

The University of Texas at Dallas
Introduction to Financial Modeling
Fall 2025

FIN3390 Section 004

Syllabus is subject to change at any time during the semester

Course Information

Course Number/Section: FIN3390.004– Laptop Section
Course Title: Introduction to Financial Modeling
Day & Times: Thursday 4:00 pm – 6:45pm
Classroom: SCI 2.210

Instructor Contact Information

Professor Hao Pang
Email Address hao.pang@utdallas.edu (Respond to emails within 24 hours on M-F)
Office Location JSOM 14.213
Office Hours: By Appointment (online or in office)
TA name: Elham Ghorbani
TA's email ID: elham.ghorbani@utdallas.edu
TA Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Pre-requisites

Prerequisites: FIN 3320 and ITSS 3300 and (MATH 2333 or MATH 2418 or CS 2305 or OPRE 3333) and (OPRE 3360 or STAT 3360 or STAT 4351) and (MATH 1326 or MATH 2414 or MATH 2419 or OPRE 3340).

Course Description

Develops the ability to use quantitative methods and software (particularly spreadsheet) for financial decision making.

Course Learning Objectives

- Students will effectively use financial concepts and computer software (e.g., spreadsheets, etc.) to build basic financial models to solve financial problems.
- Students will use computer software to solve various time value of money and valuation problems.
- Students will be able to utilize computer software to analyze strategic investments in real and financial assets.

Suggested Textbook

Financial Analysis with Microsoft Excel by Timothy R. Mayes (South-Western Cengage Learning 9th edition 2019).

Windows based laptops computers (preferably PCs), loaded with Microsoft Excel 2010 or later are required for this course. We will also use MS Excel add-ins such as “Data Analysis” and “Solver.”

Class Materials

All the class material will be posted in eLearning. Students are responsible to attend the class and keep track of material posted.

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 Access Ability accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class lectures

- All the material pertaining to lectures will be posted on eLearning.
- No recordings will be posted.

Attendance

- Attendance will be taken twice during the semester. I will not announce when I will take attendance. This is intended not only to encourage your attendance but also to boost your overall semester grade.

HWs

- There will be no graded homework
- There will be a practice problem set for each chapter (problems from the Textbook). The problems will be posted on eLearning when we finish a chapter. These problems are not for grading.

In-Class Exercises

- We will do in-class exercises, using Excel.
- These exercises are for practice purposes only.

Exams

- You will be taking **three Excel-based exams**.
- The first two exams are not cumulative. The last one may be cumulative.
- No calculators are allowed.

- All the students must take each of the exams at the UTD Testing Center. You will not be allowed to sit for the test without a reservation (no walk-ins). The Testing Center requires that reservations be made at least **48 hours (2 days) prior** to the exam. <https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center/students/>
- You can use one sided (regular size paper) hand written (not typed) cheat sheet.
- More details about the format will be posted a week before Exam date.
- No makeup, unless you have a documented proof of medical or family emergency.

Important Dates

Excel based exams

Exam 1:	09/24/2024 – 09/26/2024 2h
Exam 2:	10/29/2024 – 10/31/2024 2h
Exam 3:	12/01/2024 – 12/04/2024 2h

Grading Policy

Your grade in the course will be based on the following items:

1) Attendance	10%
2) 3 Exams (30% each)	90%
Total	100%

These are the only scores that will be used to determine your grade. There will be no final exam, no extra work or repeat exams will be given, so please do not ask for an exception. Your semester average will be rounded to 2 decimal places using the convention in rounding and your final letter grade will be determined as follows:

SCALE: Total

score of ≥ 93 is A
 $89 \leq \text{score} < 93$ is A-
 $86 \leq \text{score} < 89$ is B+
 $83 \leq \text{score} < 86$ is B
 $79 \leq \text{score} < 83$ is B-
 $76 \leq \text{score} < 79$ is C+
 $73 \leq \text{score} < 76$ is C
 $69 \leq \text{score} < 73$ is C-
 $59 \leq \text{score} < 69$ is D+
 score < 59 is F

Make-Up policy

You are required to take all excel based exams on the designated dates and with your own class. There will be no

makeup exams given. If you believe you cannot take an exam on the regularly scheduled date, you should talk to the instructor as soon as possible. If you cannot take an exam due to a compelling personal reason such as emergency surgery or death in the immediate family, you have to notify me and make arrangements before the exam. If you miss one exam, you will have the weight of that exam distributed to the other two exams. Supporting documentation, such as hospital admission, will be required. Routine or regular doctor's office visits will not be an acceptable excuse. Failure to give notification before the exam will result in an automatic 15% deduction for the final grade. If you miss two or more exams, you will receive an automatic F on the course. Note that the LAST EXAM cannot be missed. If you miss the last exam for any reason, you will also receive an automatic F on the course.

Academic Integrity

The faculty and administration of the School of Management expect from our students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. We want to establish a reputation for the honorable behavior of our graduates, which extends throughout their careers. Both your individual reputation and the school's reputation matter to your success.

Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating, collusion, facilitating academic dishonesty, fabrication, failure to contribute to a collaborative project and sabotage.

- Plagiarism: The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images or works of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgement.
- Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. Academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- Fabrication: Falsification or creation of any information, data or citation in an academic exercise.
- Collaboration and/or Collusion: Seeking or providing aid to another student in completion of any assignment submitted for academic credit without permission from the faculty member.
<http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-Basicexamples.html>

Students in this course suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings, and if found responsible, the following minimum sanctions will be applied:

1. Exams – F for the course

These sanctions will be administered only after a student has been found officially responsible for academic dishonesty, either through waiving their right for a disciplinary hearing, or being declared responsible after a hearing administered by Judicial Affairs and the Dean of Student's Office.

In the event that the student receives a failing grade for the course for academic dishonesty, the student is not allowed to withdraw as a way of preventing the grade from being entered on their record. Where a student receives an F in a course and chooses to take the course over to improve their grade, the original grade of F remains on their transcript, but does not count towards calculation of their GPA.

The School of Management also reserves the right to review a student's disciplinary record, on file with

the Dean of Students, as one of the criteria for determining a student's eligibility for a scholarship.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <https://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Class Schedule

Date/Section	Topics	Readings
Topic 0	Class Orientation	
Topic 1	Introduction to Excel	Chapter 1
Topic 2	Time Value of Money	Chapter 8
Topic 3	Capital Budgeting	Chapter 12,13
Topic 4	Security Valuation (Bonds & Stocks)	Chapter 9,10
Topic 5	Portfolios and Diversification	Chapter 14

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

Additional notes, instructions and useful links will be posted on eLearning, so please make sure to stay current on materials and announcements posted between meetings. You are responsible for keeping up with all posted material and announcements, so make sure you check eLearning on a daily basis.
