**Personal Finance**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grade Level:** 11

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Instructor:** Lisa Perkins

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**Class website:** www.perkinsbused2.weebly.com

### **Course Description:**

Understanding and managing personal finances are key to one’s future financial success. This one-semester course is based on the Missouri Personal Finance Competencies and presents essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about real world financial issues. Students will learn how choices influence occupational options and future earning potential. Students will also learn to apply decision-making skills to evaluate career choices and set personal goals. The course content is designed to help the learner make wise spending, saving, and credit decisions and to make effective use of income to achieve personal financial success.

### **Course Rationale:**

Financial literacy is essential in meeting the financial challenges of the 21st Century. The competencies which form the basis for this semester course enables students to analyze their personal financial decisions, evaluate the costs and benefits of their decisions, recognize their rights and responsibilities as consumers, and apply the knowledge learned in school to financial situations encountered later in life.

### **Graduate Goals:**

* Explain financial literacy and how sound financial decisions can increase a person’s standard of living and wealth.
* Develop a career path based on rational decision making, appropriate research and self-reflection.
* Apply decision making to personal financial choices (planning, maintaining, and analyzing money management) throughout various stages of financial status.
* Evaluate the sources and resources of financial systems that are available throughout various states of financial status.
* Evaluate sources of credit, as well as the rights and responsibilities of credit, and be able to apply a decision-making process to ensure appropriate purchases.
* Evaluate investments and create a plan for the future.
* Apply the rights and responsibilities of consumer to personal living and financial choices.

### **Course Outline:**

1. Values, Needs, Wants
2. Setting Financial Goals
3. A Collage About Me
4. Life Cycle of Financial Planning
5. Careers
   1. Interest Inventories
   2. Career Research
   3. Comparing Job Offers
6. Paychecks (Income)
7. Spending Plans (Budgeting)
8. Savings and Cash Management
9. Investing
   1. Stock Market
10. Housing
    1. Renting vs. Owning
11. Transportation
    1. Auto Loans
    2. Researching an Automobile
    3. Automobile Insurance
12. Food and Flexible Expenses
13. Banking
    1. Checking
    2. Depository Institutions
    3. Electronic/Online Banking
14. Credit
    1. Selecting Credit Cards
    2. Understanding Credit Reports
15. Consumer Protection
    1. Insurance
    2. Identity Theft
16. Retirement, Estate Planning, and End of Life

### **Course Assessment:**

1. Classwork
   1. Group projects
   2. In-class discussion
   3. Real-life simulations
2. Homework
3. Exams
   1. Quizzes during each unit
   2. Tests at the end of each unit
   3. Cumulative final exam for those required to take final exams based on the Student Handbook policies
4. Portfolio
   1. Students will need to keep an electronic portfolio of all their assignments to use for future reference.

### **Access to Class Website**

All Ridgeway Business Courses will utilize a class website. This website will contain resources for the classes as well as assignments, worksheets, assessments, and general information. The goal for using this medium is to, first, incorporate technology, and second, to prepare students for post-secondary education. Most higher educational institutions utilize supplemental website information to their classes, and preparing Ridgeway students for a college career is a goal we will strive to reach.

As a parent if you would like to see what your student is completing in his/her business classes, please go to www.perkinsbused2.com. This can also be accessed by going to the Ridgeway District website, <http://www.ihigh.com/ridgewayowls> .

### **Grading Scale:**

95% - 100% A

90% - 94% A-

87% - 89% B+

83% - 86% B

80% - 82% B-

77% - 79% C+

73% - 76% C

70% - 72% C-

67% - 69% D+

63% - 66% D

60% - 62% D-

Below 60% F