SYLLABUS

Course title and number	AGEC 441 Financial Planning Capstone (3 credits)
Term	Spring 2017
Meeting time/location	Web-based course

Course Description and Prerequisites

Overview of all areas in the financial planning process, data gathering, approaches to financial planning, analysis of financial statements, and client presentation. Case analysis, ethics and professional conduct, use of financial planning software, advanced financial calculator usage, and usage of Microsoft Excel.

Course Instructor

Name	Nathan Harness, Ph.D., CFP®
Email address	nharness@tamu.edu
Office hours	Online by appointment

Course Goal

Overall Goal: Our goal is to synthesize and apply the concepts of financial planning to create a comprehensive financial plan and present this plan in a manner suitable to the needs of our client(s). This course covers all the content necessary for proficiency on the CFP® exam in all areas of financial planning.

Learning Outcomes

The CFP Board has established learning objectives that will help guide the core requirements of this course. As a result of your participation in this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the content found within the Financial Planning curriculum and effectively apply and integrate this information in the formulation of a financial plan.
2. Effectively communicate the financial plan, both orally and in writing, including information based on research, peer, colleague or simulated client interaction and/or results emanating from synthesis of material.
3. Collect all necessary and relevant qualitative and quantitative information required to develop a financial plan.
4. Analyze personal financial situations, evaluating clients’ objectives, needs, and values to develop an appropriate strategy within the financial plan.
5. Demonstrate logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to a specific problem.
6. Evaluate the impact of economic, political, and regulatory issues with regard to the financial plan.
7. Apply the CFP Board Financial Planning Practice Standards to the financial planning process.

Textbook and Resource Material

- Textbook: *Practicing Financial Planning for Professionals and CFP® Aspirants,* Mittra, Sahu, and Fischer, 12th Edition, 2016. ISBN: 9386042851 See readings on Course Schedule.
    - I recommend the eCopy because of backorders. It can be found at: https://www.vitalsource.com/products/practicing-financial-planning-sid-mittra-v9789386062024
    - Financial Calculator: TI BA-II or comparable (not alpha programmable)
- Access to a computer with Microsoft Excel/Word (other software used is cloud based and will be provided free of charge)

Additional references and readings will be assigned and posted on the course website. You should check the website regularly for announcements, points earned, readings, and homework.

Course Structure

This online course is organized into 15 weeks. Each week will include some or all of the following resources and activities as follows:

- Assigned readings in the textbook
- Additional readings about current issues
- Videos of short lecture presentations
- Assignments related to the weeks topics
- The quiz over the topics of the week.
- There will also be weeks where you submit parts of the plan projects

Each week will be a little different with different amounts of time devoted these various activities. Tentatively, one week ends and the other begins at midnight on **Sunday**. All assessments and assignments must be submitted by that time. You will have the option to complete everything during the work week and have your weekends free, or if you are occupied during the work week, you have the weekends to complete your studies.

Comprehensive Case

The comprehensive case will be built on throughout the semester and will involve a full case scenario of a typical client. During the class we will have an online discovery of the client data and scenario of our client(s).

Case Presentation

Your presentation will take place online and will require the use of a web camera or recorded camera.

Case Assignments

Two small case assignments will be given throughout the semester. These are subcomponents of the comprehensive case that will combine different financial planning aspects but will not be as comprehensive as the full case.

Quizzes

There will be quizzes assigned weekly to help keep you on task with the reading for the week. The reading each week is designed to help you refresh on the modular areas of a comprehensive financial plan.

Mentor Grading

It will be your responsibility to find a mentor who will provide you with feedback on your case.