

FALL 2014

FINA 5320 PERSONAL FINANCE

Randal Stitts, CPA, PH.D. ONLINE COURSE

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AVAILABILITY HOURS: Uvalde, Mondays 10am-3pm, Eagle Pass 4-6pm
by chat or email- Wednesdays 9-12 noon

Since this is an online course, the best way to contact me anytime will always be by email. We can however set up a specific appointment at a mutually agreeable time.

PLEASE IGNORE/FORGIVE THE TEXT SUBTITLE. This is a very good informal textbook. The author has degrees from Stanford and Yale. I have used a variety of different texts for this course and after a new extensive search, I have chosen the one below. It is light reading but it covers lots of ground. I will post more about this issue and also give you a few additional financial planning references.

Required Text: Personal Finance (for dummies?), John Wiley& Sons, Inc., 7th edition, Hoboken, NJ.

Isbn# 978-1-118-11785-9 Paperback available at Amazon for under \$20.

Grading: Grades will be determined as follows:

EXAM I	40%	100 points
EXAM II	40%	100 points
Discussion board and other	20%	50 points

See separate spreadsheet for a list of dates and chapters covered.

Exams: Each of the two exams will consist of 5 or 6 questions covering the reading material to date. These questions will be short answer essay. I will post the exams three or four days before they are due. You will answer the questions using an appropriate word processing application and then return it using the assignment function in Blackboard. The second exam is not comprehensive; it will cover only material read since the last exam.

Discussion Board: I anticipate posting a few questions on the discussion board in Blackboard. Your responses to these questions will be akin to a "class participation" grade in a traditional course. These questions will be available for only a week, so please read and respond as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty: You are required to read my posting titled "Academic Honesty." In this course in particular, you are not allowed to work with anyone else on the exams or any assignments that you submit for grading.

ONLINE FORMAT: I may post various materials online, including Powerpoint presentations that summarize my interpretation of a portion of the readings, and other additional readings or links to websites. Nevertheless, reading and studying THE TEXT AND ARTICLES is the primary way in which you will learn this material. *To that extent, what you get out of this course will depend on the effort you put into it.* You might want to read my posting "my educational philosophy."

TECHNOLOGY HELP: Help with any aspect of the course is available at all times. Obtain your RGC email account name and password directly from the **Central Help Desk at 1-888-837-2882**. The Central help desk is ALSO available 24/7 to answer ANY OTHER TECHNOLOGY question. In addition you may visit with one of our on-campus technology resource personnel as follows:

Uvalde:Mr. George Hernandez	phone: 830-279-3045
	Email: ghernandez@sulross.edu
Del Rio:Mr. Francisco Rodriquez	phone: 830-703-4818
	Email: frodriquez@sulross.edu
Eagle Pass: Mr. Juan Garza	phone: 830-758-5010
	Email: jgarza8@sulross.edu

BLACKBOARD HELP: 432-837-8489

I encourage you to email me if you have questions about any aspect of the course. Good luck and I look forward to “hearing” from you.

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact the Student Support Specialist on their campus.

MBA PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will demonstrate effective communication by preparing written business plan, case study and term paper on management communication.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of legal and ethical issues within context of a professional business environment.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the key functions of business including accounting, economics, finance, management, and marketing.
4. Students will demonstrate how the integration of information technologies supports and enhances business initiatives and operations.
5. Students will demonstrate their understanding of how cultural, political, and economic differences shape the business environment in which a multinational company operates.