

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
 DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES
 HE 3343A

FALL 2013

Consumer Economics and Resource Management

Professor: Prof. Eric Sloat
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Purpose: Interdisciplinary approach to the study of the marketplace role of the citizen, business and government, with an emphasis on personal finance. This course provides a critical and practical understanding of the mechanisms of consumer spending, investment, giving, borrowing and insurance.

Approach: The purpose of this course is not only to provide students with skills to manage personal finances in a Canadian context, but to provide them with tools to develop a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the economic system. The practical information of the textbook will be supplemented by lectures, case study assignments, learner discussion and guest speakers.

Text: Brown, K.H., Chambers, T.F & Currie, E.J. (2005). *Personal Finance for Canadians, 9th edition*. Scarborough: Prentice Hall Canada. Additional readings and references will be handed out.

Office Hours: Immediately before or after class, or by appointment.

Student Evaluation:	Assignments	12%
	Group Presentation	18%
	Mid Term Exam	30%
	Final Exam	40%

Assignments (12%)

Students will complete case study assignments designed to apply learning from the text chapters, lectures and presentations.

Group Presentation (18%)

In self-selected groups of 4 (it is each student's responsibility to get into a group), students are being challenged to both apply consumer resource theories and develop their own consumer resource skills by choosing a course topic for presentation. The purpose of the presentation is to acquire a more comprehensive understanding of the chosen topic - by using a variety of academic and industry sources. In addition to being marked by the professor, each team member will be required to submit a peer review mark of other learners.

Exams (70%)

The mid-term exam will be ninety minutes long and the final exam will be two hours long. Each exam may include multiple choice, true/false, definitions and short written answers. All questions may be based on text book content, presentations, course hand-outs and in-class assignments. **Note: Do not conduct your holiday travel prior to December 21, 2013.**

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Understand basic banking products & services.
2. Recognize fundamental investment concepts & practices.
3. Gain key insights on insurance, general risk, mortgages and wills.

DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES:

Participation/Attendance: Everyone enrolled in the course is expected to participate in class discussions. Attendance at class is mandatory. Students who have not attended at least 75% of the lectures will not be able to write the final exam.

Penalty for late assignments: Assignments are due at class time on the date specified. There will be a deduction of 20% of the value of the assignment for late submission. NO assignment will be accepted one (1) week after due date, except in cases with proper documentation to show a confirmed personal illness or a death in the student's immediate family.

Special examination: NO special examination will be given for a student who has missed a scheduled examination, except in cases with proper documentation to show a confirmed personal illness or a death in the student's immediate family.

Note: Participation and attendance in this course are evaluated through in-class assignments. For this reason, missed in-class assignments will not be re-scheduled. However, a student with proper documentation of a confirmed personal illness or a death in the student's immediate family will be excused.

Up to 10% of marks on each assignment and examination can be deducted for lack of proper English communication skills, including errors in spelling or grammar.

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Content Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
Week 1: Sep 09	Economics overview and financial planning basics
Week 2: Sep 16	Interest, savings and investing
Week 3: Sep 23	Debt securities, stocks and mutual funds
Week 4: Sep 30	Economic risk
Week 5: Oct 07	Personal income taxes and midterm review
October 14	Thanksgiving: No class
Week 6: Oct 21	MIDTERM TEST
Week 7: Oct 28	Mortgages and credit
Week 8: Nov 04	Life and general insurance
Week 9: Nov 11	Bankruptcy, the law and wills
Week 10: Nov 18	Consumerism
Week 11: Nov 25	Identity theft and fraud; major assignment due
Week 12: Dec 02	Course wrap up and exam review
EXAM WEEK: Dec 09 - 20	<i>Exam Date TBA: Do not book any holiday travel within this period!</i>

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2012/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor 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. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences 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. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) 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.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice

tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. 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, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. 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.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations.