



BUSFIN-4311 0010 (3995) SYLLABUS – Sp26-online
Personal Insurance
Spring 2026

Instructor:

Name: Ernest E. Dancer, Senior Instructor
Department: Finance
Office Location: Fisher Hall 255 A
Class Time: Online
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday by appointment
Email: **Dancer.1@osu.edu** (include your course number on any correspondence)

Course Materials:

Required Test:

Principles of Risk Management & Insurance, 14th edition, Pearson, 2020
George Rejda, Michael McNamara, and William Rabel
ISBN: 9780135185810

This text is available through Carmen books. **Be sure to order the US Edition not the Global edition**

Class meeting schedule:

This course is 100% online and runs on an asynchronous basis. There are no formal in-person class meetings, but recorded lectures will be posted. Optional office hours are available through Zoom or in person.

Course Description:

An introduction to personal insurance. Topics include the basics of life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, long term care insurance, annuities, and individual retirement plans. Additional topics include a review and in-depth analysis of automobile policy, homeowners, renters, umbrella, and miscellaneous personal insurance policies.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Some of the learning objective and course outcomes include the following:

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- Explain and understand the historical definition of risk.
- Be able to differentiate the distinct types of risk including, pure, speculative, diversifiable, non-diversifiable and systemic.
- Understand and use the principle of indemnity in hypothetical claim situations.
- Define and explain subrogation and the insurable interest.
- Know the legal requirements for a valid insurance contract.
- Understand the meaning of pre-mature death and impact of families and society.
- Explain the difference between Term insurance, whole life, and variable life insurance.

- Be able to determine the amount of life insurance needed for certain family situations.
- Explain provisions of life insurance policies, and types and uses of whole life policy options.
- Describe the seven rules to follow when purchasing life insurance.
- Discuss the basis of legal liability and the elements of negligence.
- Understand and discuss the various sections of the personal auto policy (PAP)
- Describe the various approaches to compensating accident victims.
- Describe methods of providing auto coverage to high-risk drivers
- Identify the eligible types of dwellings and major types of the homeowner policy.
- Discuss the various property related coverage available in the standard homeowner and apply them to claim scenarios.
- Understand the conditions in all homeowner policies.
- Discuss the personal liability coverage in Section II of the standard homeowner policy.

Prerequisites:

Please contact your advisor with any questions concerning prerequisites for this course.

How this course works:

This course is a 100% asynchronous online course. Recorded lectures will be posted on Carmen. It is encouraged that you review slide presentations in the modules and use the textbook for further detail and clarification on the concepts being presented. We will cover about one chapter each week, so it's important to stay up to date with the schedule. I will be available for a zoom meeting or in-person office hours if needed. Please contact me to schedule a time.

Quizzes: The quizzes are scheduled for the end of each chapter. The purpose of these quizzes is to prepare you for the mid-term exams and to gauge your understanding of the material. The quizzes will cover the major topics of the chapter mostly from PowerPoints and from the textbook and lectures. The dates for the quizzes are posted in the syllabus but are subject to change. Any change will be updated on the course calendar and syllabus. Your final grade will include the best 10 scores out of 12.

Discussion Assignments: Some of these assignments will be taken from the cases in the textbook or the application questions at the end of the chapter.

Exams: Textbooks and notes are not permitted, and exams will be given about every four weeks. A handheld calculator will be permitted. You will need to download Honorlock to take the exam. Absence from exams will only be excused for the most serious of reasons and documented by an appropriately accredited professional (i.e., a medical doctor). If there is an issue with the date and time of the final exam (e.g. three exams in one day) please notify me in ADVANCE of the exam and I will try to accommodate you.

Grading:

The total number of points you earn divided by the total number of points possible (375) yields your **Total Percent Score**. This score is compared to the course grading scale (shown below) to determine your final letter grade. The University grading scale will be used in this course.

Grading:

Quizzes - Best 10 scores out of 12 (10 points each)	100 points possible
Case / essay questions	60 points possible
Exam 1 – (55 points)	55 points possible
Exam 2 – (55 points)	55 points possible
Exam 3 – (55 points)	55 points possible
Final Grade	325 points possible

Grades will be determined at the end of the term and any curve, if there is one, is set at that time.

Electronic Devices:

Laptops and calculators are required.

The total number of points you earn for the semester, divided by the total number of points possible (375), yields your **Total Percent Score**. The percentage will not be rounded up (e.g. 92.27% is A-). This score is compared to the course grading scale (shown below) to determine your final letter grade. There is **no curve** used in determining final grades. If Extra Credit assignments are offered, they will be offered to the entire class, not to students on an individual basis.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Percent Score</u>
A	93% or better
A-	90% or better
B+	87% or better
B	83% or better
B-	80% or better
C+	77% or better
C	73% or better
C-	70% or better
D+	67% or better
D	60% or better
E	Less than 60%

