PFP 5398
Estate Planning
MTWTh 9:00-11:20 HS122

Instructor		**Office Hours**
Thomas P. Langdon		
Office:	HS	
Phone:	610-357-5233	TW 8:00-9:00 a.m.
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Course Description

5398. Estate Planning. An overview of gift, estate, and generation skipping transfer taxation, including financial and estate planning applications.

Required Materials

- *Estate Planning for Financial Planners*, 5th Edition (2009) Michael A. Dalton & Thomas P. Langdon, Money Education

Course Objectives

- The primary purpose of this course is to introduce gift, estate, and generation skipping transfer taxation and apply those tax rules to typical financial planning applications. The course endeavors to bring together **academic** and **professional** knowledge you have learned in the PFP program to illustrate the application of that knowledge when assisting clients with the estate planning process.

- The planning portion of this course focuses on the application and synthesis of the knowledge base (gift, estate, and generation skipping transfer taxation) within the context of comprehensive financial planning.

- Emphasis will be placed on acquiring and understanding the tools of estate planning, with a particular focus on analysis of appropriate planning techniques for client situations.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:
- Understand the gift, estate, and generation skipping tax systems.
- Identify appropriate estate planning tools and techniques to satisfy client needs
- Demonstrate competence in the application of estate planning topics to meet specific client goals.

Methods for Assessing the Expected Learning Outcomes

The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through assignments and exams.

Points from the following sources will be averaged together with their appropriate weightings.

	Points	
Case Study (take home) or Paper *	50	
Midterm Exam	100	
Final Exam	100	
Total	250	

* If you have not yet taken the CFP® Examination, you may wish to consider the case study, which will be similar to cases presented on the national examination. Graduate students who have already passed the CFP® Examination may wish to consider completing a paper as an alternative. The paper should cover a timely topic in estate planning, and should be 8 – 12 pages in length. If you choose the paper option, depending on your topic, and would be interested in co-authoring a journal article, I would be happy to work with you in drafting an article that may be submitted for publication.

Grades will be assigned based on the following standard:

90% or 225-250 points (A)
80% or 200-224 points (B)
70% or 175-199 points (C); hopefully nobody goes below this grade!
60% or 150-174 points (D)
Less than 150 points (F).

There is no opportunity for extra credit. No late work will be accepted.

The instructor may provide additional materials that will be available on an instructional website located at http://taxprof.langdon-gate.com Information will be posted on the "Student Information Page". Click on Estate Planning Course Materials for the course page.

Ethics

Financial planning is a profession that relies heavily on the public's view of our ethical behavior as individuals and as a group. Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards has set high ethical standards. The integrity of Texas Tech graduates is unquestioned in the industry. **Cheating on quizzes, assignments, exams, plagiarism and the copying of another person's work, including work from prior semesters, will not be tolerated**.

Students are encouraged to help each other, but individual assignments are to be done **individually**. **Anyone violating these rules, or violating any rules listed in the student affairs handbook (www.studentaffiars.ttu.ed p. 21) will receive an "F" for the assignment.**

Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work that is not his or her own. This includes copying from printed materials, websites, or from other people. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will automatically be graded as zero. Plagiarism may also result in failing the entire course. We have and will continue to use plagiarism detection software. Students who do not thoroughly understand methods of proper documentation should request assistance from the instructor. The TTU Library has a resource on avoiding plagiarism at the following website: http://library.ttu.edu/ul/cswrc/wr_plag.php <http://library.ttu.edu/ul/cswrc/wr_plag_text.php>

Cheating in any form will result in an automatic F for the course. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Looking on your neighbor's paper during a quiz or exam is considered cheating.

Since this course involves the use of a shared case study, it is expected each individual will answer the questions for the full assignment for Case Studies individually. Discussion of the facts and planning applications presented by the case with your colleagues is permissible, and encouraged. Any collusion among individuals to split up the components of the case and trade answers, however, will be deemed cheating and all individuals involved violating this policy will face the consequences uniformly.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from AccessTECH. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process.

Holy Day Observance

A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence if, not later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student has notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.

Course Outline for PFP 5398 - Summer 2009

This outline is a guideline for lecture material and due dates. Actual lecture material and due dates may change, and will be announced by the instructor in class.

Date	Class Theme	Assignments Due
5/27-W	• Review Syllabus & Course Expectation • Introduction to Estate Planning (Chapter 1)	
5/28-Th	• Estate Planning Documents (Chapter 2)	
6/1-M	• Property Interests (Chapter 3)	
6/2-Tu	• Probate Process (Chapter 4)	
6/3-W	• Gift Tax (Chapter 5)	
6/4-Th	• Gift Tax (Chapter 5), continued • Estate Tax (Chapter 6)	
6/8-M	• Estate Tax (Chapter 6), Continued	
6/9-Tu	• Transfers during Life & At Death (Chapter 7)	
6/10-W	• Generation Skipping Transfer Tax (Ch 13)	
6/11-Th	• Trusts (Chapter 8) • Review for Midterm	Take Home Case Quiz Due
6/15- M	• **Midterm Exam**	
6/16-Tu	• Charitable Giving (Chapter 9)	
6/17 – W	• Unlimited Marital Deduction (Chapter 10)	
6/18-Th	• Life Insurance in Estate Planning (Ch 11)	
6/22- M	• Post Mortem Estate Planning (Chapter 12	Paper Due
6/23-Tu	• Basic Estate Plan (Chapter 14)	
6/24- W	• Review for Final	
6/23-Th	• ***Final Exam*** – In Class	