



## FIN 3390: Introduction to Financial Modeling Spring 2026 Course Syllabus

### Course & Instructor Information

Course number(s):	FIN 3390
Instruction modality:	Traditional on-campus course
Term:	January 20 – May 15 (16 weeks)
Locations & Schedules	Section 003: <a href="#">JSOM 11.202</a> , Tuesday & Thursday 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm Section 501: <a href="#">JSOM 2.902</a> , Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm
Instructor:	Hiro Nishi
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:Hiro.Nishi@utdallas.edu">Hiro.Nishi@utdallas.edu</a> (I will respond to your emails within 24 hours on Monday – Friday.)
Office:	<a href="#">JSOM 14.328</a>
Teaching assistant:	Vidisha Mehta
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:VidishaJayesh.Mehta@UTDallas.edu">VidishaJayesh.Mehta@UTDallas.edu</a>
Virtual tutoring hours (MS Teams):	Friday (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm) & Saturday (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm), or by appointment The MS Teams link is available under <b>Learning Modules</b> in eLearning.

### Course Prerequisite

Prerequisite: FIN 3320  
Prerequisite or corequisite: ITSS 3300

### Course Description

FIN 3390 is designed to help students develop the ability to use quantitative methods and software (particularly spreadsheet) for financial decision making.

### Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- SLO #1: Student will effectively use financial concepts and computer software (e.g., spreadsheets, etc.) to build basic financial models to solve financial problems.
- SLO #2: Student will be able to use computer software to solve various time value of money and valuation problems.
- SLO #3: Student will be able to utilize computer software to analyze strategic investments in real and financial assets.

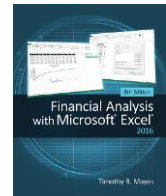
## Course Materials

In this course, you need the following materials:

a) **Recommended Textbook (optional)**

Financial Analysis with Microsoft Excel (8th/9th Edition) by Mayes and Shank

- You may obtain a newer or older edition of the book instead.



b) **Microsoft Excel**

You are required to bring with you, to every class meeting, a laptop computer (preferably a Windows-based PC) loaded with Microsoft Excel. This is imperative since most of the work in this course requires the use of a computer.

- We will also use MS Excel add-ins, such as Data Analysis and Solver.



c) **Texas Instrument BA II**

I may use the BA II Plus financial calculator during the lecture for the comparison purpose.

d) **Lecture Note**

For each chapter, a short lecture note made by the instructor is available in eLearning.

## Course Components

### Exams

There will be **three (3) Excel-based exams**. The third one is **comprehensive** (all chapters included). Each of the first two exam is worth 100 points, and the third exam is worth 150 points.

A. Academic dishonesty

- All exams will be **closed-book exams**. You need to complete a test with no outside resources, such as your own Excel file or the Internet. Some formulas will be provided by the instructor.
- You will only be allowed to open the exam file downloaded from eLearning.** Please be aware that, if you have more than one Excel file open during the exam, the Testing-Center staff will consider that to be cheating.

B. Location of the exam

- 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. Reserve a seat at: <https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center/students/>
- Make reservations for all the three exams. The exam name is something like: "FIN 3390.003/501 - Exam 1"
- The Testing Center will send you an immediate email confirmation to validate your reservation. **You must save the confirmation as a proof.**
- Note that the Testing Center requires that you show **your Comet ID card** to be admitted into the exam room.

## Attendance

I will be taking attendance approximately 10 times 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.

- You will earn up to 50 points for the semester, no matter how many times I take attendance during the semester.
- I will drop up to two “missed” attendance. For example, if I take attendance for a total of 10 class sessions during the semester and you miss two of them, you will still earn 50 points. However, if you miss three of these sessions, you will earn  $(50 \div 8) \times 7 = 43.75$  points.

Note:

**Given this accommodation policy, there is no such a thing as “excused absence” in this course.** It is not necessary to notify the instructor of any planned absence.

## Practice Problems

There will be a practice problem set (I also call it homework) for each chapter. These can be useful sources to prepare for an exam. These problems are not for grading, and you are not required to submit them.

## In-Class Exercises

We will do in-class exercises, using Excel, after each chapter.

## Course Delivery

FIN 3390 is a traditional face-to-face course. This is not to be confused with a “flexible” or “hybrid” course offered in the past. There will be no web streaming or recorded lectures, and students are required to attend a class on campus each week.

