You have 1 week to complete

the Case, however at **11:59 p.m. sharp on the deadline date, the submission link is removed**. The case solution will be posted shortly thereafter. Additional instructions will be given in the **Announcements** section as the Case work approaches. Sample cases will be made available on the **Assessments** page.

Online Individual Final Exam

The online final exam is individual and open-book (“individual” means that you, and you alone wrote the solution; please review the Academic Code of Conduct). It will take place online during the exam period. The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and is cumulative, i.e. will cover all assigned chapters. Additional instructions will be given in the **Announcements** section as the Final Exam approaches. A sample final exam will be made available on the **Assessments** page.

EXAMINATION CONFLICTS

If you have a legitimate final exam conflict, you have two options, but you **MUST** take the necessary steps within the deadline date for an option below to apply. For more information, please visit the following link to work with the Examinations Office regarding potential options

(<https://www.concordia.ca/students/exams/conflicts.html>):

- Write an alternate exam
- Defer the exam

ONLINE EXAMS AND INSTRUCTION

This course is taught online, including all assessments. This course does not use an online proctoring tool called Proctorio.

Please note the following with respect to online exams:

1. That the final exam will take place during the exam period at the designated date and time set by the Exams office. All exam times will be set to Eastern Standard/Daylight Time.
2. That you will be responsible for ensuring appropriate, properly functioning technology (appropriate browser and an ability to download any necessary software, as well as a reliable internet connection with a minimum of a 3G connection).

Students who are unable to write an exam because they are unable to meet the above conditions and requirements are advised that they will need to drop the course. Students are advised that the drop deadline (DNE) for this course is January 23, 2023.

Students who require additional accommodations for their exams due to a documented disability should contact the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) as soon as possible (acsinfo@concordia.ca).

Grades

In order to view your grades throughout the semester, select the **Grades** page link located on the left hand side vertical menu on the course page.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your work has been received (to be verified as outlined in your assignment instructions) and to contact your TA via e-mail for clarification if you have any questions concerning your grades.

Your final letter grade for the course will be posted in your Student Hub at the end of the term.

Grading Distribution

A+ 90 +	A 85-89	A- 80-84
B+ 77-79	B 73-76	B- 70-72
C+ 67-69	C 63-66	C- 60-62
D+ 57-59	D 53-56	D- 50-52
FNS 49 <		

Final numerical grades will be rounded as follows: Grades ending in .1 to .4 will be rounded down. Grades ending in .5 to .9 will be rounded up.

Policies:

Late Submissions and Extensions

- No extensions will be offered on quizzes or cases. The case solutions will be posted shortly after the submission deadline.
- If you are unable to complete your work by the deadline or complete an exam on the assigned date, due to medical reasons, it is your responsibility to advise your Teaching Assistant, copied to the Instructor at [fina200@econcordia.com](mailto: fina200@econcordia.com).
- If you have technical difficulties, please contact [helpdesk@econcordia.com](mailto: helpdesk@econcordia.com).
- Please note that you are responsible for the version of the work you upload to the website. If you upload the incorrect version of your work to the website, you can resubmit the correct version prior to the deadline. You can resubmit an additional five (5) times. If you fail to meet the deadline, the version of your work located on the website is the one that will be graded. In addition, please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that your case is received before the deadline. Should you be unable to submit your work via the website you must submit your work via e-mail to your TA before the deadline. Please give yourself enough time for online submissions to send your cases via e-mail should a technical issue arise.
- Responses may be written in French.

ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

- All individuals participating in courses are expected to be professional and constructive throughout the course, including in their communications. Concordia students are subject to the [Code of Rights and Responsibilities](#) which applies both when students are physically and virtually engaged in any University activity, including classes, seminars, meetings, etc. Students engaged in university activities must respect this Code when engaging with any members of the Concordia community, including faculty, staff, and students, whether such interactions are verbal or in writing, face to face or online/virtual. Failing to comply with the Code may result in charges and sanctions, as outlined in the Code 6.
- Plagiarism: The most common offense under the Academic Code of Conduct is plagiarism, which the Code defines as “the presentation of the work of another person as one’s own or without proper acknowledgement.” This includes material copied word for word from books, journals, Internet sites, professor’s course notes, etc. It refers to material that is paraphrased but closely resembles the original source. It also includes for example the work of a fellow student, an answer on a quiz, data for a lab report, a paper or assignment completed by another student. It might be a paper purchased from any source. Plagiarism does not refer to words alone –it can refer to copying images, graphs, tables and ideas. “Presentation” is not limited to written work. It includes oral presentations, computer assignment and artistic works. Finally, if you translate the work of another person into any other language and do not cite the source, this is also plagiarism.

In Simple Words: Do not copy, paraphrase or translate anything from anywhere without saying where you obtained it! (Source: The Academic Integrity Website: concordia.ca/students/academic-integrity)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)

Content belonging to instructors shared in online courses, including, but not limited to, online lectures, course notes, and video recordings of classes remain the intellectual property of the faculty member. It may not be distributed, published or broadcast, in whole or in part, without the express permission of the faculty member. Students are also forbidden to use their own means of recording any elements of an online class or lecture without express permission of the instructor.

Any unauthorized sharing of course content may constitute a breach of the [Academic Code of Conduct](#) and/or the [Code of Rights and Responsibilities](#). As specified in the [Policy on Intellectual Property](#), the University does not claim any ownership of or interest in any student IP. All university members retain copyright over their work.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

In the event of extraordinary circumstances and pursuant to the [Academic Regulations](#), the University may modify the delivery, content, structure, forum, location and/or evaluation scheme. In the event of such extraordinary circumstances, students will be informed of the changes.

On-line Tutorial Sessions/Virtual Office Hours

The Professor will announce the timing of Online Tutorial Sessions/Virtual Office Hours (VOH) to address questions about the course, the quizzes, cases and the final exam. These sessions/VOH will take place through a virtual meeting room [1]. This online classroom lets your professor share screens and chat with participants.

[1] The virtual meeting room is an online application that conducts a live online conference for multiple users.

Improving Students' Academic Experience

The course outline provides important factual information, which students need to be able to meet the requirements of any course. However, this outline also serves as a reminder to students of all the support services that are available to help achieve academic and personal success

For students that may experience academic or personal difficulties at any point during their academic career, please see the following support services:

LIST OF STUDENT SERVICES

1. Access Centre for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.concordia.ca/students/accessibility.html>
2. Student Success Centre: <ca/students/success>
3. Department's Academic Advisor: For academic advising, current JMSB students should contact their program specific advisor by email.
4. Counselling and Psychological Services: <ca/students/counselling-life-skills>
5. Concordia Library Citation and Style Guides: <https://library.concordia.ca/help/citing>
6. Health Services: <ca/students/health>
7. Financial Aid and Awards: <ca/offices/faao>
8. Academic Integrity: <ca/students/academic-integrity>
9. Dean of Students Office: <ca/offices/dean-students.html>
10. International Students Office: <ca/students/international>
11. Student Hub: <ca/student>
12. Sexual Assault Resource Centre: <ca/students/sexual-assault>
13. As a Concordia student, you are a member of the Concordia Student Union and have many resources available to you including:
 1. HOJO (Off Campus Housing and Job Bank): <qc.ca/services/housing-and-job-bank-hojo/>
 2. CSU Advocacy Centre: <qc.ca/services/advocacy-centre>
14. Aboriginal Student Resource Centre: <https://www.concordia.ca/students/otsenhakta.html>

Important Information

Topic	Link
Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity
Educational Technology Guidelines	Concordia Educational Technology Guidelines for Faculty and Students (the "Guidelines")
Access Centre for Students with Disabilities	ACSD
Concordia Library Citation & Style Guides	How to cite...
Course Communication Tools	Communication
eConcordia Policies	Policies
Final Exams Information	Final Exams
Helpdesk/Support	FAQ
Refunds	Refunds
Technical Requirements	Technical Requirements
Tips for Studying Online	Studying Tips
Tips on how to reach online learning goals (learning modules)	How to Succeed @ eConcordia
How to install and use Zoom	Web Conference with Zoom

Tutorial Companies

Please note that private tutorial companies, some of whom aggressively promote their services on and off campus, are not authorized by Concordia University to distribute flyers on University premises and may not use Concordia University facilities to promote or provide their services.

