CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHANNEL ISLANDS
SYLLABUS

FIN 300- Business Finance
(Class Numbers, 3935, 3936)

Term: Fall 2014 
Instructor: Stephen Feldscher
Class room: Manzanita 1142 (3935) 
Smith Decision Center 1908 (3936) 
Office: Sage Hall 2038
Class Schedule: 3PM – 4:15pm TuTh 
9AM-11:50Am Fri 
Phone: Use email for contact
E-mail: Stephen.feldscher@csuci.edu 
Office Hours: 4:30-5:30Pm TuTh

Course Description

FIN 300 introduces students to theories and practices of principles of planning, procuring, and controlling short-term and long-term financial resources of business organizations. Main topics include time value of Money, capital budget, debt and equity markets, security valuation, sources, costs, and structure of capital, and dividend policies. FIN 300 helps students understand how financial decisions are made and how they are integrated with other business arenas. As a result, focus will be on concept appreciation and application.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Explain and apply theories and concepts of business finance. In detail, they should be able to:
   a. Identify the ultimate goal of financial management
   b. Utilize & apply financial statement information
   c. Understand Time Value of Money (and NPV, PV, FV etc.)
   d. Estimate various investment criteria and evaluate capital budget decisions
   e. Explain the trade-off relationship between risk and return and apply Capital Asset Pricing Theory
   f. Conceptualize the stock and bond markets and identify valuation criteria
   g. Evaluate different dividend policies and capital structure issues
   h. Identify various methods of raising capital & the cost of same within the capital structure

2. Analyze a company’s financial performance and financial decisions using business finance theories
**Required Materials**

2. *A Financial Calculator*: Many financial calculators are available on the market. Make sure the one you have is able to calculate Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR). **It is a student’s responsibility to purchase a calculator with financial functions and learn to operate it.** The TI BAII is supported by the textbook. Microsoft Excel if needed. The “external links” of your course Blackboard will link you to financial calculators and Microsoft Excel manuals.

   **Always Bring Your Textbooks and Calculators to Class.**

3. Access to Blackboard and CSUCI email account.
4. It is also recommended that you keep yourselves informed about current business news and issues by reading one or more of the following:
   - *The Wall Street Journal* (best of breed)
   - *Business Week*
   - *The Los Angeles Times*
   - *The New York Times*
   - *Barron’s*
   You can find the latest issues of the above at the university library or by entering the course Blackboard page and click on “external links”

**Grading**

Grading for the course will be as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam1</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam2</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (cumulative)</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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A student’s final grade for the course will be curved. Plus/minus will be given. The probability distribution is assumed to be normally distributed.

**Examinations**

1. The exams will be closed-book and based on assigned readings & lectures.
2. There will be two in-class exams. Exams are multiple choice. Problem solving and critical thinking apply.
**Homework**

Students are expected to review each text chapter’s questions and problems after a lecture to verify your understanding of the concepts as time doesn’t allow for unlimited examples.

1. Please, study and work together, but remember each student must exams are individual in nature!
2. If you need assistance, please come to see me.

**Class Participation**

While lecture is part of the teaching process, much of the information will be discussed. You will figure out the Why’s and as importantly, the Why Not’s. Therefore, it is critical that you complete assigned readings and homework on time. During the class, as I also teach Socratically, students will be called upon to explain chapter concepts, answer questions, & present solutions.

**Policies**

1. **Cell Phones, Calculators, and Laptops:** Cell phones must be set to “Off.” If you are expecting an urgent call you may set it to “Vibrate” and leave the classroom to answer the call. Texting is not allowed and cell phones shall not be visible during class at any time. Programmable calculators are not allowed on homework, quizzes, and exams. No laptop computers are allowed in classroom. In order to follow lectures better, please look at the supplied power points before class.

2. **Student Accommodation:** Any student needing accommodation must request with Accommodation Services, Bell Tower, East Wing, Room 1769 (805-437-8525). All requests for accommodations require appropriate advance notice to avoid a delay in services. Please discuss your approved accommodations with me.

3. **Statement of Academic Integrity:** Violation of academic integrity will not be tolerated.
## Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| 1    | Course Administration  
Chapter 1: Introduction to Financial Management  
Chapter 2: Financial Statements, Taxes & Cash Flow |
| 2    | Chapter 2: continue  
Chapter 3: Working with Financial Statements |
| 3    | Chapter 4: Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money  
Chapter 5: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation |
| 4    | Chapter 5: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation  
Chapter 6: Interest rates & Bond valuation |
| 5    | Continue Chapter 6  
**Review for Midterm Exam 1** |
| 6    | **Midterm Exam 1**  
Chapter 7: Equity Markets & Stock Valuation |
| 7    | Continue Chapter 7  
Chapter 8: NPV & Other Investment Criteria |
| 8    | Continue Chapter 8  
Chapter 9: Making Capital Investment Decisions |
| 9    | Chapter 10: Some Lessons from Capital Market History  
Chapter 11: Risk & Return |
| 10   | Chapter 11: Continue  
Chapter 12: Cost of Capital |
| 11   | **Midterm Exam 2**  
Chapter 13: Leverage & Capital Structure |
| 12   | Chapter 13: Continue  
Chapter 14: Dividends & Dividend Policy |
| 13   | Chapter 15: Raising Capital  
Chapter 16: Short Term Financial Planning |
| 14   | Continue Chapter 16  
Chapter 17: Working Capital Management |
| 15   | Chapter 18: International Aspect of Financial Management  
**Review for Final Exam** |
| 16   | **Final Exam** |

**Note:** Information contained in this syllabus, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Assignments and their timing listed under the tentative course schedule may be adjusted during the session depending on the pace and needs of the class.