
Course Syllabus

Course Information

Business Finance FIN 3320

Fall 2025

Section 001	Section 016
Monday & Wednesday 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm JSOM 1.302	Monday & Wednesday 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm JSOM 2.804

Contact Information

Professor
Email Address
Office Hours
Office

Xinwei Li
xinwei.li@utdallas.edu
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Monday
JSOM 14.203

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

ACCT 2301 and (OPRE 3360 or STAT 3360). FIN 3320 Repeat Restriction.

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, Randolph Westerfield and Bradford Jordan, 2025 Release, Published by McGraw Hill LLC

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

Suggested Course Materials:

It is strongly recommended that you read the finance press, such as Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, or major finance websites (e.g., Yahoo! Finance, CNBC) regularly.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topics	Readings
1	Aug 25/27	Introduction	Ch 1
2	Sep 1/3	No Class on Sep 1 – Labor Day	
3	Sep 8/10	Time Value of Money	Ch 5
4	Sep 15/17	Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	Ch 6
5	Sep 22/24	Bond Valuation	Ch 7
6	Sep 29/Oct 1	Exam 1	
7	Oct 6/8	Stock Valuation	Ch 8
8	Oct 13/15	Financial Statement Analysis	Ch 2, 3
9	Oct 20/22	Investment Decision Rules	Ch 9
10	Oct 27/29	Exam 2	
11	Nov 3/5	Capital Investment Decisions	Ch 10
12	Nov 10/12	Project Analysis	Ch 11
13	Nov 17/19	Risk and Return & CAPM	Ch 12,13
14	Nov 24/26	No Class this week – Fall Break	
15	Dec 1/3	Estimating the Cost of Capital	Ch 14
16	Dec 8	Final Exam	

Grading Policy

Grade Composition:

Homework	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	50%

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

Letter grades will be given at the end of the semester based on the weighted average scores. No extra assignment will be provided to improve the grade. All students will be evaluated based upon their performance on the same assignments and exams. Grades will NOT be curved. Each student's performance will be evaluated according to the scale provided below.

- Example: If a student scores 85 out of 100, their final grade will be recorded as 85 (no curve), corresponding to a letter grade of B.

There will be NO make-up exams. The final exam is mandatory for all students. If a student misses Exam 1 and/or Exam 2, the weight of the missed exam(s) will be automatically shifted to

the final exam. Given the diversification principle and the relative lower difficulty of first two exams relative to the final exam, students are strongly advised to take ALL three exams.

- If Exam 1 is missed → Final grade = Homework 10% + Exam 2 25% + Final Exam 65%.
- If Exam 2 is missed → Final grade = Homework 10% + Exam 1 25% + Final Exam 65%.
- If both Exam 1 and 2 are missed → Final grade = Homework 10% + Final Exam 90%.

Request for re-grading exams 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.

Scaled score	Letter equivalent	Description
97.00 – 100.0	A+	<i>Excellent</i>
93.00 – 96.99	A	
90.00 – 92.99	A-	
87.00 – 89.99	B+	<i>Good</i>
83.00 – 86.99	B	
80.00 – 82.99	B-	
77.00 – 79.99	C+	<i>Fair</i>
73.00 – 76.99	C	
70.00 – 72.99	C-	
67.00 – 69.99	D+	<i>Poor</i>
63.00 – 66.99	D	
60.00 – 62.99	D-	
00.00 - 59.99	F	<i>Fail</i>

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.

In-class Exams: There will be three in-class exams. You should bring a financial calculator to the exams. Exams 1 and 2 are non-cumulative. Final exam is cumulative. All tests will be closed book and closed notes. However, I will provide a formula sheet for each exam. 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.