Concordia University and its academic departments do not have any affiliation with these companies even though names such as JMSB, Concordia, or references to specific departments often appear in a visible way. If you are interested in the University's approved tutoring services, consult the services listed in your course outline or other services listed on the University's website.

Pearson MyLab and Mastering

Pearson MyLab and Mastering is available online through your web browser, and the Pearson+ app for eTexts is available to download on all popular platforms (iOS, Android, Windows, and Mac OS).

Pearson MyLab and Mastering Support:

Should you encounter any problems regarding your MyLab and Mastering account, students are requested to access the following website to help troubleshoot.

<https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/contactsupport>

Select your Country of Study (Canada), Language, Role (College Student), Issue Category, and the Product (MyLab Finance) to access articles that may help resolve your issue.

You can also chat live with a Pearson representative. The chat feature is available 24/7.

For additional assistance, select the “Call Us” option, and follow the necessary steps to speak directly to a Pearson agent. Phone hours are between 10:00 am to 10:00 pm Monday-Friday, EST.

Texidium

Texidium is an eReader platform that puts your eTexts at your fingertips on any device, anywhere, and at any time.

Available online and for all popular platforms (iOS, Android, Windows, and Mac OS), Texidium is designed with the student learning experience in mind.

Texidium Support Hours:

- Monday to Friday, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm EST. This includes email, phone or chat support.
- Evening and night support is available via email only, from 6:00 pm to midnight.
- The communication channels for End-Users is available at <https://texidium.com/contact/>.
- Over the weekend, email support is from 8:00 am to midnight; however, it is a reduced team so response times may be a bit slower and prioritized by level of urgency.

Third Party Software/Websites

Here is an excerpt on Concordia's policy on [Educational software or services developed and owned by third parties](#), including those linked to textbooks, in-class surveys, lecture capture, virtual classrooms, course assignments and quizzes can be invaluable tools for the development and teaching of courses.

Third-Party software/websites that require personal information (name, email, student number, etc.):

Students are advised that external software and/or websites will be used in the course and students may be asked to submit or consent to the submission of personal information (for example, name and email) to register for an online service. Students are responsible for reading and deciding whether or not to agree to any applicable terms of use. Use of this software and service is voluntary. Students who do not consent to the use the software or service should identify themselves to the course instructor as soon as possible, and in all cases before the DNE deadline, to discuss alternate modes of participation.

Third-party software/websites for work submission:

Students are advised that external software and/or websites will be used in the course and students may be asked to submit or consent to the submission of their work to an online service. Students are responsible for reading and deciding whether or not to agree to any applicable terms of use. Use of this software and service

is voluntary. Students who do not consent to the use the software or service should identify themselves to the course instructor as soon as possible to discuss alternate modes of participation that do not require them to give copyright or the right to use their work to a third party.

By using the external software or websites, students agree to provide and share their work and certain personal information (where applicable) with the website/software provider. Students are advised that the University cannot guarantee the protection of intellectual property rights or personal information provided to any website or software company. Intellectual property and personal information held in foreign jurisdictions are subject to the laws of such jurisdictions.

Third-party technology to record a course:

Note that, as a part of this course, some or all of the lectures and/or other activities in this course may be recorded. Recordings will be focused on the instructor and will normally exclude students. It is possible, however, that your participation may be recorded. If you wish to ensure that your image are not recorded, speak to your instructor as soon as possible.

Also, please note that you may not share recordings of your classes and that the instructor will only share class recordings for the purpose of course delivery and development. Any other sharing may be in violation of the law and applicable University policies, and may be subject to penalties.

