

## 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 corporate 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. 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. Quizzes 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 three (3) tests, homework assignments, and a course project. Students will be responsible for checking Blackboard each week for announcements, syllabus changes, and clarifications of assignments. Group and individual assignments

are to be turned in using BlackBoard and completed on the date due. Assignments are more heavily weighted towards the first half of the semester; during the second half of the term 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 review policies applicable to all CSU-CI students online including academic dishonesty, harassment, rights of privacy, and student conduct 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  |
|--------|----------------------------|--|
| 45     | Feb 25<br>Apr 8<br>May 13  | <b>Tests.</b> Three (3) 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 15 points (or 15% of your grade.)   |
| 12     | Various<br>see<br>Schedule | <b>Quizzes.</b> Eight (8) quizzes will be offered on Tuesdays throughout the semester. Quizzes are open book and taken prior to class. Each quiz is worth two (2) points. <b>Only the top six (6) quizzes will be counted</b> (two lowest scores dropped.)   |
| 6      | Various                    | <b>Current Event Presentation.</b> Each student, as part of a team, will be responsible for the presentation of a current event 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.   |
| 15     | Feb 13<br>Mar 20<br>Apr 3  | <b>Homework.</b> Three (3) homework assignments worth five (5) points each are designed to reinforce the concepts discussed to that point in the course. The homework problems are much like the problems at the end of each chapter.  |
| 10     | Apr 22                     | <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.  |
| 6      | Various                    | <b>Financial Analysis.</b> Working in 2-person teams, students will prepare a financial analysis of company member of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.  |
| 6      | Each<br>Class              | <b>Class Participation.</b> Points will be awarded for participation in class discussions and your responses when serving as the chapter subject matter expert (SME). No points can be awarded for sessions when you are absent.<br><br>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>• 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    | 21-Jan-14 | Ch-01: Introduction to Financial Management               | 1-21             |          |               |      |                       |
| 2    | 28-Jan-14 | Ch-02: Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow         | 22-50            |          |               | 1    |                       |
| 3    | 4-Feb-14  | Ch-03: Working with Financial Statements                  | 51-94            | A        | H             | 2    | Slide-1               |
| 4    | 11-Feb-14 | Ch-04: Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money | 95-119           | B        | I             |      | HW-1                  |
| 5    | 18-Feb-14 | Ch-05: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation                     | 120-161          | C        | J             | 3    | Slide-2               |
| 6    | 25-Feb-14 | Ch-06: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation                  | 162-201          | D        |               |      | <b>Test-1 (1-5)</b>   |
| 7    | 4-Mar-14  | Ch-07: Equity Markets and Stock Valuation                 | 202-229          | E        | K             | 4    | Interview Questions   |
| 8    | 11-Mar-14 | Ch-08: Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria    | 230-266          | F        | A             | 5    | Slide-3               |
| 9    | 18-Mar-14 | Ch-09: Making Capital Investment Decisions                | 267-300          | G        | B             |      | HW-2                  |
| 10   | 25-Mar-14 | Spring Break  | 300-300          |          |               |      | Slide-4               |
| 11   | 1-Apr-14  | Ch-10: Some Lessons from Capital Market History           | 301-338          | H        |               |      | HW-3                  |
| 12   | 8-Apr-14  | Ch-11: Risk and Return                                    | 339-376          |          | C             |      | <b>Test-2 (1-10)</b>  |
| 13   | 15-Apr-14 | Ch-12: Cost of Capital                                    | 377-406          | I        | D             | 6    | Slide-5               |
| 14   | 22-Apr-14 | Ch-13: Leverage and Capital Structure                     | 407-437          | J        | E             | 7    | Project               |
| 15   | 29-Apr-14 | Ch-14: Dividends and Dividend Policy                      | 438-467          | K        | F             | 8    | Slide-6               |
| 16   | 6-May-14  | Ch-15: Raising Capital                                    | 468-496          |          | G             |      |                       |
| 17   | 13-May-14 | Final @ 8:00a   |                  |          |               |      | <b>Test-3 (11-15)</b> |