

Course Syllabus: FIN 3320 Business Finance

Jindal School of Management, The University of Texas at Dallas

Spring 2024

Section: 012

Class Time and Location: Tuesdays, 2:30 pm to 5:15 pm, JSOM 2.902

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Prerequisites

MATH 1326, MATH 2333 (or OPRE 3333), ACCT 2301, ACCT 2302, MIS 3300

Co-requisite: STAT 3360 or OPRE 3360

Course Description

This course is an introduction to corporate finance. It serves as the basis for all other courses in the area of finance and provides the essential financial tool set every business student will need to be successful in their chosen career. Students majoring in business administration and accounting and those going further in finance will find the material 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 weekly lectures on Tuesdays from 2:30 pm to 5:15 pm. My office, JSOM 14.507, is located on the fourth floor of the new School of Management building. You can reach me by email at alireza.hamzeh@utdallas.edu. You can download course materials from eLearning throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

You will learn to understand how and when to apply the basic concepts of financial analysis in a business setting, demonstrated through your ability to:

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

Required Text

Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, 13th Ed., by Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan, McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2021

Combining the textbook materials with lecture notes is necessary to fully understand the class materials. Regularly reading the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, The Economist, or major finance websites (e.g., Yahoo! Finance, CNBC) is strongly recommended. UTD library subscribes to some of these news sources.

We will be using the Accepi platform for online homework. Registration guide can be found on eLearning.

Calculator

A Texas Instruments BA II Plus (or Plus Professional) is the only calculator you can use on the exams. Regardless of the calculator you select, you will be responsible for knowing how to use it before the exam.

Grading Policy

Letter grades will only be given at the end of the semester based on the weighted average scores. Request for re-grading must be in written form. I will re-grade the entire exam upon receiving your written re-grading request. I expect all the work will be done in complete observance of the University's rules and regulations regarding academic integrity.

Graded Item	Weight
Participation	10%
Homework Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam 1	20%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Common Final Exam	20%

Homework

One problem set will be assigned each week except for the exam weeks during the semester. Students are required to finish each online assignment through Accepi. The due time is the class time the following week. Each homework includes 10-15 questions, and these questions will help you pass the final. The two assignments with the lowest scores will be dropped from the calculation of the overall grading. Group discussion of homework problems is highly encouraged. No late homework will be accepted. Solutions to the problem sets will be accessible on Accepi after the due date.

Exams Policy

Midterm exams are non-cumulative, in-class, and closed-book. You are allowed to bring one sheet of paper (double-sided) to each midterm, on which you may write anything that you consider relevant for the exam. No cell phone, laptop, or other electronic devices, except a SIMPLE (non-programmable) scientific calculator, is allowed. I do not let make-up exams. If you are to miss an exam due to acceptable circumstances, you must notify me before your absence, and I will explain your options to you. I reiterate: I do not allow you to make up for a missed exam if you do not notify me of your absence beforehand. On the other hand, if you proactively approach me, I will provide you with a fair, reasonable option if you have to miss an exam.

Participation

I will take 7 attendances randomly. You will get full credit if you show up at least 5 times.

Common Final Exam

During the final exams week, a comprehensive common final exam will be given for all students across all sections of FIN 3320. The FIN 3320 common final exam will be taken online and administered at UTD's testing center.

At this comprehensive final exam, you will not be allowed to bring backpacks, bags, books, cellphones,

laptops, notebooks, or scratch paper. You must bring a pencil, an eraser, an acceptable financial calculator, and a photo ID (e.g., UTD Comet Card (preferred), state driver's license, or passport).

Seat reservations can be made at: Testing Center

All students are REQUIRED to take the final exam. There will be no makeup exams for the common final exam except as described in the following paragraph. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to take the final exam early. Please remember this if you plan to travel at the end of the term. Students will not be able to take the exam without a photo ID. If a student is to miss an exam in the event of a medical emergency, a car accident, or a religious holy day, the student must notify his/her instructor by e-mail before the final exam begins. Last-minute emergencies such as hospitalization, car wrecks on the way to the exam, etc., will have to be substantiated by supporting documents, and in these cases, the students will receive an incomplete grade (an "I") in the course and will take the exam in a common-hour sitting early in the following semester. There will be no exceptions.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for their business's orderly and efficient conduct. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the laws and regulations that govern student conduct and activities. The UTD publication, A to Z Guide, provided to all registered students each academic year, contains general information on student conduct and discipline.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within recognized and established due process procedures. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members can assist students in interpreting the laws and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. They are expected to obey federal, state, and local laws and the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct³ whether such conduct occurs on or off campus, or civil or criminal penalties are also imposed.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects high responsibility and academic honesty from its students. Academic responsibility and honesty are essential; any departures and violations could severely affect your grade and university status. For additional information, please see Academic Integrity.

Withdrawals

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for the withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. The student is responsible for fulfilling the withdrawal requirements associated with any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" and a "W" instead in a course if you choose not to attend the class once enrolled. I will not announce withdrawal deadlines or any other enrollment-related dates.

The University of Texas at Dallas Policies and Procedures for Students

The University of Texas at Dallas provides several policies and procedures to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Summaries of the policies and procedures are provided for you at

Policies and include information about technical support, field trip policies, off-campus activities, student conduct and discipline, academic integrity, copyright infringement, email use, withdrawal from class, student grievance procedures, incomplete grades, access to Disability Services (Office of Student AccessAbility – OSA), religious holy days, and avoiding plagiarism. You may also seek further information at these sites: <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents>, <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/policies>, and <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess>.

Incomplete Grade Policy

Per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70 percent of the coursework has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillment of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. Suppose the School Dean's decision does not resolve the grievance. In that case, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

AccessAbility Services

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable disability-related accommodations and services for students with documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required. Suppose you are eligible to receive disability-related accommodations and services and to ensure accommodations will be in place when the academic semester begins. In that case, students are encouraged to submit documentation four to six weeks in advance. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor regarding the absence as soon as possible, preferably before the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., to observe a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or their designee. The chief executive officer or designee must consider the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Course Schedule

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at my discretion.

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 23	Introduction/Syllabus & Financial Statements/ratios	Ch. 2, 3
Jan 30	Financial Statement Analysis	Ch 3
Feb 6	Time Value of Money: Single Cash Flow	Ch 5
Feb 13	Time Value of Money: Multiple Cash Flows	Ch 6
Feb 20	Midterm 1	
Feb 27	Bond Valuation	Ch 7
Mar 5	Stock Valuation	Ch 8
Mar 12	Spring Break No Class	
Mar 19	NPV and Other Investment Criteria	Ch 9
Mar 26	Project Cash Flows	Ch 10
Apr 2	Project Risk Analysis	Ch 11
Apr 9	Midterm 2	
Apr 16	Assessing Risk	Ch 12
Apr 23	The Capital Asset Pricing Model	Ch 13
Apr 30	Cost of Capital	Ch 14
May 6–May 10	Common Final Exam Time TBA	