

COURSE SYLLABUS

Business Finance, Fall 2016

FIN 357 (03700), MW --- 08:00 AM – 09:30 AM --- UTC 1.116

FIN 357 (03725), MW --- 12:30 PM – 02:00 PM --- UTC 1.13

FIN 357 (03730), MW --- 02:00 PM – 03:30 PM --- UTC 3.102

FIN 357 (03745), MW --- 03:30 PM – 05:00 PM --- UTC 3.102

Course Essentials

Professor: Daniel Rettl

Office: CBA 6.228

Office Hours: MW 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM or by appointment.

Academic and Administrative TA: TBD

TA: TBD

Required Materials/Actions:

Textbook: Ross/Westerfield/Jaffe/Jordan , *Corporate Finance: Core Principles and Application, 4th edition*, McGraw Hill. There are several options, etext or hard copy etc. Choose whichever you prefer however be sure that the one you select includes access to Connect. Note the material for chapter 18 in the textbook will be replaced with chapter 18 material from a different textbook by the same authors. The replacement chapter 18, Valuation: Capital Budgeting of the Levered Firm, will be available on Canvas or directly from the instructor later in the semester

Calculator with finance functions: HP 10B II + is strongly suggested.

Establish a Connect Account: Instructions can be found on the last page of this syllabus.

Demonstrate competency in accounting and time value of money basics:

Please take special note. The material in chapter 2 sections and chapter 4, sections 1 and 2 (basic TVM concepts) are considered review. They will not be covered in class. If possible before our first class, but **no later than September 1, read chapters 2 and 4 (sections 1 & 2), then complete the accounting review and the TVM review assignments available on Connect.** These assignments are intended to help you gauge your level of preparedness for this class. Additional support to help you master TVM basics and calculator operations is available during the second week of class in the form of several 1.5 hour workshops (dates, time and location listed below). In addition the Finance Lab offers tutoring throughout the semester, see time and places below.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Room</u>
TVM Workshop	5-6:30 & 6:30-8 pm	Aug. 29,30&31	UTC 4.122
Finance Lab MTW	5-8 pm	Sept. 6-Nov 30	CBA 4.324
MTW	12 noon- 2:00 pm	Sept. 6-Nov 30	CBA 4.112AN

Suggested Reading Materials:

Wall Street Journal

Business Week

Fortune Magazine

The Economist
The Financial Times

Course Description and Objectives:

Finance 357 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 basic tools that every business student will need to be successful in her/his chosen career. Students majoring in marketing, management 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 basic tools to make personal financial decisions. The major topics, which coincide with the chapters of the text, are shown below.

PART ONE: OVERVIEW

CHAPTER ONE: Introduction to Corporate Finance
 CHAPTER TWO: Financial Statements and Cash Flow
 CHAPTER THREE: Financial Statements Analysis and Financial Models

PART TWO: VALUATION AND CAPITAL BUDGETING

CHAPTER FOUR: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
 CHAPTER FIVE: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation
 CHAPTER SIX: Stock Valuation
 CHAPTER SEVEN: Net Present Value and Other Investment Rules
 CHAPTER EIGHT: Making Capital Investment Decisions
 CHAPTER NINE: Risk Analysis, Real Options, and Capital Budgeting

PART THREE: RISK AND RETURN

CHAPTER TEN: Risk and Return Lessons from Market History
 CHAPTER ELEVEN: Return and Risk: The Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)
 CHAPTER TWELVE: Risk, Cost of Capital, and Capital Budgeting

PART FOUR: CAPITAL STRUCTURE AND DIVIDEND POLICY

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: Efficient Capital Markets and Behavioral Challenges
 CHAPTER FOURTEEN: Capital Structure: Basic Concepts
 CHAPTER FIFTEEN: Capital Structure: Limits to the Use of Debt
 CHAPTER SIXTEEN: Dividends and Other Payouts

PART FIVE: SPECIAL TOPICS

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: Options and Corporate Finance
 CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: Valuation and Capital Budgeting of the Levered Firm
 CHAPTER NINETEEN: Raising Capital

Conduct of the Course and Academic Requirements:

Class lecture is an important part of the course. Reading assignments from the textbook, readings from other outside sources and working assigned problems are required. All of the above are subject to examination. It should be noted that class attendance is considered essential for passing performance in the course. In addition, student participation is expected. This involves being prepared when called on in class to discuss any assigned material and/or to work assigned problems.

