

## Syllabus for Business Finance (FIN-300)

### Instructor

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### Course Description

Welcome to our Business Finance course! This course provides an introduction to the study of financial decision making. Financial decisions have an important impact on your personal as well as your business life. The tools we explore in this course can greatly improve your chances for success with all your financial decisions. Some of the topics covered include: the time value of money; capital budgeting; financial planning models; risk management; the capital asset pricing model; strategies for portfolio management; business valuation models; and, options. Since this is an analytical course, there is an emphasis on the development of problem-solving skills. We will do this using the industry standard Excel software program. While this is a rigorous course, keep in mind that the end goal is to develop and enhance your effectiveness as business decision-maker.



### Program Learning Goals (PLGs)

The MVS School has six stated Program Learning Goals: (1) Critical Thinking; (2) Oral Communication (3) Written Communication; (4) Collaboration; (5) Conduct (Ethics); and, (6) Competency in Discipline.

### Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Describe the basic principles of financial management (PLG 6)
- Solve financial computational problems (PLG 4 & 6)
- Analyze and present solutions to financial issues (PLG 6)
- Write analyses of complex cases related to financial issues in business organizations (PLG 1, 3 & 6)
- Identify, conceptualize, and present – orally and in writing - solutions to financial issues facing business organizations (PLG 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6)

### Required Texts

#### *Essentials of Corporate Finance, 7/e (2011)*

By Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan

Stephen A. Ross, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Randolph W. Westerfield, University of Southern California  
Bradford D. Jordan, University of Kentucky  
McGraw Hill  
ISBN 0073382469

### Course Approach

This course requires a serious commitment on your part in terms of class preparation. A quiz will be offered that must be completed before class. Classes will consist of lectures, group exercises, classroom discussions of financing problems and business cases, and discussions about current events related to the course subject matter. Students are expected to actively participate in these activities. There will be two tests and a course project. Students will be responsible for checking Blackboard each week for announcements, changes, clarifications and assignments, and for coming to class with assignments completed on the date due.

Assignments are more heavily weighted towards the first half of the semester. During the second half of the term you should plan to focus on the project.

### Course Policies

Attendance and participation credit will be recorded for each class. If you cannot attend, you will lose class participation credit for that class.

Please policies applicable to CSU-CI student online at:

<http://www.csuci.edu/studentlife/judicial-affairs/policies-and-statements.htm>

### Grading

The final grade for this course will be based on a total of 100 points, as follows:

Points	Date	Description
40	Oct 22 Dec 10	<b>Tests.</b> Two (2) tests will be offered covering selected portions of the readings as noted on the schedule. Test will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, and short exercise questions. Each test will be worth 20 points (or 20% of your grade.)
18	Various see Schedule	<b>Quizzes.</b> Eight (8) quizzes will be offered throughout the semester. Quizzes are open book and taken prior to class. Each quiz is worth three (3) points. <i>The top six (6) quizzes will be counted.</i>
6	see Schedule	<b>Current Event Presentation.</b> Each student, as part of a team, will be responsible for the presentation of a current event topic discussion. In conjunction with the presentation, the team will prepare a one page write-up of the topic. The topical discussion should be related to the subject matter of the chapter we are working on at the time of the presentation.
9	see Schedule	<b>Homework.</b> Three (3) homework assignments worth three (3) points each are designed to reinforce the concepts discussed to that point in the course.
10	Nov 19	<b>Course Project.</b> For this assignment you will be tasked with interviewing the Chief Financial Officer for an organization of your choosing. You and your team will prepare questions, arrange for a time to meet, conduct the interview, write a three page summary of the experience, and report your findings to the class.
7	Various	<b>Portfolio Analysis.</b> Working in 2-person teams, students will prepare an financial analysis of company member of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.
10	Each Class	<b>Class Participation.</b> Points will be awarded for participation in class discussions, your responses when serving as the chapter subject matter expert (SME), no points can be awarded for those sessions when you are absent.  Other factors that contribute to your class participation score are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• asking relevant questions about a course topic</li> <li>• volunteering to answer questions addressed to the class</li> <li>• correctly answering a question addressed to you</li> <li>• answering questions from other students</li> <li>• participation in small group discussions</li> </ul>

Course grades will be curved, but the following scale should serve as an approximate guide:

A	90 – 100	C	70 - 79	F	below 60
B	80 – 89	D	60 – 69		

Letter grades will include “plus” and “minus” designation as may be appropriate. Please note that because of the application of a curve to grading, achieving a certain score, such as 90, may not guarantee an A.

**Course Schedule** (schedule of assignments subject to change with notice):

Week	Date	Discussion	Textbook Reading	SME Team	Current Event	Quiz	Deliverable
1	27-Aug-13	Introduction to Financial Management	1-21				
2	3-Sep-13	Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow	22-50			1	
3	10-Sep-13	Working with Financial Statements	51-94	A	G	2	HW-1
4	17-Sep-13	Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money	95-119	B	H		HW-2
5	24-Sep-13	Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	120-161	C	I	3	
6	1-Oct-13	Interest Rates, Bond Valuation, and Equities	162-229	D	J	4	HW-3
7	8-Oct-13	Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria	230-266	E	K		Interview Questions
8	15-Oct-13	Making Capital Investment Decisions	267-300	F	A	5	
9	22-Oct-13	Some Lessons from Capital Market History	301-338				Midterm (Ch-01 thru Ch-09)
10	29-Oct-13	Risk and Return	339-376	G	B		
11	5-Nov-13	Cost of Capital	377-406	H	C	6	HW-4
12	12-Nov-13	Leverage and Capital Structure	407-437	I	D	7	HW-5
13	19-Nov-13	Dividends, Dividend Policy, and Raising Capital	438-496	J	E	8	Interview Report
14	26-Nov-13	Short-Term Financial Planning	497-528	K	F		
15	3-Dec-13	Working Capital Management and International Aspects	529-589				
16	10-Dec-13						Final (Ch-10 thru Ch-18)