

FIN300 – BUSINESS FINANCE
(Online Section 3. Class Number 2056)

Term: Fall 2023
Classroom: Synchronous Online
Office: MVS Hall 1179
E-mail: Priscilla.liang@csuci.edu

Instructor: Dr. Priscilla Liang
Class Schedule: 7-9:50 p.m. Tuesday
Phone: 805 – 4378926

Office Hours:

- Online office hours on Tuesday <https://csuci.zoom.us/j/81685694857> (5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.). Starting in Week 2, 8/29.
- Face-to-face office hours on Thursday (7-8:30 p.m.). MVS Hall 1179. Starting in Week 1, 8/29.

Course Description

FIN 300 is a required introductory finance course for all undergraduate business students. Prerequisites for this class are: (a) BUS 309-Quantitative Foundations for Business, (b) BUS 310-Business Discourse for 21st Century Professional, and (c) MGT 326-Business Ethics.

FIN 300 introduces students to theories and practices of planning, procuring, and controlling the short-term and long-term financial resources of business organizations. Major topics include analysis of financial statements, Time Value of Money, capital budgeting, debt and equity markets, security valuations, cost and structure of capital, dividend policies, and raising capital. Business finance is a critical element of business education. This subject area helps students understand how business finance decisions are made and how they are integrated with other business decisions.

Required Materials

1. Required Textbook: *Essentials of Corporate Finance* by Stephen A. Ross, Randolph W. Westerfield, and Bradford D. Jordan. New York, NY: Irwin McGraw-Hill. Any edition of the textbook is sufficient for this class.
2. A Financial Calculator: Many financial calculators are available on the market. TI BAII is supported by the textbook. Make sure the calculator you have is able to calculate Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR).
 - o Many students have already purchased a TI 83/84/85/89 or a more advanced TI model. Those calculators have finance functions and can be used for this class.
3. A camera that will show your face in a Zoom meeting. The purposes of having a camera are two-fold – exam proctoring and class participation. In order to increase active participation and engagement in this class, students are expected to turn on their webcams during Zoom class sessions. Students that do not wish to be on camera or are unable to use a camera (e.g., due to

technical difficulties or lack of access to a device with a camera) should communicate with me and work with me to make accommodations no later than the first week of class.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain and apply theories and concepts of business finance. You should be able to do the following in detail:
 - Identify the ultimate goal of financial management
 - Analyze and utilize financial statements
 - Calculate the Time Value of Money (TVM)
 - Apply TVM skills to stock and bond valuations
 - Estimate various investment criteria and evaluate capital budget decisions
 - Explain the trade-offs between risk and return, and apply Capital Asset Pricing Theory
 - Calculate and analyze the Weighted Average Cost of Capital
 - Evaluate different dividend policies and conceptualize the clientele effect
 - Identify various methods and channels of raising capital
2. Analyze a real-world business finance project using finance theories and models.
3. Apply business finance knowledge to develop critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making skills.
4. Work collaboratively in a group environment.

The above Learning Outcomes align with MVS's Program Learning Outcomes for: 1) Critical Thinking, 2) Oral Communication, 3) Written Communication, 4) Conduct (Ethics), 5) Competencies in Discipline and 6) Collaboration.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

1. Class Attendance (7% total weighting): Class attendance is required. If you must miss a class due to work or health reasons, please inform me immediately and provide documented proof. **If I don't hear from you within 24 hours of the class time, an absence will be recorded.**
2. Class Participation (7% total weighting): Active learning and participation is the key to the success in this class. Class participation will be documented.

3. Reading Quizzes (1% each, 14% total weighting): Reading textbook chapters and listening to pre-recorded chapter lectures ahead of weekly class meetings are critical for a “flipped” class. Reading quizzes will be short and provide a quick assessment of whether a student completes assigned reading and listening as required. Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of each of our weekly classes. **Please don’t be late for class.**
4. Review Quizzes (1% each, 14% total weighting): After our weekly class meetings, students will review (i.e., re-read certain sections of a chapter, listen to recorded class lectures, and review class notes), and complete a weekly online quiz to reinforce learning. A student may take each review quiz multiple times to achieve the best learning outcome desired.
5. Midterm and Final Examinations (Midterm 20%; Cumulative Final 28%. 48% total weighting): Students will complete midterm and final exams online during week 8 and week 16. The final exam is cumulative and will cover all the course materials assigned.
6. Group Project Analysis (10% total weighting): Students will form groups and analyze real companies' financial performance and financial policies.

Grading Policy

A student’s final grade for the course will be curved against the class mean. Plus/minus grades will be given. The probability distribution is assumed to be normally distributed.