Please note dates and times for exams and quizzes are provided in the course schedule (next to last page of this syllabus) distributed on the first day of class. Both the syllabus and course schedule are available on Canvas. Every student registered for the class is responsible for arranging his or her academic,

work, social and travel schedules to accommodate the scheduled exams, quizzes and valuation exercise. Consequences for missing an exam, quiz or valuation exercise are detailed in the next section of this syllabus.

Student Performance Evaluation: The final grade will be determined based on the items and weights identified and detailed below. The university approved +/- grading system will be used.

Homework 5%

Quizzes 10%

Valuation Modeling: a required in class exercise 5%

Exam I: 25%,

Exam II: 25%

Exam III: 30%

The grading guidelines for McCombs undergraduate classes recommends a range of 3.0-3.2 for business core courses. Historically the numerical cut off for each letter grade was as follows. The actual cut off will depend on overall class performance, i.e. history may or may not repeat itself in this regard.

A : 93+	C : 73-76
A-: 90 -92	C- : 70-72
B+: 87-89	D+: 67-69
B : 83-86	D : 63-66
B- : 80-82	D- : 60-52
C+: 77-79	F : less than 59

Exams: The exams will be multiple choice covering both problems and concepts. Exam III is not comprehensive and will have the same time allotment as Exams I and II. Exams can be reviewed after they have been graded. The method of review will be announced in class.

Common evening exams are scheduled for all FIN 357 sections and have been posted and confirmed to present no conflicts with other exams on the McCombs undergraduate dean's master evening exam list.

Make up exams are offered for the following limited and compelling reasons:

- UT course conflict, please provide a copy of your course schedule. Non-UT course conflicts are not a compelling reason.
- Participation by a scholarship athlete in an intercollegiate athletic event, please provide a letter from the Athletic Department documenting your participation. Note team practice is not a compelling reason.
- Conflict with a University recognized religious holy day.
- Documented medical illness or personal injury approved by [Student Emergency Services](#) or other area hospital. Register your situation with UT's [Student Emergency Services](#), they will ask you for proof. Instruct them to email the professor with their decision.

With the exception of the illness and injury reasons for missing an exam students should notify the professor of any course conflict, athletic participation, or recognized religious holy day conflict and present the documentation on or before September 9.

Dates for both the exams and the makeup exams are listed below, locations will be announced in class. **Exams last from 6:30-8:30, plan to arrive no later than 6:15.** Detailed instructions will be distributed before each exam.

Exam 1: September 21

Makeup Exam 1: September 23

Exam 2: October 26

Makeup Exam: October 28

Exam 3: December 5

Makeup Exam 3: Instructor will announce arrangements.

Quizzes 10%: Quizzes are administered in class (approximately 20 minutes.) and consist of 10 questions/problems. Three quizzes will be given. There are no make ups for the quizzes, however only the best 2 of 3 scores will be counted.

Homework: Homework assignments in this class come in two forms, required and optional.

Required 5%: Sets of required homework problems are available on Connect. Students must complete the Accounting and TVM exercises on or before September 1. The remaining Homework sets are due as noted on the course schedule. Students must complete 5 of the 6 sets on or before the due date and no later than midnight on the day assigned. The assignments are not graded, but are judged on completion. The Accounting and TVM assignments are not part of the six homework sets.

Optional problems are listed on Connect as “Suggested Problems”

Problems are assigned for most of the chapters in the text. These problems will not be collected or graded and are suggested to give you additional opportunities to perfect your finance skills. Working problems is a necessary but not sufficient exercise for success in the course

Valuation Modeling: a required in class exercise: Valuation is a key component to all aspects of finance. Excel modeling is the best venue to express traditional valuation models. On the date scheduled in the course schedule you will be required to independently complete an excel model and receive a grade based on your results. **Students that miss the class when the exercise was scheduled for reasons other than illness** (travel plans, interview schedule, etc.) have one option. After the class exercise date (not before), at the professors convenience, you may arrange to complete the exercise. **The most credit you can receive is 50% for a correct answer and less for an incomplete answer consistent with the grading scale for the in class exercise.**

Policies Affecting the Course **University**

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>. **If you are eligible for academic accommodations you MUST inform the instructor two weeks prior to the first assignment affected by the accommodation Refer to notification deadlines below.**

Exam Academic Accommodation Notification Deadlines:

- Exam 1- September 7, 2016**
- Exam 2- October 12, 2016**
- Exam 3- November 21, 2016**

Religious Holy Days Officially Recognized by The University

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of both

students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the BBA Program's Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty at <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/BBA/Code-of-Ethics.aspx>. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of the Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty to this class or its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, the integrity of the University, and the value of our academic brand, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/> to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

Campus Safety

Please note the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety>:

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation should inform the instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050
- Further information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

Classroom Policies

Calculators: In general, calculators may be used when taking an exam. You cannot share calculators with others during the exam. Be sure to learn how to use your calculator and make sure the batteries have sufficient power **before** the scheduled exam.

