

FINC 6532-FINANCE
Expanded Course Outline
Thursdays 7:00-9:30 PM, Adamson Hall 117
Spring 2015

Professor: Charles Hodges
Telephone: (678) 839-4816
CELL: (770) 301-8648
E-Mail: chodges@westga.edu

Office: ADAMSON 205B
Office Hours: T, TH: 12:30-3:30 PM
W: 12:30-4:30 PM
also, by appointment (I am in the office most days; feel free to “drop-in.”)

The policy of the University of West Georgia is that each student is responsible for checking his/her my.westga.edu email account on a regular basis.

I. Catalog Description:

A study of the major financial tools and techniques through problem solving and case studies.

II. Required Background or Experience:

A. Prerequisite: FINC 3511

B. Prerequisite Justification:

Basic knowledge of finance and present is value needed in order to work with security valuation, risk/return trade off, capital budgeting analysis, financial data, security markets, financial instruments, and cost of capital analysis.

C. General Education (Core) Contribution:

The course uses the writing skills developed in English courses, oral skills developed in speech courses, mathematical methods and critical thinking acquired in mathematics courses. In addition, the course uses basic accounting knowledge gained in ACCT 2101, 2102, legal knowledge from BUSA 2106, and familiarity with a spreadsheet program.

III. Expected Outcomes and Course Learning Objective

A. Improve communication effectiveness in oral and written presentations--LG 1.

B. Apply quantitative skills to business problems—LG 5.

C. Have an understanding of political, legal, and ethical considerations that affect the economic environment and decision making in corporations--LG 4, 5.

D. Develop the ability to read financial statements and financial information—LG 5.

E. Expand mastery of spreadsheet and word processing skill- LG 5.

F. Understand in detail financial principals, institutions, and management in corporate activities--LG 5.

Specific Course Learning Objective: Students comprehend and apply accounting information to evaluate financial performance, value financial securities, value the firm, and make value enhancement decisions.

IV. Text and References:

Required is Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan, Mcgraw-Hill Irwin (copyright 2012 or 2013), 10th edition. There are multiple ISBN; the one used by Amazon is 978-0078034633. Textbook decision made by instructor.

V. Special or Unique Student Material:

A financial calculator with a “cash flow” button is needed. Examples: HP 10B, TI BAI Plus, TI 83 (mildly preferred) is needed for exams. A calculator or spreadsheet software is needed for quizzes. During Exams, you are not allowed to use any device with a “wireless” connection (e.g. smartphone, Ipad, tablet, laptop, etc.) as a calculator. The project requires spreadsheet software.

VI. Special or Unique University Facilities:

Access to a personal computer with spreadsheet and word processing programs as provided by the student lab. http://www.westga.edu/~chodges/html/finc_6532.html is the location of the course Webpage. CourseDen (D2L) will be used to distribute information and administer quizzes.

VII. Expanded Description of the Course and Instructional Method:

A. Expanded Description of the Course:

The course provides a conceptual framework within which key financial decisions and risks relating to corporations are analyzed. This analysis considers shareholder wealth maximization, the firm’s relationship to its environment, interpretation of accounting data, use of present value analysis and capital budgeting, financial risk management, capital acquisition analysis, capital structure decision, valuation of financial instruments, identification and valuation of real and financial options.

B. Instructional Methods:

1. Lecture and Problem Solving: Topics are discussed via lectures, problem solving, and student generated topics. During lectures, students contribute through their comments and their evaluation of analytical problems. Classes will typically be devoted to analytical problem solving and student generated discussions, while conceptual lectures will be delivered via streaming video. Students may view the conceptual lectures in either a group or individual setting. In the event class is cancelled for any reason (weather, events for graduate students, etc.); online lectures are available and will be used in lieu of face-to-face classes.
2. Individual Research Project: There will be a multi-part graded assignment. The graded assignments and instructions are provided via the module labeled “Company Analysis Project.” This project requires you to apply much of the knowledge you obtain during the course of the semester. It allows you to examine an actual company by applying the analytical methods discussed in class. The project is designed to have a class average of above 90.
3. Quizzes: D2L based quizzes are used as a substitute for homework questions and problems. A quiz is created for each chapter covered in the course. These quizzes are diagnostic in nature, in that their purpose is to allow students to determine areas needing further study. As multiple attempts are allowed on each quiz, and only the highest grade for each quiz is used in calculating quiz grades, it is anticipated that most students will average close to 100 on the quizzes.

VIII. Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:

A. Evaluation Tools:

Individual Project	15%
Quizzes	33%
Midterm exam	21%
Final Exam	31%

There is no extra credit in this course. Work submitted for credit in other courses will not be accepted for credit in this course.

B. Learning Domains:

1. Cognitive: Knowledge, Comprehension, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation.
2. Affective: Receiving, Responding, Valuing, Organization, and Characterization.

IX. Tentative Schedule

Week:	Chapter(s)	Topic
January 8	Orientation	
	Chapter 1 (Overview of Financial Management)	
January 15	Chapter 2 (Review of Financial Statements)	
January 22	Chapter 3 (Financial Statement Analysis)	
January 29	Chapters 5 and 6 (a single quiz covering Time Value of Money and Intro to Valuation)	
February 5	Chapter 7 (Interest Rates and Bond Valuation)	
February 12	Chapter 13 (Risk and Return and the CAPM)	
	Exam Preparation	
February 19	Mid-Term Exam	
February 26	Mid-Term Exam review	
	Chapter 12 (Capital Markets History)	

Last day to withdraw with a grade of W is February 27

March 5	Chapter 8 (Stock Valuation)	
March 12	Chapter 9 (NPV and Other Investment Criteria)	
March 26	Chapter 10 (Making Capital Budgeting Decisions)	
April 2	Chapter 11 (Project Analysis and Cash Flow)	
April 9	Chapter 14 (Weighted Average Cost of Capital)	
April 16	Chapter 16 (Capital Structure)	
	Exam Preparation	
	Project Due	

Final Exam: April 23, Thursday, 8:00-10:30 PM

NOTE 1: The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is **February 27, 2015**.

NOTE 2: This course covers the following AACSB perspectives:

- Influence of legal and regulatory issues
- Written communication
- Social issues
- Ethical issues

NOTE 3: This course covers the following teaching objectives:

- developing written communication skills
- develops analytical/critical thinking
- encourages social responsibility

NOTE 4: Credit Hour Policy (3 credit hours): Students in this class will spend 2.5 hours (150 minutes) per week with faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online). Generally, students can expect to spend about 5 hours of class work outside of the classroom each week. This out-of-class work may include, but is not limited to, individual quizzes, reading the chapters before a topic is covered in class, group assignments/ projects, research, and test preparation. The amount of out of class time required for a given outcome will vary by student.

NOTE 5: Please carefully review the information at the following link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf. The document at this link contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.