

Finance 4310
On Line Class
Fall, 2017

Instructor: Dr. Michael Impson

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Office Hours: By appointment only.

Text: *Connect Access Code for Corporate Finance: Core Principles and Applications*, 4th edition, published by McGraw Hill.

Blackboard

The Blackboard website is your primary interface with the course. Access to the course instructions and class materials will be via Blackboard.. McGraw Hill Connect Finance is integrated into Blackboard so you will have seamless access to the McGraw Hill materials through Blackboard. Please note that Blackboard will be unavailable from 11 pm Saturdays until 2:00 am Sundays when the scheduled weekly maintenance takes place.

McGraw Hill Connect Finance

You will need to buy a Connect access code and register with McGraw Hill in order to access the McGraw Hill course materials in Blackboard; most importantly the weekly quizzes. Access to the quizzes is only possible through Connect, so the Connect access code is not optional. The Connect access code includes access to the ebook which is the only text that I require. The Connect access code and ebook combination is also less expensive than buying a current edition of the book. You will need the ebook if you want to use the guided instruction self study features of the system. Also note that the chapter quizzes are open book, open notes, so having access to the ebook and its search feature is very useful if you are having difficulty answering a quiz question. If you prefer a paper copy for reference, paper copy versions of the textbook are available in the UNT bookstore and various on line sites. You may want to consider an earlier edition of the paper copy of the book which is much less expensive and contains virtually all the material needed. You can find any new material in the ebook that comes with Connect. Access codes are available for purchase with a credit card on the Blackboard course website and at the UNT bookstore. There are instructions on the course website about purchasing the access code. See *Getting Started with McGraw Hill* under the *Start Here* tab on the course Blackboard website.

Course Objectives:

After completing the course, students should have the following skills and knowledge.

1. Students can analyze the financial health of a firm using its financial statement information.
2. Students can make financial forecasts using the percent of sales technique.
3. Students can estimate a firm's cost of capital
4. Students can analyze capital structure decisions based on theories of capital structure.

5. Students can apply models of return and risk in analyzing investment decisions.
6. Students can evaluate investment projects using discounted cash flow techniques.
7. Students can explain motives of the firm's managers in making dividend payment decisions.
8. Students can evaluate investment strategies based on informational efficiency of markets.
9. Students can explain irrational investor behavior based on known behavioral biases.

Implementation of Objectives:

I believe that you will find in reviewing job descriptions in employment advertisements for finance positions that a very large percentage of them mention the requirement for Excel skills. In fact, many of them require you to take an Excel skills test as part of the interview process. Excel is also a great time-saver in solving many finance problems. As a result, developing Excel skills will also be an important objective for this class.

Course Prerequisites

FINA 3770 or equivalent
ACCT 2010 or equivalent
ACCT 2020 or equivalent

Technical Skills

Fluency in English, basic spreadsheet and word processing skills are assumed. Basic report-writing skills, grammar, organization, referencing, etc. are assumed. Ability to use online search engines is assumed. You should be able to read and interpret financial statements.

Wall Street Journal: The WSJ is an excellent source of current information related to corporate finance. Student subscriptions to the WSJ are available at <http://www.wsj.com/studentoffer> or at the UNT Bookstore for about \$15 for the semester.

Other Readings: As assigned

On Campus Exams

The mid term and final exams will be administered on campus in BLB170. Exams are on Saturdays, so plan accordingly. Exams will be all multiple choice. If you have taken the mid term exam and are satisfied with your score, the final exam will only cover material since the mid term exam. If you take the mid term exam, but are not satisfied with your score, you can choose to take the comprehensive final exam and use that score as the final exam score and to replace the mid term score. I will not return the exams or provide online solutions to exam questions. Course materials such as class assignments, slides, and quizzes should be adequate to explain any exam problem concepts. You are always welcome to stop by my office to review your exams.

Preparing for Exams

You have access to the textbook either in paper or ebook form. However, your primary exam review materials are the weekly chapter quizzes, the PowerPoint slides that I prepared, and the homework problems that you will solve and submit prior to the exams. These sources indicate

which topics that I want to emphasize and exam questions will be taken from these sources. The weekly quiz questions are directly tied to the textbook. You may still find the McGraw Hill materials useful, but keep in mind that it would not be an effective use of your time to read every page in every assigned chapter in detail since they cover some topics that I do not and I cover some topics that are not explicitly in the textbook. The primary sources above should be your guide to topics that you should review in the textbook.

Exam Review Sheet

There is a folder posted on the Blackboard Home Page that contains Exam Review Sheets for each exam. The review sheets list possible topics and problems that could appear on the exam. As I note on the sheets, I don't guarantee that every possible exam topic is on the sheet, but the most of them should be.

