

FINC 6532 – Finance
Expanded Course Outline
Fall 2018

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Course Description:

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

Prerequisites:

You should have completed a Corporate Finance class/module in which valuation, time value of money, and risk and return in which were major topics. You must possess a reasonable degree of knowledge related to using either Excel and/or a financial calculator. If you do not possess any Excel skills, you are strongly encouraged to obtain an Excel supplement or tutorial to aid you in working in Excel. Excel and/or financial calculators will be used extensively in this course and student output for the “Company Analysis Project” will be produced in an Excel worksheet.

Special or Unique Student Material:

Unless you perform all analysis using a spreadsheet, a financial calculator with a "cash flow" button is necessary. It is preferred that you use a spreadsheet. Our textbook and most of my audios assume you are using a calculator. Most finance professionals use calculators for simpler computations, and spreadsheets for complex and/or repeated similar computations. The calculator must be programmed to compute net present value (NPV) and internal rate of return (IRR). Examples of sufficient quality calculators include the Hewlett Packard 10B, Texas Instruments BA II PLUS, Sharp EL-733A (not preferred), HP 12C and Texas Instruments TI-83 Plus (most preferred but more expensive, also most calculators in the TI 80 series have a Finance app available). For every chapter with calculations, I have posted an Excel Toolkit. This Toolkit has general instructions for that chapter’s materials as well as solutions to end of chapter calculations.

Professor Availability:

I have arbitrarily designated Wednesday and Sunday as the class days for this semester. This means that Wednesday will be the day with the most availability and highest levels of student-professor contact and Sunday will be the day on which quizzes are due. On other days, I am usually in my office and welcome student contact. My office hours are largely irrelevant, since few WEBMBA students are physically located near my university. I have listed office hours above. You may call me at the office or cell at “reasonable” hours and you are welcome to email me via COURSEDEN 24/7.

I will make use of the CourseDen chat capability using the Blackboard Collaborate. For Online 6532, I will make myself available in real time from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesdays. My experience with online classes is that few students will login for real-time contact. However, those students who have used the chat have raised their grades.

I am often available on weekends. I generally login to CourseDen to respond to emails and to grade quizzes two-three times per week. My target turnaround on email is less than three business days. Thus, with an intervening weekend, it may be five total days until I respond to an email. If you need a faster response, text/call my cell phone or use another real-time method. My preferred method of

contact is via cell phone (770-301-8648). I am also available via various real-time internet contact methods, such as CourseDen, Skype, LinkedIn and Facebook. I strongly prefer real time contact (cell phone or text message) to delayed contact (email).

Text Book:

Required is Corporate Finance: A Focused Approach, Ehrhardt and Brigham, South-Western Cengage Learning (copyright 2015 or later), 6th edition. There are multiple ISBN; the one used by Amazon is 978-1305637108.

You should be able to rent the book for about \$70 from Amazon or other providers. Optional (but not recommended unless other people buy your books and you sell the book at the end of the semester) is to purchase a new textbook. This gives you access to some study materials created by the Textbook Publisher. If you wish to access the textbook publisher's web resources, you will need to buy a new version of the book. My experience is that you do not need access to the textbook publisher's web resources.

Team Philosophy:

You should consider the entire class as a group/team to support you during this course. You are allowed to work as a team to study, complete recommended practice homework, complete chapter quizzes, and for some parts of the individual project. You should communicate regularly with your classmates and you can use COURSEDEN's discussion tool, Collaborate, to facilitate communication. No team assistance is allowed for the Midterm Exam and Final Exam. Although I suggest class members should communicate regularly and allow teamwork for some graded material, I will grade all of your work individually.

Communication with the Professor:

You are encouraged to communicate with the professor on a regular basis. You can email the professor with questions or comments.

Phone/Text: I am available (numbers are above), call me for any reason. This is my preferred method of real-time communication. You can also text me at 770-301-8648.

Collaborate Classroom And Skype:

Blackboard Collaborate is a whiteboard with audio within CourseDen. For Online 6532, I will login on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 pm. I would strongly suggest that every team send at least one representative to the first chat (August 15). If you are having difficulty with the class materials, Blackboard Collaborate Classroom sessions are a perfect time for real time interaction and instruction. If requested, I will also meet at other times. As an alternate, we can arrange meetings via Skype. Email: Use the email link in your CourseDen account to email the professor. You should check it at least two times per week. Your professor will check CourseDen email three-four times per week. I will email the class at least weekly, usually after the Wednesday Chat Session.