FINA 200 - Personal Finance Agenda - Winter 2023

All deadlines indicated are on the due date listed by 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Week 1: January 9 - January 15	
	Review the Course Outline and Agenda
	Navigate the Course Website
January 09	Classes begin, winter term
January 11	Orientation Session at 7:00 PM ET Zoom Virtual session
Week 2: January 16 - January 22	
	Lesson 1 - Chapter 1: Overview of a Financial Plan
Week 3: January 23 - January 29	
	Lesson 2 - Chapter 2: Applying Time Value Concepts
January 24	Time Value of Money (TVM) Session at 7:00 PM ET Zoom Virtual session
January 23	Deadline to add winter-term courses
January 23	Deadline for withdrawal with tuition refund (DNE) from winter-term courses
Week 4: January 30 - February 5	
	Lesson 3 - Chapter 3: Planning with Personal Financial Statements
Week 5: February 6 - February 12	
	Lesson 4 - Chapter 4: Using Tax Concepts for Planning
February 9	Using Tax Concepts for Planning Session at 7:00 PM ET Zoom Virtual session
Week 6: February 13 - February 19	
	Lesson 5 - Chapter 5: Banking Services and Managing Your Money (L.O.1 and L.O.3)
	Lesson 5 - Chapter 6: Assessing, Managing, and Securing Your Credit (L.O.1 to L.O.4)
February 13	QUIZ 1 Tutorial Review at 7:00 PM ET Zoom Virtual session

Week 7: February 20 - February 26	
	Lesson 6 - Chapter 7: Purchasing and Financing a Home
February 22	QUIZ 1 (Chapters 1-6) available to start as of 5:00 PM ET (1-hour duration)
February 24	QUIZ 1 (Chapters 1-6) to be completed by 11:59 PM ET
Mid-Term Break: February 27 - March 5	
February 27	Start of mid-term break
March 03	President's Holiday - University closed
March 05	End of mid-term break
Week 8: March 6 - March 12	
	Lesson 7 - Chapter 8: Auto and Homeowner's Insurance (L.O.2 to L.O.3)
	Lesson 7 - Chapter 9: Health and Life Insurance (L.O.3, L.O.6 and L.O.8)
March 10	CASE 1 (Chapters 1-7) available to start as of 5:00 PM ET (1 week to complete)
Week 9: March 13 - March 19	
	Lesson 8 - Chapter 10: Investing Fundamentals
March 14	Investment Session at 7:00 PM ET Zoom Virtual session
March 17	CASE 1 (Chapters 1-7) to be completed by 11:59 PM ET
March 17	Last day to register with the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities and receive exam accommodations for the final examination period.
Week 10: March 20 - March 26	
	Lesson 9 - Chapter 13: Investing in Mutual Funds
March 22	Quiz 2 tutorial review at 7:00 PM ET Zoom Virtual session
Week 11: March 27 - April 2	
	Lesson 10 - Chapter 14: Retirement Savings Planning (L.O.1 - L.O.4)
	Lesson 10 - Chapter 15: Retirement Income Planning (L.O.3)
Week 12: April 3 - April 9	
	Lesson 11 - Chapter 16: Estate Planning
April 04	QUIZ 2 (CHAPTERS 7-10, 13-15) available to start as of 5:00 PM ET (1-hour duration)

April 06	QUIZ 2 (Chapters 7-10, 13-15) to be completed by 11:59 PM ET
April 06	CASE 2 (Chapters 8-10, 13-16) available to start as of 5:00 PM ET (1-week to complete)
April 06	Last day for instructor-scheduled tests or examinations
April 07	University closed
Week 13: April 10 - April 16	
April 10	University closed
	Review course material
April 11	Final Exam tutorial review at 7:00 PM ET Zoom Virtual session
April 14	CASE 2 (CHAPTERS 8-10, 13-16) to be completed by 11:59 PM ET
Week 14: April 17 - April 19	
April 17	Last day of classes
April 18	Deadline for academic withdrawal (DISC) from winter-term courses
Examinations Period: April 20 - May 2	
	Final Exam date and time is posted on your Student Hub