Dates	Topic and assignment due dates
Week 1 Jan. 12 - Jan. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2 – Insurance and Risk Chapter 3 – Introduction to Risk Management Chapter 2 / 3 quiz – due 1/18/26
Week 2 Jan. 19 – Jan 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 - Types of Insurers Chapter 11 – Life Insurance Case / essay question #1 – due 1/21/26 Chapter 5 quiz – due 1/25/26
Week 3 Jan. 26 – Feb. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 12 – Life Insurance Contractual Provisions Chapter 11/12 quiz - due 2/1/27
Week 4 Feb. 2 – Feb. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 14 – Annuities and Individual Retirement Accounts Chapter 14 quiz – due 2/8/26
Week 5 Feb. 9 – Feb. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case / essay question #2 - Due 2/11/26 Mid-Term exam #1 – due 2/13/26 covering chapters 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 14
Week 6 Feb. 16 – Feb 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15 – Individual Health and Disability Insurance Chapter 15 quiz – due 2/22/26
Week 7 Feb. 23 – Mar. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 16 – Employee Benefits: Group Life & Health Chapter 16 quiz – due 3/1/26
Week 8 Mar. 2 – Mar. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 17 - Employee Benefits: Retirement Plans Case / essay question #3 – due 3/4/26 Chapter 17 quiz – due 3/8/26
Week 9 Mar. 9 – Mar. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 18 – Social Insurance Chapter 18 quiz – due 3/15/26
Week 10 Mar. 16 – Mar. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Break

Week 11 Mar. 23 – Mar. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Med Term exam #2 – Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18
Week 12 Mar. 30 – Apr. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 20 / 21 – Auto Insurance • Case / essay question #4 – due 4/1/26 • Chapter 20/21 quiz – due 4/5/26
Week 13 Apr. 6 – Apr. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22 – Homeowner Insurance Section I • Chapter 22 quiz – 4/12/26
Week 14 Apr. 13 – Apr. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 23 – Homeowner Insurance Section II • Chapter 23 quiz – 4/19/26
Week 15 Apr. 20 – Apr. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chap 24 – Other Property and Liability • Case / essay question #5 – due 4/22/26 • Chapter 24 quiz – 4/26/26
Week 16 Apr. 27 – May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam week • Final exam – due 5/1/26 covering chapters 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

Course Technology:

For help with passwords, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issue, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Usual support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** ocio.osu.edu/help
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Basic technical skills for online courses:

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating CarmenCanvas (see the [Canvas Student Guide](#))

Required technology skills specific to the course:

- [Getting Started with CarmenZoom](#)

Required equipment:

- Computer: Current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Calculator: Most students use a calculator app loaded onto their phone; apart from basic arithmetic calculations, an app should be able to hand compounding and discounting.

- Other: A mobile device (phone or tablet) or landline to use for BuckeyePass authentication

Recommended equipment for Zoom calls:

- Webcam: Built-in or external webcam fully installed.
- Microphone: Built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone

Required software:

- [Microsoft Office 365](#): All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft's Student Advantage program. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found [at go.osu.edu/office365help](https://go.osu.edu/office365help).

CarmenCanvas access:

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](#) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in CarmenCanvas. To ensure you can always connect to CarmenCanvas, we recommend you take the following steps:

- Register several devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass – Adding a Device](#) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text-me-new-codes** button; you'll get ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the [Duo Mobile application](#) to all your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options satisfies your needs, contact the **IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357 (HELP)** and the IT support staff will help you with a solution.

Policy on Late Assignment Submissions:

Due dates for graded assignments are contained in the syllabus and posted on CarmenCanvas. If you fail to submit an assignment by the deadline, or you miss an assignment altogether, you should contact (email) the instructor as soon as possible with an explanation. If the explanation you provide is acceptable, you may be given an opportunity to make-up the work within a brief time following the original assignment due date, with no grading penalty (depending upon your explanation).

Instructor Feedback and Response Expectations:

You may contact the instructor at any time by email. You should clearly state the purpose of your email and limit the number of questions you ask in a single email message. Do not ask questions that can be answered simply by consulting the course syllabus or the course website or by contacting a classmate.

Call the **OSU Help Line (614-688-HELP)** with any CarmenCanvas questions.

With respect to turnaround time, the instructor will make every effort to grade posted written assignments and provide feedback within five calendar days of an assignment due date and respond to student emails (sent through CarmenCanvas) within 12 hours of receipt during the week.

A Reading Assessment is graded automatically by CarmenCanvas when you submit one for grading. Scores are posted to the Course Grade Sheet page. You won't be able to determine which questions you missed; however, if you are concerned about your score, you should contact the instructor for assistance.

Religious accommodations:

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodation within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodation confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodation regarding examinations and other academic requirements with respect to student's sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodation can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about the requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing, during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodation, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the Office of Institutional Equity

Weather or other short-term closing:

Should in-person classes be canceled, I will notify you as to which alternative methods of teaching will be offered to ensure continuity of instruction for this class. Communication will be via [Carmen Canvas, email, or other mode of communication].

Academic integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the OSU Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that students will complete all academic and scholarly

assignments in fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidance established in the [University's Code of Student Conduct](#) and this syllabus may constitute [Academic Misconduct](#).

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University or subverts the educational process." Examples of such misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying work produced by another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I strongly recommend you review the Code of Student Conduct and specifically, those sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, in accordance with university rules, I am required to report suspicious activity to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If the COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), sanctions for misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have questions about this policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please feel free to contact me.

Disability Services:

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible for students. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so using the OSU [Request Process](#), managed by Student Life Disability Services (SLDS). If you expect or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodation, I may request that you register with SLDS. After registration, please plan with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodation so they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; located at 098 Baker Hall, 113 West 12th Avenue.

Grievances and Solving Problems:

According to University policy, if you have a problem with this course, you should try to resolve the grievance concerning a grade or academic practice by speaking first with the instructor. Then, if necessary, take your case to the department chairperson, associate dean for programs in the college, and to the provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-7-23. Grievances against graduate, research or teaching assistants should be submitted first to the supervising instructor, then to the chairperson of the assistant's department.

Copyright:

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