UGBA 96 Spring 2015
Personal Finance

This course will look at financial decisions that face individuals and households including career choice, spending, saving, credit, credit cards, loans, debt, bankruptcy, insurance, investing, inflation, taxes, and retirement. We will discuss how to analyze household decisions from a financial perspective. We will look at practical habits and practices that improve financial outcomes while limiting opportunities for bad decisions. We’ll cover concepts such as the time value of money and compounding interest. And we will contrast how personal and household finance needs are and were met today, fifty years ago, and in other countries.

This is a 2-unit course with no pre-requisites. We will meet for two hours once a week (2-4 PM or 4-6 PM Wednesdays). The course will be a hybrid of traditional classroom and online learning. Some weeks we will meet in the classroom. Some weeks we will meet entirely online. The course will include prerecorded videos as well as live online lectures and discussions.

Examples of the prerecorded class videos include:

- Individual investor behavior: [http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-Investors](http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-Investors)
- Risk tolerance: [http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-Risk](http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-Risk)
- Stocks & bonds: [http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-stocks-bonds](http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-stocks-bonds)
- How does insurance work: [http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-Insurance](http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-Insurance)
- Renting vs. Buying: [http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-RentVBuy](http://tinyurl.com/UGBA96-RentVBuy)

About the instructor: Terrance Odean is the Rudd Family Foundation Professor. He has taught at UC Berkeley since 2000 and is a UC Berkeley alum. Professor Odean has served as chair of the Haas finance group, director of UC Berkeley’s Xlab. His research in behavioral finance is cited in thousands of academic articles and in over 100 books on investing. He is a contributor to the online Wall Street Journal’s “TheExperts” section: [http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/tag/terrance-odean/](http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/tag/terrance-odean/)

More about Professor Odean: [http://tinyurl.com/forbes-odean](http://tinyurl.com/forbes-odean)