

COURSE SYLLABUS
FINC 5310 ONLINE: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
FALL 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Bala Maniam

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday/Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. (Main Campus)

Wednesday: 4:00 p.m. – 5:50 p.m. (Woodlands Campus)

Other time: By appointment

REQUIRED TEXT: *Corporate Finance: A Focused Approach* by Michael C. Ehrhardt and Eugene F. Brigham, 6th. Edition, Cengage Publication, 2017.

Note: You are also allowed to purchase older editions (if you prefer, since homework is not assigned for end of the chapter questions).

CALCULATOR: All students are required to have a Texas Instrument BA II Plus Professional business calculator. I will be using the Texas Instrument BA II Plus Professional business calculator during my lecture and in solving homework assignments. Please note the BA II Plus and BA II Plus Professional is different. Texas Instrument BA II Plus Professional calculator is the better calculator.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A thorough understanding of financial management is the core of this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To develop an understanding of and ability to utilize the financial principles as applied to the management of funds, capital budgeting, sources of funds, techniques of financial analysis, and cost of capital. Students are expected to achieve a working knowledge of the following topics:

1. Understand corporation and the role of financial manager.
2. Understand financial statements, cash flows and taxes and can do financial statement analysis
3. Understand time value of money and its application to corporate finance
4. Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to value bonds and stocks
5. Understand risk and return and opportunity cost of capital
6. Understand cost of capital

7. Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply the various tools of capital budgeting.

STUDENT SYLLABUS GUIDELINES: You may find detailed description of the following policies: Academic Dishonesty, Student Absences on Religious Holy Days, Students With Disabilities and Visitors In The Classroom in the following link: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

CLASS MEETINGS: Weekly web-based online lecture with one assignment will be due over each chapter.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: The course evaluation is based on the following criteria. Please take some time at the end of semester to do the faculty evaluation. Student feedback is important for continuous improvement of any course.

Essential Objectives

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
2. Learning to apply COURSE material

Important Objective

3. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing

IMBEDDED ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS: Assessment questions will be imbedded in the exams to evaluate the MBA program.

TEACHING METHOD: For each topic, you are required to read the textbook, and watch the online lecture, look over the worked-out examples, and then to do the assignment. Please note that the worked-out examples will help you better understand the chapter and the types of questions you may encounter in the assignments and exams. It should be noted that I cannot possibly do every possible variation of these questions, and hence it is very important that you understand them thoroughly and more importantly the conceptual theory behind them. I cannot emphasize this enough.

WATCHING LECTURE: The nature of the course necessitates that the chapters from the text and other assigned materials be read before watching the lesson video. Discussions will be presented with the assumption that materials have been read and studied by each student. There are topics and terms which are purely descriptive and will be discussed very briefly in the lecture.

USE OF BLACKBOARD: Blackboard will be utilized for this course to post the course syllabus, and course lecture notes and other material. Students are encouraged to check Blackboard regularly during the times they are preparing assignments and to interact with other students and the instructor as they may desire. If you have questions others may have similar questions and others may have some of the answers you seek. Just do not ask for answer to particular question.

Note: Different courses have different learning objectives. Per our IDEA evaluation system, the three objectives listed above are the most important ones for this course in my opinion. When you do the evaluation of this course at the end of the semester, you should ask yourself the question if these three objectives were the central theme of our course.

ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK: Students will be required to read assigned chapters in the text and then to complete the assignment(s) for those chapters. All the assignments will be done online (multiple-choice questions). Assignments will be graded and grades will be posted to the Grade Book. Assignment(s) is usually due the following week (Monday) after the chapter is assigned, although some assignments may be due on other days given the time constraint in the summer schedule. Please note you will be assigned a zero if the assignment is not submitted on time.

*Note: Online assignments are multiple choice questions that you must first work out the solution and then enter answers online. That way you just launch the assignment (open it) and enter the answers. PLEASE note you have one hour to complete the assignment once you open it. Detailed worked out solutions will be provided after the due date and at that time you may also see which questions you got right or wrong.

MODE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR:

I would strongly advise students to use the virtual office for any general questions regarding a chapter. You can always send the same question through the email. Usually I see the email first and hence the chances are higher I will get back sooner. I will not email back for specific answers except you have a question regarding an answer (which you think may be wrong or have a typo). It is very important that you follow proper email etiquette when you email me. Among other things, please put your name and course number in the subject line or when you sign off. For instance, John Smith – FINC 5310 Online

SYLLABUS/RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENT INFORMATION QUIZ: It is very important that the students read the syllabus carefully as well as look over the research paper requirements to understand the requirements of this course as well as be familiar with the course content on Blackboard. To ensure that every student have completed this task, we take a quiz on Blackboard. This quiz is worth 20 points and it consist of multiple-choice and true-false type questions.

EXAMS: Exams are designed to test your understanding of facts, concepts, and problem-solving methods. Your ability to perform well on exams will require a large amount of preparation involving **extensive individual practice** on problems and examples in the text. It is imperative that you understand that this is a graduate course and hence you will be tested on your ability to analyze questions critically. We cannot cover an exhaustive list of possible scenarios or types of questions I might asked you. Also, I do **not teach the test**. You need to learn the material in such a way that you can apply what you learn to solve the problems. In some of those problems, you will have to solve several variables before solving for the final answer. It is up to YOU to motivate yourself to devote the appropriate amount of time to such practice. There will be three regular

exams and a comprehensive final exam. No make-up exams will be given.

