

FIN300 – BUSINESS FINANCE

(March 25 – May 18, 2024)

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Office hours: Tuesdays 6-7pm & Thursdays 11-12pm (Zoom)

Course Description

FIN 300 is a required introductory finance course for all undergraduate business students. Prerequisites for this class are: (a) 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 budget, 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.
 - o Assigned problems will be from the 9th edition. Copies of these problems will be available on Canvas.
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).
 - 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.
 - If you are comfortable using Microsoft Excel to make financial calculations, you do not need to purchase a financial calculator. However, if you wish to pursue a Finance Option in the future, it is highly recommended that you learn how to operate a financial calculator.

3. It is also required that you remain current on business/finance/economic news. You can find the latest issues of [The Wall Street Journal](#) and [BusinessWeek](#) on the university library web page. You can also review daily business/finance news on websites such as <http://www.bloomberg.com/>, <http://www.msn.com/en-us/money>, and <http://money.cnn.com/>, or using business/finance mobile apps.

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 (2,3,5,6*)
 - Analyze and utilize financial statements (1,2,3,5,6*)
 - Calculate the Time Value of Money (TVM) and apply the TVM to stock and bond valuations (1,2,3,5,6*)
 - Estimate various investment criteria and evaluate capital budget decisions (1,2,3,5,6*)
 - Explain the trade-offs between risk and return, and apply Capital Asset Pricing Theory (1,2,3,5,6*)
 - Calculate and analyze the Weighted Average Cost of Capital (1,2,3,5,6*)
 - Evaluate different dividend policies and conceptualize clientele effect (1,2,3,5,6*)
 - Identify various methods and channels of raising capital (1,2,3,5,6*)
2. Analyze real-world finance case(s) using business finance theories and practices (1,2,3,4,5,6*)
3. Apply business finance knowledge to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills (1,2,3,4,5,6*)
4. Work collaboratively in a group environment (1,2,3,4,5,6*)

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.

Learning Environment

This is an intensive eight-week online course. Please see the Tentative Course Outline and Schedule below for weekly topics.

Course Assignments and Weights

1. **Finance Practice Problems:** Practice Problems will be posted every week. Please solve these problems, confirm/review answers on your own, and correct mistakes. It is important that you practice these problems as soon as you finish the chapter texts and lectures. These practices will not be collected or graded. However, you will see similar problems in your midterm and final exams. You will not do well on quizzes and exams if you skip these assignments.
2. **Business Finance News Posting and Discussion** (1.5% each, 12% total weighting): Business Finance News Posting and Discussion assignments help students connect textbook finance theories with real-world business finance applications and earn participation points on a weekly basis. Students will post business finance news and respond to news posted by classmates every week.
3. **Weekly Review Quizzes** (1.5% each, 12% total weighting): Before taking a weekly review quiz, students should read assigned chapters entirely, listen to posted online lectures, and complete assigned practice problems. Eight online quizzes will be given to check your weekly progress. You may take each quiz multiple times to achieve your best learning outcome.
4. **Business Finance Vocabulary and Concepts** (10%): This assignment helps students understand key concepts and definitions in business finance. Business Finance Vocabulary and Concepts assignment is due by the end of week 8. However, it will reinforce learning if you work on these definitions/concepts as soon as you finish the chapter texts and lectures on a weekly basis.
5. **Midterm and Final Examinations** (Midterm 25%; Cumulative Final 30%. 55% total weighting): Students will complete midterm and final exams online during week 4 and week 8. You may only take each exam once. The final exam will cover all the course materials discussed.
6. **Group Course Project** (11% total weighting): Students will conduct financial analyses of real companies in a group setting. The course project is designed to apply knowledge and skills to real-world business finance decision-making processes and develop critical thinking skills. The group project is due by the end of week 8.

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.

Online Learning Expectations

1. This class compresses a semester's worth of course materials into an intensive 8-week online course. In order to succeed in this class, students should be extremely disciplined and organized.
2. This class requires daily engagement online. Please plan your daily learning schedule to ensure that you have at least 2-3 hours per day* to devote to this class. Please find a quiet place and set aside a specific time each day to study.
3. Please preview due dates for all assignments to orient yourself to the flow of the course. **All weekly assignments are required to be turned in on or before Sunday at midnight** (except for Week 8). **Please don't wait until the last minute to work on your assignments.**
4. You should work on Business Finance Vocabulary and Group Project assignments throughout the eight weeks of the course rather than rushing to finish them shortly before they are due. Please make a weekly plan so you will not be overwhelmed before the term ends.
5. We have Zoom Office hours every Tuesday (<https://csuci.zoom.us/j/85885929766> 6-7 PM). Please review the week's course contents and send me your questions in advance.