Discussion Board:

I view the Discussion Board as a student to student communication area. I only post when requested or if my posting is clearly needed. You are allowed to post questions, responses and discussions related to each chapter to the course discussion area for that chapter/module. Also, use the discussion area to communicate with other students. You may post anonymously. I will check the discussions occasionally, but will only post if requested or if it seems appropriate. If there is a discussion in which you think I should participate, email me and I will participate.

Social Media:

I am available on Facebook and LinkedIn (Charles Hodges) and Skype (bufordshighway). You are welcome to add me to your social networks. I have various instant message capabilities (e.g. WeChat), contact me for more information.

Course Components, Grading, and Class Schedule:

Your course grade will consist of points accumulated for Online Quizzes, Graded Assignments, Mid-Term Exam, and Final Exam. Read details below for each component.

Online Quizzes:

There will be 12 online quizzes. The quizzes are primarily to allow you to evaluate your skill level and diagnose your weaknesses for a given Finance topic. The CourseDen FINC 6532 class schedule shows the quizzes and the dates by which each quiz must be completed, but generally two quizzes are due every Sunday by 11:30 pm. You generally have a two to three-week window in which to complete the quizzes. Upon request, I will usually extend the quiz deadline by a few days. Quizzes are designed to keep you up to date with the materials and to prepare you for your exams and individual project. Quizzes will be timed (liberally) and will consist of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, matching, and calculation problems. You are encouraged to use your course materials as an aid when taking quizzes. All quizzes and exams are taken in CourseDen. You are allowed to use help or assistance of another person in completing the quizzes. You may take/access each quiz up to five times during the specified period. Your highest grade will be used in calculating your course grade. Quizzes are 33% of your course grade. I will drop your lowest quiz grade (of the 12 quizzes) before computing your quiz average. In past FINC Finance classes, the average quiz score was above 95, with about half the class having a 100 average.

Two Minute Feedbacks:

This course, and technology used in this course, is constantly evolving. To aid me in improving the course, I require that you give me suggestions on methods to improve the course. You will find five quizzes labeled Two Minute Feedbacks. The suggestions can be on any topic that you feel will improve the course. Criticism is welcome and encouraged. You must send the Quizzes before 11:30 p.m. on October 9. The feedbacks are 2% of your grade. All students who send the five feedbacks get full credit.

Graded Individual Assignment:

There will be a multi-part graded assignment. The project is due before 11:30 pm on October 9, but will be accepted without penalty until October 17. The graded assignments and instructions are provided via the module labeled "Company Analysis Project." The graded assignment makes up 10% of your course grade. This project requires you to apply much of the knowledge you obtain during the course of the semester (primarily Chapters 2, 3, 5, and 7). It allows you to examine an actual company by applying the analytical methods discussed in class. I will make the project available before September 1. The project is designed to have a class average of above 90, with the majority of the class making 100.

Midterm Exam:

The Midterm Exam is a timed exam (3 hours MAXIMUM) and consists of true/false, short answer, multiple-choice, and calculation questions relating to the topics previously tested via quiz and graded assignments. The Midterm Exam covers chapters 1-6 and 13. The Midterm exam is used to evaluate your individual conceptual understanding of topics addressed in the course. The Midterm exam will be taken in COURSEDEN. You cannot use the help or assistance of another person in completing the exam. The Midterm exam can only be accessed/taken once and makes up 25% of your course grade.

The Midterm Exam is available from 7:00 am on September 8 to 11:30 pm on September 16. To receive the full amount of allowed time, you must begin the exam by 8:00 PM of the last day. Let me know about system maintenance issue that arises which I hope will not happen. Assuming you do well on the quizzes and individual assignment, you need only a low 80's average on the Exams to make an A in the class. The average exam grade varies by cohort, but over the history of the program has averaged in the upper 70's.