Learning Environment and Online Learning Expectations

1. This is a synchronous online course. Weekly online attendance is required and will be documented. If you cannot attend the class for a legitimate reason, please inform me ahead of time or within 24 hours of your absence.
2. In order to succeed in an online class, students should be extremely disciplined and organized. This class requires daily learning engagement. Please plan your daily learning schedule to ensure that you have at least 1-2 hours per day* to devote to this class. Please find a quiet place and set aside a specific time each day to study.
3. All weekly online review quizzes are required to be turned in no later than Friday at midnight. Please don’t wait until the last minute to work on your assignments.
4. If you encounter technical issues when working on your online quizzes or other assignments, please email the University Help desk at helpdesk@csuci.edu (or call 805-437-8552) and copy me on the email. Your email should briefly and succinctly describe the problem. **Note:** To avoid disruptive last-minute technical glitches, please don’t wait until the last minute to work on your online assignments (quizzes and exams). I am not available to help you after 10 PM.
5. We have a Zoom Office hour every Tuesday evening (5:30 PM-7 PM). I also have face-to-face office hours if you can meet me on campus. I would appreciate you reviewing the week’s course contents and sending me your questions before weekly office hours.

6. Keep in mind that something that would be inappropriate in a traditional classroom setting is also inappropriate in an online classroom.
7. Regarding Zoom Meeting Recording and Sharing: Some portions of our weekly Zoom meetings (both online classes and office hours) will be recorded. Most of these recordings will be my lectures on finance concepts and problem solving. I will not record student activities. Students who do not want their likeness included in the recorded sessions may elect to turn off their cameras and change their names in the Zoom window during recording. Recordings will be available for viewing during the Remote Instruction Period subject to the following:
 - Recorded lectures/office hours will be shared with FIN300 Section-3 and Section-4 Fall 2023 via course canvas only.
 - Students may not post or use the recordings in any other setting (e.g., social media) for any purpose. Students who violate this will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including expulsion.
 - Federal and California law as well as University policies protecting intellectual property rights and use of instructional materials (including any recordings of class sessions) remain in effect during the Remote Instruction Period.

**A 3-unit course generally requires students to study approximately 9 hours per week for a regular 16-week semester.*

Communication Policies

1. Please contact me by emailing me at priscilla.liang@csuci.edu. You should check the course Canvas site and your CI email regularly for announcements and updates while the class is in session. Respond to instructor and classmate inquiries within 48 hours (or sooner if possible), excluding weekends and holidays.
2. All email communications should have the following subject heading: FIN300 Online - Fall 2023, followed by a brief summary of your issue or concern. I will do my best to respond to emails within 48 hours (or sooner if possible), weekends and university holidays excluded.

Course Policies

1. No late assignment will be accepted unless you have a legitimate reason. If you are not able to turn in an assignment on time due to a special circumstance, **please notify me immediately (24 hours is the maximum limit)**. Special permission for late coursework may be granted without penalty due to illness, injury, or a family emergency with **documented proof**.
2. Cheating and Plagiarism: This course will adhere to CSUCI's academic dishonesty policy. "CI values academic integrity and will not tolerate acts of academic dishonesty. If a student commits an act of academic dishonesty in a course, the faculty member

shall handle the incident based on applicable campus procedures. " A student who engages in academic dishonesty will automatically **fail** the class.

3. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Cal State Channel Islands is committed to equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The purpose of Disability Accommodations and Support Services is to assist students with disabilities to realize their academic and personal potential. Students with disabilities needing accommodation are required to contact the Disability Program office at (805) 437-3331. All requests for accommodations require appropriate advance notice by the student to avoid a delay in services. Please inform me of any approved accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Topics & Chapters
1	Course Administration
	Chapter 1: Introduction to Financial Management (Brief Introduction)
2/3	Chapter 2: Financial Statements and Cash Flow Chapter 3.3/3.4: Du Pont Identity; IGR and SGR (Optional if time permits)
3/4	Chapter 4: Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money
	Chapter 5: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
5	Chapter 6: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation
6/7	Chapter 7: Equity Markets and Stock Valuation
8	Midterm Exam
	Group Projects (Report progress, Q&A)
9	Chapter 8: Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria
10/11	Chapter 10: Some Lessons from Capital Market History (Brief Introduction)
	Chapter 11: Risk and Return
12	Chapter 12: Cost of Capital
13	Chapter 14: Dividends and Dividend Policy
14	Problem Solving; Review Chapters 6, 7, 8, 11, 12; Group Project (Report progress, Q&A)
15	Chapter 15: Raising Capital; Business Finance Concepts Review

Disclaimer

Information contained in this syllabus, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Topics listed under the tentative course schedule may be adjusted during the semester depending on the pace and needs of the class.