

**Jindal School of Management
University of Texas at Dallas
Course Syllabus**

Course: FIN 3320.001: Business Finance
Instructor: Pingle Wang
Classroom: JSOM 12.206
Discussion: [Campuswire](#)

Semester: Spring 2023
Email: pingle.wang@utdallas.edu
Class hours: Mon 1pm-3:45pm
Office Hour: Wed 1pm-2pm

TA: Shiv Bhanap (shiv.bhanap@utdallas.edu)
TA Office Hour: Thursday 2pm-4pm (JSOM 14.411)

Pre-requisites

Prerequisite: (MATH 1325 or MATH 2413 or MATH 2417). Prerequisites or Corequisites: ACCT 2301 and (STAT 3360 or OPRE 3360).

Course Description

This course is an introduction to business finance. It serves as the basis for all other courses in the area of finance and provides the basic financial tool set every business student will need to be successful in her/his chosen career. Students majoring in business administration and accounting, as well as those going further in the study of finance, will find the material to be an essential part of their business education. Regardless of the student's chosen career, these tools and techniques will provide the foundation for making personal financial decisions. There will be one meeting each week. Please post any course-related questions on *Campuswire* (see details in communication section). Our teaching assistant Emre will answer all homework related questions. All materials covered in the class, including the lecture notes, homework, solutions will be posted on eLearning.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, I hope you will understand how and when to apply the basic concepts of financial analysis in a business setting, demonstrated through your ability to:

- Be able to apply time value of money concepts to various valuation problems.
- Be able to describe what drives a firm's cost of capital and how to estimate it.
- Be able to analyze strategic investments in real and financial assets using various methodologies.

Required Textbooks and Reading Materials

Teaching materials are drawn from several books, newspapers, and periodicals. There are assigned readings for each class. I expect students come to class prepared for the materials that will be covered that day. You will find the materials much easier to grasp if you have read the assigned materials in advance.

- Required textbook: Richard A. Brealey, Stewart C. Myers, and Franklin Allen, *Principles of corporate finance*, McGraw-Hill, 11th edition

- TI BA II Plus Financial Calculator is recommended, but feel free to use another financial calculator.
- Useful websites: investopedia.com, finance.yahoo.com, wsj.com

Student Learning Platforms

- *Weekly Lecture*
- *eLearning*: lecture slides/notes, homework assignment, exams, and solutions
- *Campuswire*: all class discussions and Q&As
- *TA Office Hours*: Thursday 2pm-4pm (JSOM 14.411)
- *Office hours*: Wednesday 1pm-2pm

Grading Policy

Your performance for the class will be based on problem sets and exams according to the following scale:

Problem Sets (3% each)	15%
Midterm Exams (30% each)	60%
Common Final Exam	25%
Bonus	2%

There will be seven problem sets, three midterm exams, and a common final exam. Among seven problem sets, two of your lowest grades will be dropped. Among three midterm exams, the lowest grade will be dropped. Students will also receive a maximum of 2 bonus points for *Campuswire* participation. Letter grades will only be given at the end of the semester based on the weighted average of your homework and exam grades and based on your relative performance in the class. Request for re-grading must be in written form within three days after grades are posted. I expect that all the work will be done in complete observance of the University's rules and regulations regarding academic integrity.

Final course grades will be curved. Course grades are: A, B, C, D and F. The default grade ranges and grade points are shown below:

Grade Scale:

93.3 – 100 = A	90.0 – 93.2 = A-	86.7 – 89.9 = B+	83.3 – 86.6 = B
80.0 – 83.2 = B-	76.7 – 79.9 = C+	73.3 – 76.6 = C	70.0 – 73.2 = C-
66.7 – 69.9 = D+	63.3 – 66.6 = D	60.0 – 63.2 = D-	0 – 59.99 = F

The final grades may be adjusted and curved, depending on the course difficulty. A typical undergraduate course grade distribution might resemble the following:

- 15% to 35% -- A+, A, A-
- 25% to 40% -- B+, B, B-
- 15% to 40% -- C+, C, C-
- 0% to 20% -- D+, D, D- and below

Course & Instructor Policies

Classroom Safety and COVID-19

To help preserve the University's in-person learning environment, UT Dallas recommends the following: Adhere to the University's CDC Updated Guidelines issued on July 30, 2021. All Comets are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status. Please note this represents a change in the campus guidance issued on May 20, 2021.

Accommodations for Students Who Must Isolate or Quarantine Due to COVID-19

Students having COVID-19 positive results or exposures need to self-report via an [online form](#) so that university campus tracers can verify, record, and take necessary campus precautions.