**A 3-unit course generally requires students to study approximately 9 hours per week for a regular 16-week semester course, and approximately 18 hours per week for an intensive 8-week online course.*

Online Etiquette

In an effort to ensure our learning community develops, thrives, and sustains throughout our time together, the following agreements should be kept. If you feel an important agreement is missing, please share it on the Q&A Forum or contact me.

As a member of this learning community, we agree to:

- Consider yourself a community member. We are working together to support the successful achievement of our learning outcomes.
- Log in and regularly participate in group conversations and activities.
- Make every effort to manage your time and meet scheduled due dates. Not doing so will affect the interactive nature of this class and everyone's ability to learn.
- Treat the diverse contributions made by other community members with respect. Absolutely no hateful language will be tolerated in this class.
- Have patience and a sense of humor with technology.
- Ask for help when you need it, and assist others when possible.

- Understand that communications shared through text have a higher likelihood of being misinterpreted than words that are spoken. When you type a thought or a comment, read it carefully before you submit it. If you question the way it is worded, read it out loud to yourself. If you still question the way it's phrased, rewrite it.

Technical Support

If you run into technical problems during this course, you should do the following:

1. Clear your browser's cache
2. Try a different browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, or Chrome)
3. Shut down and restart your computer
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 805-438-8552) 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 assignments.**

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.** Special permission for late coursework may be granted without penalty due to illness, injury, or a family emergency with documented proof.
2. **Communication Policies:**
 - You should check the course Canvas site and your CI email regularly for announcements and updates while the class is in session.
 - Please contact me by emailing me at priscilla.liang@csuci.edu. All email communications should have the following subject heading: *FIN300 EU - Spring 2024*, followed by a brief summary of your issue or concern. I will respond to emails within 48 hours (or sooner if possible), weekends and university holidays excluded.
 - Please respond to instructor and classmate inquiries within 48 hours (or sooner if possible), excluding weekends and holidays.

University Policies & Disability Services

1. Academic Dishonesty

By enrolling at CSU Channel Islands, students are responsible for upholding the University's policies and the Student Conduct Code. Academic integrity and scholarship are values of the institution that ensure respect for the academic reputation of the University, students, faculty, and staff. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration with another student, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, buying, selling or stealing any material for an examination, or substituting for another person may be considered violations of the [Student Conduct Code](#)).

If a student is found responsible for committing an act of academic dishonesty in this course, the student may receive academic penalties including a failing grade on an assignment or in the course, and a disciplinary referral will be made and submitted to the Dean of Students office. For additional information, please see the faculty [Academic Senate Policy on Academic Dishonesty](#), also in the CI Catalog. Please ask about my expectations regarding academic dishonesty in this course if they are unclear.

2. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability requesting reasonable accommodations in this course, please visit Disability Accommodations and Support Services (DASS) located on the second floor of Arroyo Hall, or call 805-437-3331. All requests for reasonable accommodations require registration with DASS in advance of needed services. Faculty, students and DASS will work together regarding classroom accommodations. You are encouraged to discuss approved accommodations with your faculty.

- [Apply for DASS Services](#)

3. Title IX and Inclusion

Title IX & Inclusion manages the University's equal opportunity compliance, including the areas of affirmative action and Title IX. Title IX & Inclusion also oversees the campus' response to the University's nondiscrimination policies. CSU Channel Islands prohibits discrimination and harassment of any kind on the basis of a protected status (i.e., age, disability, gender, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, medical condition, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or religious creed, sexual orientation, and Veteran or Military Status). This prohibition on harassment includes sexual harassment, as well as sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. For more information regarding CSU Channel Islands' commitment

to diversity and inclusion or to report a potential violation, please contact Title IX & Inclusion at 805.437.2077 or visit <https://www.csuci.edu/titleix/>.

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Book Chapters
1	3/25- 3/31	Introduction to Financial Management Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow Working with Financial Statements	1, 2, 3.3/3.4
2	4/1-4/7	Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	4, 5
3	4/8-4/14	Interest Rates and Bond Valuation	6
4	4/15-4/21	Dividends and Dividend Policy Equity Markets and Stock Valuation	14, 7
5	4/22-4/28	Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria Making Capital Investment Decisions	8, 9*
6	4/29-5/5	Some Lessons from Capital Market History Risk and Return	10,11
7	5/6-5/12	Cost of Capital	12
8	5/13-5/18	Capital Structure Theory Raising Capital	13*,15

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 term depending on the pace and needs of the class.