Final Exam:

There will be a non-comprehensive Final Exam at the end of the semester. The exam will be timed (3 hours 15 minutes MAXIMUM) and consist of true/false, short answer, multiple-choice, and calculation questions relating to the topics previously tested via quiz and graded assignments. The Final Exam covers chapters 7-11 and 15. The Final Exam is used to evaluate your individual conceptual understanding of topics addressed in the second half of the course. The Final Exam will be taken in COURSEDEN. You cannot use the help or assistance of another person in completing the exam. The Final Exam can only be accessed/taken once and makes up 30% of your course grade. The Final Exam is available from 7:00 AM on October 8 to 11:30 PM on October 14. The exam is due by October 9, but will be accepted without penalty until October 14. To receive the full amount of allowed time, you must begin the exam by 8:00 PM of the last day. The average exam grade varies by cohort, but over the history of the program has averaged in the upper 70's.

Grade:

Your course grade will consist of points accumulated through quizzes, graded assignments, the Midterm Exam and Final exam, and other subjective and/or objective adjustments the professor may make. I reserve the right to curve grades. I use a round-up rule for grades. As an example, a 78.01 will be rounded to 79. Below are the graded components and the weight of each component.

Component/Effort -% of Grade

Quizzes (Individual)-33%

Graded Assignment (Individual)-10%

Midterm Exam (Individual)-25%

Final Exam (Individual)-30%

Two Minute Feedbacks-2%

Letter Grade % Requirement

A = 90% to 100%

B = 80% < 90%

C = 70% < 80%

D = 60% < 70%

F = < 60%

Make-Up Policy:

I expect you to complete the individual graded assignment on time. I am generally willing to extend a quiz deadlines for two-three days. I do not extend the deadline on the Individual Project, Midterm Exam, or Final Exam. One not completing an exam (project), by the deadline will receive an exam (project) grade of 0.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. Collaboration on exams will be considered cheating. Please review the section on TEAM PHILOSOPHY for further discussion. Ask the Professor if you have questions about where collaboration is allowed. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be

handled in accordance with guidelines set forth in your university's Student Conduct Code. The minimum penalty for a student caught cheating on an exam or other assignment will be a grade of zero on that work.

Other Information:

COURSEDEN may mark answers incorrect and you may lose quiz and exam points due to the format of your numerical answers. COURSEDEN will mark answers incorrect if you use \$, or % signs in your answers. If you lose points due to format and the answer is correct otherwise, please email me and I will review your quiz/exam for any needed adjustments.

I will use COURSEDEN to grade your work. On each quiz/exam/assignment, some or all grading will need to be done by the professor. Unless other factors enter in, I plan to have all grades posted within 48 hours of the deadline for submission. I typically grade quizzes two to three times per week, so the normal turnaround for quiz grading is 72-96 hours.

Course Calendar:

August 15 Course is open, Watch the Orientation Video, Collaborate Session in COURSEDEN from 6-7 pm (suggested)

August 19 Chapter 1/13 Quiz Due (Overview of Financial Management and Agency Theory)

August 26 Chapter 2 Quiz Due (Review of Financial Statements)

August 26 Chapter 3 Quiz Due (Financial Statement Analysis)

September 2 Chapter 4 Quiz Due (Time Value of Money and Intro to Valuation)

September 9 Chapter 5 Quiz Due (Bond Valuation and Interest Rates)

September 16 Chapter 6 Quiz Due (Risk and Return and the CAPM)

Mid-Term Available: September 8 to 11:30 pm on September 16 (no extensions will be granted)

September 23 Chapter 7 Due (Stock Valuation)

September 23 Chapter 9 Quiz Due (Weighted Average Cost of Capital)

September 30 Chapter 10 Quiz Due (Capital Budgeting Methods)

September 30 Chapter 11 Quiz Due (Capital Budgeting Cash Flows and Risk Analysis)

October 7 Chapter 8 Quiz Due (Options and Applications to Capital Budgeting)

October 7 Chapter 15 Quiz Due (Capital Structure)

October 9 Project Due (will be accepted without penalty until October 17) by 11:30 pm.

Final Exam Available: Due by October 9, will be accepted without penalty until 11:30 p.m. on October 14 (no further extensions will be granted)

NOTE 1: The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is August 21.

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.