

# BUS 136

## FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR EVERYONE

May 2024

**Time:** MTWR 12:30-3:50PM   **Place:** LJCSE 169

### 1 Instructor information

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**Name:** Dr. Brian Beadle  
**Email:** [bbeadle@northland.com](mailto:bbeadle@northland.com)  
**Office location:** Mead 132  
**Office hours:** MTWR 11:00AM-12:00PM and by appointment, in person or via Zoom  
**Office phone:** 715.682.1482

### 2 Course information

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**Course description:** Students gain understanding of daily personal finance choices and decision making, including the purpose of credits cards, forms of investment, and impacts of associated risks. Students learn financial planning, budgeting, retirement plans, debt management, taxation, and investment options based on their profiles. Students further acquire knowledge of Excel formulas to create their personal financial projections through effective planning, budgeting and consistent implementation of learned strategies.

This is a three credit course that meets for 4, 200-minute class periods each week during the 4-week May term.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Readings:** This course will refer to one open source textbook, the link for which is provided below (highlighted in orange). Additional readings may be assigned, and lecture slides will be posted to eLearning 1-2 days after class.

- Wargo, D. T. (2023). [Economics for Life: Real-World Financial Literacy](#). Northbroad Press. ISBN: 9781439919842.
- Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester.
- Lecture slides.

**Learning objectives:**

- Understand the fundamentals of personal finance, including credit cards, investments, and associated risks.
- Develop skills in financial planning, budgeting, and retirement planning.
- Gain knowledge of debt management and its impact on personal finances.
- Learn about taxation principles relevant to personal finance.
- Explore investment options and understand how to select investments based on individual financial profiles and goals.

**Course expectations**

- Complete assigned readings before class
- Turn in assignments on time
- Actively and respectfully participate in class

**Grading Policy:** Since this is an accelerated course, students will be graded only on the completion and presentation of a detailed financial plan. The plan will be completed in class throughout the duration of the term, and will include all aspects of a personal budget, including income, living expenses, insurance, investments, and leisure expenses.

The final grade is an aggregation of a score for the written financial plan, and for the presentation of the plan. Letter grades are given using the following scale:

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	93–100	C	73–76
A–	90–92	C–	70–72
B+	87–89	D+	67–69
B	83–86	D	63–66
B–	80–82	D–	60–62
C+	77–79	F	0–59

**Policy on use of artificial intelligence (AI):** Please refer to the following restrictions on the use of academic work produced by AI (e.g. ChatGPT) for this course:

- **No Direct AI submissions:** Students are prohibited from submitting assignments that are solely generated by AI. This includes using AI to create entire essays, reports, or presentations without significant human input. Doing so constitutes a violation of Northland's academic integrity policy (see Section 3).

- **Guided AI Assistance:** Students may use AI for assistance and guidance in generating ideas, refining language, or addressing specific questions. However, the primary content and intellectual contributions of the assignment must be the student's own work.
- **Transparency and Citation:** If AI is used for any part of an assignment, students must clearly disclose this within their work. Any AI-generated content must be properly cited, and students should include a brief explanation of how AI was used in the writing process. Please see the following as an example for citing a ChatGPT conversation:

ChatGPT. (2023, September 1). [Title of the ChatGPT conversation]. Retrieved from <https://chat.openai.com>

### 3 General policies

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**Academic integrity policy:** The Northland College faculty value academic integrity as a guiding principle for the fair and respectful intellectual inquiry and communication that are central to the academic program of the college. When faculty and students participate in these scholarly activities, they are expected to act with honesty and integrity by acknowledging when they have incorporated the work of others. The faculty serve as mentors and coaches to guide students in understanding these scholarly conventions. Students are expected to learn and follow these conventions and to remain accountable for their work.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, fabricating information, assisting others in acts of academic misconduct, and actions indicating a general disregard of institutional policies regarding scholarly activities. Depending on the severity and number of offenses, the penalties for academic misconduct range from a warning up to expulsion. For a complete explanation of definitions, consequences, and procedures for academic misconduct, please see the Northland website [here](#).

**Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct, Title IX Statement:** In accordance with Title IX and other local, state, and federal laws, Northland College is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination, including sex and gender-based discrimination. This includes, but is not limited to sexual violence, sexual harassment, dating violence, and stalking. If you or someone you know has been affected or is currently being affected by these types of behaviors that are limiting their ability to participate in this course or any other Northland College sponsored program or activity, please know that there are options, and resources are available. I am not a confidential resource. As a faculty member, I am considered a mandatory reporter and am required to report incidents of sex and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct to the [Title IX coordinator](#), as we want to ensure that you are connected with the campus support resources offered by the College. You can also make a report by contacting the Title IX coordinator directly. To learn more, please visit the Northland College [Title IX page](#).

**College Accommodations Statement:** Northland College is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to

learning in this course, please contact me to discuss your concerns and possible solutions.If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, I encourage you to meet with the College’s Academic Accommodations & Success Specialist, who may be reached at [djonesilsley@northland.edu](mailto:djonesilsley@northland.edu) or 715-682-1280. The Accommodations Specialist can help you determine if you should request official accommodations for this course and guide you through the process.

The Academic Accommodations & Success Specialist ensures that support for students with disabilities is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, with the amendments of 2008, with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and with other applicable laws. You may find additional information about the College’s accommodations services on My Northland via [this link](#).

**Tutoring and Academic Coaching Services Statement:** Peer tutoring is available in the Center for Science and the Environment (CSE). The Tutoring and Writing Center is located on the CSE 2nd floor, near the top of the stairs. See My Northland for the current tutoring schedule or email [tutoring@northland.edu](mailto:tutoring@northland.edu) to make an appointment with a tutor. Professional, academic coaches can connect you with campus resources and help with motivation, time management, study skills, reading comprehension, and communicating with professors. To make an appointment with an academic coach, email [djonesilsely@northland.edu](mailto:djonesilsely@northland.edu).

## 4 Tentative course schedule

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The following table provides an overview of the planned schedule for the semester.

For a list of other important dates (e.g. deadlines for registering/dropping, holidays, etc.), please find Northland’s academic calendar [here](#).

Week	Day	Date	Topic
1	M	April 29	Introduction to Personal Finance
	T	April 30	Budgeting Basics
	W	May 1	Managing Income
	R	May 2	Expense Management
2	M	May 6	Housing and Utilities
	T	May 7	Transportation and Insurance
	W	May 8	Debt Management
	R	May 9	Emergency Funds and Savings
3	M	May 13	Investment Basics
	T	May 14	Retirement Planning
	W	May 15	Additional Income Streams
	R	May 16	Financial Goal Setting

Week	Day	Date	Topic
4	M	May 20	Advanced Budgeting Techniques
	T	May 21	Credit and Credit Scores
	W	May 22	Presentations
	R	May 23	Open Discussion