

FIN300 – BUSINESS FINANCE

(Section 1. Class Number 2006)

Term:	Spring 2025	Instructor:	Dr. Priscilla Liang
Classroom:	Smith Decision Center 1908	Class Schedule:	4:30 p.m. – 7:20 p.m. Th
Office:	MVS Hall 1179	Phone:	805 - 437 8926
E-mail:	Priscilla.liang@csuci.edu		
Office Hours:			

- Online office hours are on Tuesdays at <https://csuci.zoom.us/j/83944068551> (5:00 p.m.- 6 p.m.).
- Face-to-face office hours are on Thursdays (11:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m.) at MVS Hall 1179.

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.
 - 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).
 - 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.

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 Weights

- Homework Assignments (12% total weighting)
 - Homework assignments are designed to help students practice business finance problems. It is recommended that students work on homework assignments right after the current week's lectures and review them before the next week's class.
- Pop Quizzes and Review Quizzes (22% total weighting)
 - Pop quizzes will be given in class to check student learning progress and attendance. Some pop quiz questions could be similar to the weekly homework problems assigned.
 - Review quizzes will be given online after class meetings. Students should review course materials (i.e., re-read certain sections of a chapter text, listen to recorded class lectures, and review homework problems and class notes) and complete online review quizzes to reinforce learning.
- Group Course Project Analysis (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 the business finance decision-making process and develop critical thinking skills.
- Examinations (55% total weighting. Midterm exams 33%. Final exam 22%.)

- Students will complete 2 midterms and a final examination during the semester. The final exam is cumulative and will cover all the course materials assigned.
- The exams will be closed-book and will be based on lectures, readings, quizzes, homework, and other assignments.

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.

Course Policies

1. **No late assignment will be accepted under any circumstances.** However, if a student encounters an emergency situation such as illness, injury, or a family death, the student must inform me and provide documented proof (for example, a doctor's note) within 24 hours of the occurrence of the incident. In this situation only, the missing assignment will not count towards the student's final grade.
2. **No makeup examination** will be given unless a student encounters an emergency situation such as illness, injury, or a family death (Documented proof must be provided). In this situation only, if a student misses the midterm exam, the student has a choice to take a **cumulative make-up** exam during the final examination week.
3. **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.
4. **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.

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 Section 1 – Spring 2025, 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.

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Topics & Chapters
1	Course Administration
	Chapter 1: Introduction to Financial Management
	Chapter 2: Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow
2	Continue Chapter 2
	Chapter 3: Working with Financial Statements*
3	Chapter 4: Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money
	Chapter 5: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
4	Continue Chapter 5
5	<i>Midterm Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)</i>
	<i>Homework 1 is due before the exam</i>
	Chapter 6: Interest Rate and Bond Valuation
6	Continue Chapter 6
	Chapter 14: Dividends and Dividend Policy
7	Chapter 7: Equity Markets and Stock Valuation
8	Continue Chapter 7
9	Chapter 8: Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria
	Chapter 9: Making Capital Investment Decisions *
10	<i>Midterm Exam 2 (Chapters 6-18,14)</i>
	<i>Homework 2 is due before the exam</i>
	Chapter 10: Some Lessons from Capital Market History

11	Chapter 11: Risk and Return
12	Chapter 12: Cost of Capital
13	Continue Chapter 12
	Chapter 13: Leverage and Capital Structure*
14	Chapter 15: Raising Capital
15	Review for Final Exam
16	<i>Final Exam (Cumulative)</i>
	<i>Homework 3 is due before the exam</i>
	<i>Group Project is due before the exam</i>

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.