Equation Sheet: I will provide an equation sheet for each exam. The sheets will be posted on Blackboard prior to the exam.

Make-up Exams

In general, I will not be willing to administer the exams at times other than those shown in the table at the end of this syllabus. If you advise me in writing (email is ok) during the first two weeks of class of a work related or important personal event conflict with the exam dates, I will consider giving a make up exam at a different time. I will not be willing to reschedule the exams to accommodate vacation travel plans, weekend recreational activities, etc. since you know the exam date well in advance. For **all** other absences from the mid term exam (e.g. major or minor medical problems, traffic or car problems), the remedy is to take the comprehensive final exam, no make up exams will be given. If you miss the mid term exam, the final exam will be comprehensive and be used as the final exam score and to replace the mid term exam score. If you miss the final exam and have a documented university approved excuse for the absence like a physician's note, I will give you a grade of incomplete for the semester and require that you take a comprehensive final exam at a later date to complete the class..

Absences for Important Personal Events: If you expect to miss class assignments or exams because of an important personal event: wedding, graduation, birth of a child, etc., please inform me **in writing** (email is ok) of the expected date(s) and reasons before the end of the second week of the term and I will consider your request. Otherwise, you will not be allowed to make up any class work due during that absence.

Financial Calculator: You will need a basic financial calculator like the TI BAII Plus for exams, quizzes, and study. **Big screen calculators with finance functions like the TI-83 or TI-84 or cell phone calculators are not allowed for the mid term and final exams.** You must bring your own calculator to the exams, sharing of calculators is not allowed, and I will not provide one. Once you have received the exam, you will not be allowed to leave the room to get a calculator.

Weekly Chapter Quizzes and Homework

Chapter quizzes are all multiple choice and are automatically graded. The quizzes are open book open notes, but you are not to collaborate on the quizzes. You have two attempts for each quiz and I will take the highest score of the two attempts as your final quiz grade. Quiz due dates are shown in the schedule at the end of this syllabus. **Most, but not all**, of the quiz due dates are Monday at 11:59 pm, so be sure to check the syllabus for due dates. There will be no weekly announcement for the chapter quizzes or homework. If I extend the due date because of a problem with the quiz or homework, I will post an announcement. There may be more than one quiz for some weeks, so you should consult the syllabus to see if multiple chapters are covered that week. You should assume that there will be at least one quiz due each week, except as noted in the schedule at the end of this syllabus or for the review week prior to each exam. Chapter quiz results should be available in a few minutes following submission. **Access to the quizzes and homework will close on the due date and there is no makeup.** In most cases, the assignment is available for at least one week, so minor illnesses, “I forgot”, or “I’m really busy at work” are not acceptable excuses.

Due Dates

Due dates for quizzes, class projects, and homework are shown in the syllabus. Occasionally, due dates may not be shown in the Blackboard calendar, so the syllabus takes precedence for determining the due dates. **Omission from the Blackboard calendar is not an excuse for missing a due date.** Since the discussion forums are not regularly occurring each week, I will post an announcement and send an email one week in advance of the discussion forum due date.

Problems with Blackboard or Connect

If you experience a technical problem in submitting a Blackboard or Connect assignment, quiz, project, homework, etc., you should immediately contact the student help desk at 940-565-2324 to get assistance or at least complete a remedy ticket. If the problem cannot be resolved, you should also immediately email me to document the problem. Without the remedy ticket and email, I will not be able to offer any accommodation for the problem. Just completing the remedy ticket does not automatically allow you to make up the assignment. If the help desk reports no system or assignment problems and your classmates report no problems, then I will assume that the problem is local with your computer or system and you will not be able to make up the assignment. You should check that any computer that you plan to use for the assignment has been properly set up for Blackboard before the assignment begins. Be sure that you go through the *UNT Start Here Orientation* located under the *Start Here* tab prior to the exam. Also, it goes without saying that waiting to submit until just before the due date leaves no time for recovery if you experience a local computer problem.

Graded Discussions

I will post about five graded discussion topics during the semester. In order to receive credit for participation in each of the discussions, you must make at least two posts to the discussion thread, at least one of which must be a response to another student’s post. I will post an announcement when a new discussion topic is available and you will have one week from that time to complete your posts.

Netiquette

- Posts to the discussion should be complete but concise. Our class is relatively small, but for large classes, reading lengthy, multi-paragraph posts is too time consuming.
- Make a valuable contribution. Posts like “I agree” or “Good point” are unacceptably short
- Restrict your comments to the original topic.
- Most importantly, be respectful of other’s opinions in making your posts.

