

NUS BUSINESS SCHOOL
National University of Singapore
Department of Finance and Accounting

FIN4113 SEMINARS IN FINANCE:
PERSONAL FINANCE AND PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

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Session: Semester 2, 2014/15

Target Audience

The course is primarily intended for individuals who wish to improve their money management skills. It is also suitable for those who aspire to be independent financial advisors or a career in private wealth management.

Course Objectives

Sound knowledge of personal financial planning is an important life skill. Wealth accumulation and protection is also a valued financial goal of many individuals and families. This course aims to equip individuals with skills to manage their personal finances and private wealth. As the course covers many current topics in wealth management, it will also benefit students aspiring to enter the financial planning and wealth management industry.

The course places strong emphasis on applying sound concepts and analytical tools to all aspects of financial planning. Case studies will be used to illustrate proper application of these financial tools as well as common pitfalls. Cases will also be used to illustrate the implications of government regulations, financial market innovations and market cycles on personal financial planning.

The course is divided into two parts, with first part focusing on basic building blocks of personal financial management and the second part on wealth management and asset protection. Topics covered in the first part include overview of financial markets in Singapore, the Central Provident Fund, key steps in financial planning, financial planning tools, managing liquidity, managing credit, buying a residential property, insurance and estate planning.

Topics covered in the wealth management segment of the course includes principles of asset allocation, fixed income analytics and strategies, the role of equities in wealth accumulation, mutual funds and exchange traded funds, and investing in Alternative Investments” such as hedge funds and structured fixed income and equity linked products.

Topics Covered

- The financial landscape in Singapore
- Benefits of financial planning
- Key steps in financial planning
- Financial statements and ratios
- Time value of money
- Case studies of short and long term financial planning
- Managing liquid assets
- Managing personal credit
- Buying a residential property
- Risk management and insurance
- Estate planning
- Overview of investments and asset allocation
- Fixed income analytics and strategies
- Equity investment strategies
- Investing in mutual funds
- Investing in index funds and ETFs
- Investing in structured products

Assessment

The course is based on 100% continual assessment. Assessment components shall comprises quizzes, homework assignment, group market projects with class presentation and a term paper. The detailed breakdown of the CA marks is as follows:

Breakdown of CA Marks

Term papers (30%)

Research project (25%)

Class participation (15%)

Term test (30%)

Textbooks and Readings

Benedict Koh and Wai Mun Fong, Personal Financial Planning, Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2011, and Benedict Koh and Wai Mun Fong, Personal Investments, Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2011.

For other readings, see detailed lesson plan in the course website