Other Policies:

- Talking during lecture is not permitted. It is disruptive to other class members and the instructor. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
- Please silence your cell phone, IPAD, or any other electronic device. You get one free ring the first week of class. After that it is \$5/ring with all proceeds going to a charity chosen by the class. NO TEXTING IN CLASS except when instructed to respond to a Learning Catalytics activity. Unauthorized texting can be interpreted as a form of cheating.
- If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to determine what was covered including any administrative Announcements. Expect that some of the material covered on exams will not be in the text. Hence, you are urged to attend class regularly.

- Make-up or extra work to improve your grade is not possible. Your final letter grade is determined by the criteria set forth in the student evaluation section of this syllabus.
- Office hours for both the instructor and the TA change during the semester to accommodate unforeseen circumstances. Such changes will be announced in class and /or posted on the web site. Additional hours will be scheduled during exam weeks.
- Should you have to **leave class early**, please extend the courtesy of informing the instructor before the beginning of the period and leave quietly so as not to disturb the other members of the class.

FIN 357 Assignment and Due Date Map

CLASS	DATE		CHAPTER	Quiz/Exam	ASSIGNMENT/TOPIC TO BE COVERED IN CLASS
1	24. Aug	W	1		Introduction to Corporate Finance
2	29. Aug	M	3		Financial Statement Analysis and Financial Models
3	31. Aug	W	4		TVM- Section 4.3 to EOC
	01. Sep			ACC/TVM	
	04. Sep	SUN		HW1	
	05. Sep	M			Labor Day
4	07. Sep	W	5		Interest Rates and Bond valuation
5	12. Sep	M	5	Quiz 1	Interest Rates and Bond valuation
6	14. Sep	W	6		Valuing Stocks
7	19. Sep	M	6	HW2	Valuing Stocks
8	21. Sep	W		EXAM 1	Exam 1- Optional in class review and evening exam 6:30-8:30 pm, Location TBA
9	26. Sep	M	7		Investment Decision rules
10	28. Sep	W	8		Capital Budgeting
11	03. Okt	M	8		Capital Budgeting
12	05. Okt	W	9	HW3	Risk analysis, Real Options and Capital Budgeting
13	10. Okt	M	10		Risk & Return: lessons from Market History
14	12. Okt	W	11		Risk & Return: CAPM
15	17. Okt	M	11	Quiz 2	Risk & Return: CAPM
16	19. Okt	W	12		Risk Cost of Capital and Valuation
17	24. Okt	M	12	HW4	Risk Cost of Capital and Valuation
18	26. Okt	W		EXAM 2	Exam 2- Optional in class review and evening exam 6:30-8:30 pm, Location TBA
19	31. Okt	M	13		Efficient Capital markets and Behavioral Challenges
20	02. Nov	W	14		Capital Structure-Basic Concepts
21	07. Nov	M	14		Capital Structure-Basic Concepts
22	09. Nov	W	15	HW5	Capital Structure-Imperfect markets (financial distress)
23	14. Nov	M	Canvas 18	Quiz 3	Valuation
24	16. Nov	W	Canvas 18		Valuation Modeling- in class required exercise

FIN 357 Assignment and Due Date Map (cont'd)

CLASS	DATE		CHAPTER	Quiz/Exam	ASSIGNMENT/TOPIC TO BE COVERED IN CLASS
25	21. Nov M		16		Dividend Policy and other Pay outs
	Nov 23-27				Thanksgiving Break
26	28. Nov M		17		Options and Corporate Finance
27	30. Nov W		19	HW 6	Raising Capital
28	05. Dez M			Exam 3	Exam 3- Optional in class review and evening exam 6:30-8:30 pm, Location TBA

Student Instructions to access Connect:

Please visit www.connectstudentsuccess.com for more information.