

<p style="text-align: center;">The University of Texas at Dallas Financial Information and Analysis · FIN 6368-001 Course Syllabus</p>

Course Information

FIN 6368-001 Financial Information and Analysis
Term: Fall 2016
Meeting times: Tuesday 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm
Classroom: JSOM 2.802

Instructor Contact Information

David Dial, MPA, ME, CPA
E-Mail: dhdial@utdallas.edu
Phone: 469-828-0325
Office: JSOM 14.329

Office Hours: Monday 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm and by appointment

Note: Students are encouraged to send their queries and comments related to the course by e-mail to the above address using their UTD e-mail accounts. Students can also send e-mail messages to their instructor as well as to other students in the class using the e-mail facility in eLearning. Since the above telephone number is not a campus office, please limit your telephone calls to emergencies only.

Course Pre-requisites

Quantitative Methods in Finance – FIN 6306

Course Description

This is an applied course in financial data analysis and analytics. This course examines the different sources of financial data, their management and their use in investment analysis, trading and solving financial problems. The course focuses on the advanced features of Excel including data retrieval, relational data bases, SQL queries, data visualization, the Excel Data Model, classic and OLAP pivot tables and pivot charts, correlation, predictive analytics, linear and logistic regression, exponential smoothing, time series models, and important Excel functions and tools used in data analysis. In addition, the course includes an introduction to Tableau, a popular data visualization software package. Students will gain hands-on experience to acquire the spreadsheet skills most requested by employers.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Students will effectively use spreadsheet technology to apply data visualization and statistical techniques to discern patterns and relationships in financial data.
2. Students will develop a practical understanding of the statistical theory underlying financial predictive analytics.
3. Students will effectively use spreadsheet technology to build financial forecasting models.

4. Students will communicate the results of their financial analysis and forecasting models clearly and concisely.

Required Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. An annotated listing of reference books for data analysis will be distributed during the introductory class session. You are not required to purchase any of these books. The instructor will post topic outlines prior to each new topic. You are expected to attend each class period and take your own notes from the lectures and the practice problem sessions.

Required Laptop Computer

Each student must bring a laptop computer (preferably a PC) to class with Microsoft Excel 2013 or later installed. The majority of work in this course requires the use of a computer, and most classes will include exercises for the students to complete on their own computers.

Class Format

The class format will include classroom lectures and discussions of the theory and techniques of data analysis as well as computer practice problem sessions for working exercises in Excel. Both the classroom lectures and the computer practice problem sessions will be conducted in the assigned classroom and not in a separate computer lab.

Class Schedule

Date/Topic	Description
August 23 Topic 1	Class Orientation and Overview of Financial Information and Analysis ----- Important Excel Functions for Data Analysis
Topic 2	Data Retrieval I: Sources of Financial Data, Importing Data from the Web, and Importing Textual Data
Topic 3	Data Retrieval II: Importing from Databases and SQL Queries
Topic 4	Data Visualization I: Excel Ranges, Structured Tables, and Charts
Topic 5	Data Visualization II: Pivot Tables, Pivot Charts, and the Excel Data Model
Topic 6	Data Visualization III: Telling the Story – Patterns, Associations, and Correlation
October 4	Midterm Exam (4 pm to 6:45 pm)

Topic 7	Predictive Analytics I: Time Trend Forecasting and Linear Regression
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Topic 8	Predictive Analytics II: Forecasting Using Multiple Linear Regression
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Topic 9	Predictive Analytics III: Smoothing Data and Time Series Models
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Topic 10	Predictive Analytics IV: Logistic Regression
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Topic 11	Introduction to Tableau
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December 13	Final Exam (5 pm to 7:45 pm)
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Class Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes and to arrive on time. You are responsible for the material assigned for outside reading as well as the material covered in class. If you are absent from a class, you should contact another student to get a copy of the student's class notes. Class time will be spent discussing important concepts, working exercises and answering questions. Therefore, I will assume that you have completed any assigned outside reading before class. It is your responsibility to come to class with questions concerning any material which you do not understand. Remember, studies show that grades are highly correlated with attendance.

Classroom Policy

Each student in the class is making a significant investment in time and money to take this course. We must all respect our fellow students by conducting the class in a professional manner. A student entering or leaving the classroom after the class has begun distracts the attention of other students. Cell phones interrupt the instructor's presentation and the students' concentration. Therefore, please arrive at the classroom prior to the scheduled class time and silence your cell phone. Text messaging, MP3 players and similar electronic devices are not permitted during class hours. Laptop computers may be used only for taking class notes and completing class activities as directed by the instructor. Surfing the web and e-mailing are not permitted during class hours.

Assignments

There will be three assignments which will provide an opportunity for you to practice applying the concepts learned in this course to real world situations. Your solutions to these assignments as well as your grades on the midterm and final exams will illustrate your understanding of the material covered in this course. You may discuss the assignments with other students; however, each student must submit his or her own solution to each assignment and may not copy another student's solution. You must submit your assignments by the scheduled due dates. A five (5) point penalty will be deducted from an assignment grade for each day that the assignment is late. Assignments over five days late will not be accepted for grading.

Exams

There will be one midterm in this course on the date indicated on the above class schedule. There will also be a final exam on the date scheduled by the University for our class meeting date and time. These exams will test your knowledge of material covered in the readings, lectures, practice problem sessions and assignments.

You are responsible for taking all exams on the designated dates. Normally, a missed exam cannot be made up. If an exam is missed and the absence was due to a compelling personal reason such as surgery or a death in the immediate family, the exam must be taken prior to the next class meeting. Otherwise, a grade of zero will be assigned. If you believe you cannot take an exam on the regularly scheduled date, you should talk to the instructor as soon as possible before the exam date. If you miss an exam, you must contact the instructor immediately. If you do not contact the instructor, no makeup will be allowed.

Grading Policy

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

Assignments	40%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

These are the only scores that will be used to determine your grade. No extra work or repeat exams will be given. Your final letter grade will be determined as follows:

A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89
C = 70 – 79
F = Below 70

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.”

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 <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

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