To keep the UT Dallas community as safe as possible, the University requires students who test positive for COVID-19 or who are close contacts as determined by the campus contact tracing program to isolate or quarantine as applicable. Faculty will be notified by the Dean of Students' Office if a student in their class has been required to isolate (positive case) or quarantine (exposed). Faculty must make lectures available for those students during the period the students must isolate or quarantine.

Communication

To encourage class discussion and participation and to ensure timely response during this difficult time, we will use [Campuswire](#) for all communication about the course, instead of emails. Please sign up for an account there with your netid@utdallas.edu (e.g., abc123456@utdallas.edu) email address to gain access. If you do not have access by January 19, please contact TA. Besides the web-browser version, there is also a mobile app version.

You can also ask questions—about lectures, homework, or anything else—on *Campuswire*. If you can answer a question raised by your classmates, please do! But be careful not to post answers to homework and exams—if you're not sure whether something is OK to post, contact me or TA privately. You can do that by creating a note that is visible only to "Instructors and TAs."

A good post asks a specific question. Here are some examples of bad posts:

- "Tell me more about broad topic X."
- "Does anyone have any hints for problem Y?"

Questions will be answered within one working day under normal circumstances. All homework/grading related questions should be directed to the TA.

Calculator

You will need a financial calculator for exams. I will not teach how to use a financial calculator in the class, so you need to learn this by yourself. A recommended model is TI BA II Plus Financial Calculator, but it's not necessary. For the class, you can use the financial calculator in multiple choice questions, but not in problem solving questions (in homework and midterms). You need to show the formulas and steps in order to receive any credit for problems that are not multiple choice.

Homework

- There will be a problem set assigned for each topic, seven problem sets in total.
- I will drop the lowest two grades (which can be a missing grade) on the problem sets so that only five count toward the final grade.
- All homework assignments should be submitted **electronically** prior to the end of the class on the due date. **No late homework will be accepted.**

- Group discussion is encouraged but each student must prepare his/her own solution to each problem set.

Midterm Exams

- There will be three midterm exams on the dates and times specified in the academic schedule below. Record these dates!
- No make-up exams are allowed. I will drop the lowest grade so that only two count towards the final grade. Should you miss more than one midterm exams, your final exam will be reweighted to account for the missed exam(s).
- I will provide a cheat sheet with related formula listed at the end of each exam. You are not allowed to bring your own cheat sheet.
- You will need a current UTD student ID to take the exams.

Common Final Exam

- A common final exam will be given for all sections of FIN 3320 during finals week.
- Information regarding the final is in Section FIN 3320.701 in eLearning.
- Students are required to reserve a seat at the UTD testing center in order to take the final. No walk ins will be allowed. The UTD Testing Center requires that reservations be made at least 72 hours (3 days) prior to the exam.
- All students are REQUIRED to take the final exam.
- There will be no makeup exams for the common final exam except as described in FIN 3320- section 701. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to take the final exam early. Please keep this in mind if you plan to travel at the end of the term.
- Based on the experience of prior years, NO formula sheet is allowed in the final exam.

Bonus

- Maximum bonus point from *Campuswire* participation is 2 points.
- The bonus points will be based on a student's percentile ranking, which is provided by *Campuswire* Participation Tracking algorithm. The algorithm considers Q&A participation and upvotes received for answering other students' questions.
- For example, a student who ranks 4 out of 53 students will receive $2 * (53 - 4 + 1) / 53 = 1.89$ bonus points, whereas a student who ranks 18 will receive $2 * (53 - 18 + 1) / 53 = 1.36$.

The Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan. 23 – Jan. 30	Topic 1: Discounting	Chapters 1, 2
Feb. 6 – Feb. 13	Topic 2: Bond Valuation	Chapters 3, 14, 24
Feb. 20	Topic 3: Stock Valuation	Chapters 4, 14
Feb. 27	Midterm Exam I (Topic 1&2)	
Mar. 6	Topic 4: Financial Statements	Chapters 28
Mar. 20 – Mar. 27	Topic 5: Capital Budgeting	Chapters 5, 6
Apr. 3	Topic 6: Risk and Return	Chapters 7, 8
Apr. 10	Midterm Exam II (Topic 3, 4, 5)	
Apr. 17 – Apr. 24	Topic 7: The Cost of Capital	Chapters 17, 19
May 1	Midterm Exam III (Topic 6&7)	
May 7 – May 12	Final Exam (Exact Time TBD)	

Class Recording

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

NOTE: if the instructor records any part of the course, then the instructor will need to use the following syllabus statement:

The instructor may record meetings of this course. Any recordings will be available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the eLearning website. Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information. To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student Accessibility, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and procedures:

The information about the University's policies and procedures segment of course syllabi can be found by following this link: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.