

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Business Finance FIN 3320

Fall 2024

| Section 005 | Section 006 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mon 10:00am - 12:45pm JSOM 12.210 | Mon 1:00pm - 3:45pm SOM 1.102 |

Professor Contact Information

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Professor</i> | Steven Chong Xiao |
| <i>Email Address</i> | steven.xiao@utdallas.edu |
| <i>Office Hours</i> | Wed 2:00-3:30 pm |
| <i>Office</i> | JSOM 14.504 |

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Teaching assistant</i> | Ali Sadeghi |
| <i>Email Address</i> | ali.sadeghi@utdallas.edu |
| <i>Office Hours</i> | TBD |
| <i>Office</i> | TBD |

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

ACCT 2301, Math 1326 (or 2414 or 2419), Math 2333 (or 2415 or 2418 or CS 2305 or OPRE 3333)

STAT 3360 (or OPRE 3360)

Course Description

This course introduces concepts and analytical techniques to identify and solve financial management problems. It serves as the basis for all other courses in the area of finance as well as providing those basic tools that every business student will need to be successful in her/his chosen career. Those students majoring in business administration and accounting, as well as those going further in the study of finance, will find this 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.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

After you successfully complete the course, you should be able to:

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

Required Textbooks and Materials

Fundamentals of Corporate Finance by Stephen Ross and Randolph Westerfield and Bradford Jordan, 13th Edition,

- E-book on McGraw Hill Connect: Registration guide can be found on eLearning.

Suggested Course Materials

It is strongly recommended that you read the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, or major finance websites (e.g., Yahoo! Finance, CNBC) on a regular basis.

Academic Calendar

(Tentative - while an effort will be made to cover all these topics, priority will be given to understanding the material, even if it means we go slow at the expense of not covering every single topic listed here)

| Week | Date | Topics | Readings |
|------|--------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | 19-Aug | Introduction | Ch 1 |
| 2 | 26-Aug | Time Value of Money | Ch 5 |
| 3 | 2-Sep | No Class – Labor Day | |
| 4 | 9-Sep | Discounted Cash Flow Valuation | Ch 6 |
| 5 | 16-Sep | Bond Valuation | Ch 7 |
| 6 | 23-Sep | Stock Valuation | Ch 8 |
| 7 | 30-Sep | Investment Decision Rules | Ch 9 |
| 8 | 7-Oct | Exam 1 | |
| 9 | 14-Oct | Financial Statement Analysis | Ch 2, 3 |
| 10 | 21-Oct | Capital Investment Decision | Ch 10 |
| 11 | 28-Oct | Project Analysis | Ch 11 |
| 12 | 4-Nov | Risk and Return & CAPM | Ch 12,13 |
| 13 | 11-Nov | Estimating the Cost of Capital | Ch 14 |
| 14 | 18-Nov | Review Session | |
| 15 | 25-Nov | No Class – Fall Break | |
| 16 | 2-Dec | Exam 2 | |

Grading Policy

Grade Composition:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Homework | 25% |
| Exam 1 | 25% |
| Exam 2 | 25% |
| Common Final Exam | 25% |

Grade Scale: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, F

Letter grades will be given at the end of the semester based on the weighted average scores. The final grade will be curved based on relative performance. 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 that all the work will be done in complete observance of the University's rules and regulations regarding academic integrity. No extra credit or assignment will be provided to improve the grade. All students will be evaluated based upon their performance on the same assignments and exams.

Course & Instructor Policies

Calculator: You must have a financial or engineering calculator for classes, assignments, and exams. Texas Instruments BA II Plus (including BA II Plus Professional) is the recommended financial calculator. Please bring your calculator to class every day and especially on the exam dates. Tutorials on the calculator will be provided on eLearning.

Homework: I will assign weekly homework online through *Connect*. The site can be accessed through eLearning. Homework is due one week after the class. No late submission will be accepted.

Common Final Exam:

A common final exam will be given for all students across all sections of this FIN 3320 course during the final exam week. The FIN 3320 common final exam will be taken online and administered at UTD's testing center. Students are required to reserve a seat at the UTD testing center in order to take the final – no walk ins will be allowed.

You cannot make up the common final exam if you miss it (except as described in the following paragraph). At this comprehensive final exam, you will not be allowed to bring backpacks, bags, books, cell phones, laptops, notebooks, or scratch paper. You will have to 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).

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 or telephone 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.

In-class Exams: There will be two in-class exams. You should bring a financial calculator to the exams. Exam 2 is non-cumulative. The tests will consist of conceptual and quantitative questions. All tests will be closed book and closed notes. No cell phone, PDA, graphing calculator, and other electronic devices, except a SIMPLE financial/scientific (non-programmable) calculator, are allowed.

Classroom Civility

- Conduct yourself with honor and be active about upholding the honor code amongst yourselves.
 - Arriving late for class, getting up during class, or leaving early is disruptive to everybody including me. To minimize such disruptions, please be on time for class. If you need to leave class early on a particular day then please let me know beforehand and sit near an exit.
 - Refrain from using laptops for purposes that are not directly related to the current class session.
 - Turn off cell phones.
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Class Materials

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in 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](#).

Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

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](#).

The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. 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.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Please review [the section](#) within the UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures webpage.

Academic Support Resources

Please visit the [Academic Support Resources](#) page to view the University’s academic support resources for all students.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

Please visit the [Syllabus Policies](#) page to view the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.