Class Assignments

Some of the course materials will be in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format, so you will need Acrobat to access those materials. Free downloads of Adobe Reader are available online. Assignments like class projects and homework problems must be converted to pdf format for electronic submission using the Blackboard assignment tool, so you will need access to a device that can scan to pdf format or software that can convert documents to pdf format. Scanning is available in the COB computer labs. I will set up an assignment portal for each of the projects. **You must use the Assignment Tool to submit homework and projects. I will not accept submissions sent as email attachments.** The assignments will be graded electronically and made available to you in Blackboard. The only formats that allow electronic grading are pdf, Word, and Excel. Please be sure that you submit assignments in only these formats. **Camera type formats like jpeg are not acceptable. You will receive a grade of zero on assignments submitted in an incorrect format.**

Grading

Midterm exam		250 points
Final exam		250 points
Quizzes	approx.	190 points
Homework	approx.	95 points
Class Projects	approx	45 points
Graded Discussions	approx	<u>45 points</u>

Total approx. 875 points

I do not release grade information over the telephone or by e-mail. Grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Grade Scale: A 90% or greater D 60-69%
 B 80-89% F less than 60%
 C 70-79%

I will review the grade distribution at the end of the semester and possibly revise the grade breakpoints downward slightly. I will post any revisions to the grade scale on Blackboard at that time. **I will not boost borderline grades if you have failed to turn in assignments that would have raised your grade to the next letter grade level.**

Feedback on Course Work

Chapter quizzes and exams are auto graded by Connect so feedback is almost immediate after completion. Scores on class projects, discussion forums, and homework problems will be posted

to Blackboard within one week of submission.

Contacting Me

I will check Blackboard and my email at least once each weekday and will typically respond to your email within 24 hours. Use my Outlook email to send me an email (Michael.Impson@unt.edu). I do not check my Blackboard email on a regular basis, so please use my Outlook mail if you want a prompt response from me.. My office phone number is also listed at the beginning of this syllabus.

Contacting You

I will use the Blackboard announcement tool to inform you of any schedule changes, changes in assignments, due date changes, etc., so be sure to check for new announcements each time you log in. I will send email to your EagleConnect account, but if you need to email me, please use my Outlook account as noted above.

Eagle Connect Account

All students should activate and regularly check their EagleConnect (e-mail) account. EagleConnect is used for official communication from the University to students. Many important announcements for the University and College are sent to students via EagleConnect. For information about EagleConnect, including how to activate an account and how to have EagleConnect forwarded to another e-mail address, visit <https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties include a grade of "F" in the course. You will find the policy and procedures at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>

If I suspect that you have engaged in academic dishonesty, I will deal with the situation as outlined in the University Policy shown above. You will be allowed to remain in the class during the entire time that the academic misconduct accusation is being investigated, adjudicated, and appealed. As noted above, the maximum academic penalty that can be assessed by an instructor is an F in the course. However, university officials use the academic misconduct information to decide if other misconduct sanctions are then to be applied, and the student has separate rights to appeal those decisions, remaining in the class until all appeals are exhausted.

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. You will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the

survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Course Outline

I reserve the right to make minor changes to the course outline during the semester.

Topic	Chapter	Quiz Due Date	Homework or Project Due Date
Class begins 08/28/17			
Introduction to the course	1	09/06	
Accounting Statements	2	09/11	09/14 Ch. 2 Hwk1
Financial Ratio Analysis	3	09/18 Quiz A	09/20 Ch. 3 Hwk1
Project 1 Financial Ratios			09/22 Project 1
Financial Forecasting	3	09/25 Quiz B	09/27 Ch. 3 Hwk 2
Cost of Capital	12	09/29	10/02 Ch.12 Hwk1
Capital Structure	14	10/06	10/08 Ch. 14 Hwk1
Capital Structure	15	10/10	
Review			
Midterm Exam in BLB 170 October 14, 1:00 - 3:50 PM			
Capital Budgeting	7	10/18	
Capital Budgeting	8	10/23	10/27 Ch. 8 Hwk1
Capital Budgeting Sensitivity			11/06 Project 2
Valuation		No Quiz	11/08 Val.Hwk1
Risk and Return	10	11/10	11/12 Ch. 10 Hwk1
Capital Asset Pricing Model	11	11/13	11/18 Ch. 11 Hwk1, Ch. 11 Hwk2
Estimating Beta Project	11		11/22 (Project 3)
Dividend Policy	16	11/24	

Topic	Chapter	Quiz Due Date	Homework or Project Due Date
Market Efficiency and Behavioral Finance	13	12/05	
Review			
Final Exam in BLB170 December 9, 1:00 - 3:50 PM			