## Course Schedule

- The course materials are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.
- **Each of the exams will only be administered at the Testing Center on the date specified below.** To have your preferred slots, try to reserve seats for all the three exams at the beginning of the semester at:  
<https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center>

**Part 1: Time Value of Money & Valuation**

Week	Topics	Textbook chapter
1	We will go over the syllabus on 1/20.	
1	<b>Time Value of Money</b> • Lump sums, annuities, amortization, etc.	Chapter 8
2	Time Value of Money (cont.)	
3	<b>Financial Assets #1: Common Stock Valuation</b> • Dividend-growth models, CAPM, regression analysis using Excel	Chapter 9
4	Common Stock Valuation (cont.)	
5	<b>Financial Assets #2: Bond Valuation</b> • Yield to maturity, callable bonds, accrued interest, etc.	Chapter 10
6	Bond Valuation (cont.)	
6	<b>Exam #1 on 2/26 (Exam will be given at the Testing Center)</b>	

**Part 2: Cost of Capital & Capital Budgeting**

Week	Chapters & Topics	Textbook chapter
7	<b>Cost of Capital</b> Cost of debt, cost of equity, and WACC, etc.	Chapter 11
8	<b>Capital Budgeting</b> NPV, IRR, depreciation, pro-forma financial statement, etc.	Chapter 12
<b>Spring Break (3/14 – 3/22)</b>		
9	Capital Budgeting (cont.)	
9	No class on 3/26 (Thursday). Instructor will be out of office.	
10	<b>Risk and Capital Budgeting</b> What-If Analysis in Excel, break-even analysis, etc.	Chapter 13
11	Risk and Capital Budgeting (cont.)	
11	<b>Exam #2 on 4/9 (Exam will be given at the Testing Center)</b>	

**Part 3: Portfolio Analysis**

Week	Chapters & Topics	Textbook chapter
12	<b>Portfolio Statistics and Diversification (Part 1)</b> • Diversification with two risky assets, Sharpe Ratio, etc.	Chapter 14
13	<b>Portfolio Statistics and Diversification (Part 2)</b> • Matrix-vector multiplication, optimal portfolio, Excel Solver	Chapter 14
14	Exam review	
15	<b>Exam #3 on 5/8, 5/11, and 5/12 (Exam will be given at the Testing Center)</b>	

Due to tight schedules at the Testing Center, Exam #3 will be given over a 3-day window. **If you have any preference on date/time, reserve your seat during the first few days of the semester.**

## Grading and Evaluation

Your course grade is the total score you have earned divided by the total possible score. **To be consistent and fair with all the students, no additional assignment will be given to boost your semester grade.**

Attendance	50 points
Exam #1	100 points
Exam #2	100 points
Exam #3 (comprehensive)	150 points
Total score possible	400 points

Semester letter grades are based on standard university scale.

Scaled score	Letter equivalent	Description
97.00 – 100	A+	<b>Excellent</b>
93.00 – 96.99	A	
90.00 – 92.99	A-	
87.00 – 89.99	B+	<b>Good</b>
83.00 – 86.99	B	
80.00 – 82.99	B-	
77.00 – 79.99	C+	<b>Fair</b>
73.00 – 76.99	C	
70.00 – 72.99	C-	
67.00 – 69.99	D+	<b>Poor</b>
63.00 – 66.99	D	
60.00 – 62.99	D-	
Below 60.00	F	<b>Failure</b>

## Course Policies

I reserve the right to change the course materials during the semester, if necessary. Announcements of changes will be made in eLearning.

a) In-class exams:

The **exam is waived** under one of the following circumstances:

- i. A student needs to attend a university-sponsored event (e.g., conference) on the scheduled exam day. A written notice from the faculty advisor of your student organization must be provided prior to the scheduled exam day in order to demonstrate that the reason of absence is legitimate.
- ii. A student has an unexpected and uncontrollable situation on the scheduled exam day. Examples include a medical emergency. A document of proof must be provided to the instructor before the official semester grade is assigned.

**Exam #1 or Exam #2: No make-up exams (neither earlier nor later) will be given under any circumstances.** If a student provides a supporting documentation, his/her score on the

missed exam will be excluded from the semester grade calculation.

**Exam #3: An incomplete (“I”) grade will be assigned.** The student will take a make-up exam **during the first eight weeks of the subsequent long semester**. Once the student completes the exam, the tentative “I” grade will be replaced with the permanent semester grade.

b) **Written Assignment (if applicable):**

I reserve the right to grade based on my discretion. Please read the general guidelines (to be provided separately) carefully to minimize point reduction.

- The deadlines are firm and will not be extended under any circumstance.
- Do not copy from any published sources or your classmate. Use your own words.  
**Plagiarism is unacceptable** at UT Dallas and is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

c) **Smartphone is strictly prohibited** during the lecture:

Your classroom behavior (e.g., using a smartphone, chatting) can **adversely affect** your semester grade, at my discretion.

## University Policies and Services

### Academic Support Resources

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

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008), you are required to register with the [AccessAbility Resource Center \(ARC\)](#). They are located in the Administration Building, Suite 2.224, and can be reached by email or calling 972-883-2098. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please register and request services by completing the Request for Services form with the proper documentation and meeting with the Director of ARC at the beginning of the semester.

## Course Access and Delivery Format

### 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 AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.