Note: It is important that you allocate at least 3 hours to do your exam. Also, please note that even if you have any technical glitch during your exam (Exam I through III) and hence you cannot complete your exam, you will get a zero. It is important that you understand this and be sure that your computer is up to speed and that you are ready for the exam. DO not open any other program during the exam. If you do, the system may boot you out of the exam.

BREAKDOWN OF COURSE GRADE:

Three Exams	600 points
Comprehensive Final Exam	200 points
Assignments	460 points
Syllabus Quiz	20 points
Research Paper Draft	50 points
Final Research Paper	<u>250 points</u>
Total	1580 points

The usual 90% or higher is an A, 80%-89.9% is a B, 70%-79.9% is a C, and below 70% is a F.

Date

August 23
August 23
August 28
September 3
September 5*
September 10
September 10
September 10
September 11
September 17
September 18
September 24
September 24
September 25
October 1
October 5 – 8
October 9
October 15
October 16
October 22
October 26 – 29
October 30
November 5

SUBJECT

Introduction to Course
Chapter 1: Overview of Financial Management
Chapter 2: Taxes
Syllabus Quiz Due (20 points)
Chapter 4: Time Value of Money
Assignment Chapter 1 Due (30 points)
Assignment Chapter 2 Due (30 points)
Research Paper Proposal Due
Continue Chapter 4: Time Value of Money
Assignment Chapter 4 Due (100 points)
Chapter 3: Analysis of Financial Statements
Assignment Chapter 3 Due (30 points)
Reference List Due
Chapter 5: Bond Valuation
Assignment Chapter 5 Due (50 points)
Exam I (Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 3)
Chapter 6: Risk and Return
Assignment Chapter 6 Due (60 points)
Chapter 7: Stock Valuation
Assignment Chapter 7 Due (50 points)
Exam II (Chapters 5, 6, and 7)
Chapter 9: Cost of Capital
Assignment Chapter 9 Due (60 points)

November 5	Research Paper Draft Due (50 points)
November 6	Chapter 10: The Basis of Capital Budgeting
November 12	Assignment Chapter 10 Due (50 points)
November 16 - 19	Exam III (Chapters 9 and 10)
November 20 - 25	Research Paper Completion Week
November 26	Final Research Paper Due (250 points)
November 27 – 29	Final Exam Review Week
November 30 - December 2- 5	Comprehensive Final Exam

RESEARCH PAPER: Every student is expected to turn in a twenty-page research paper. Both the draft and the final paper must be at least twenty pages and contain at least twenty peer-reviewed (journal) articles. It is important that students recognize that this is a project that cannot be completed overnight and it is very crucial that appropriate time is allocated for this task (from the beginning of the semester). It is also very important that the students pick a suggested topic early so that they can do a comprehensive literature search in the appropriate data base to gather their articles.

Writing Style

- Do not write in first person. For example, do not write “We will now look at....”
- Do not editorialize by writing “obviously” or “clearly”. Your reader may not find it obvious or clear.

Formatting

- Entire document should be in the same font, either Calibri or Times Roman, 12.
- Margins should be 1” on all sides.

Proofreading

- Grammar: Papers should not have Word (green underlined) warning of a grammatical error. Use that function to correct problems or reword the sentence.
- Spelling: Use spell check before submitting.

Content

- Add a Keywords section immediately following your abstract.

References

- Must be alphabetized
- Must only include the works cited in the paper
- Should be recent (no more than 8 years old) unless referencing historical information
- If you choose to use the hanging style, use Word’s paragraph feature to create. Do not try to space or tab the line indentation.

- Do not use Wikipedia as a source.

Specific Tasks

Task 1: All students are required to pick one topic from the list of suggested topics provided. Search the data base at SHSU for your research articles. One good place to start is JSTOR data base. Other good sources include Business Premier and Lexus Nexus as well as other academic sources. Please watch the research paper videos for additional information.

Task 2: Do an outline of the topic so you get a better idea on what direction you should take on your paper. A good outline will guide you in organizing your paper in a coherent and systematic manner. See the sample outline provided.

Task 3: You are required to submit a proposal of the paper by the due date. You must get my approval before proceeding with your research paper. See sample proposal provided.

Task 4: You are also required to compile at least twenty peer-reviewed (journal) articles for your research. You are required submit your references list by the due date. See sample reference list provided.

Task 5: Once your complete paper (draft) is ready, you need to submit it into turnitin.com to check for similarities, using the class ID and password provided. Open “How to turn in your paper into Turnitin.com” for more details. You must wait for about twenty-four hours to check turnitin.com to see how it rates your paper in terms of similarities. It will also provide a similarity index. The similarity index should be between 0% and 3% in your final paper (although in some cases 5% will be fine) The higher percentage should be an exception in some cases.

Task 6: You must fix those similarities before turning in your draft to me for evaluation. The draft is worth 50 points. Please note you may resubmit your paper into turnitin.com (as many times as you want) if you wish. But note that when you resubmit, please do so as a resubmission and not as a new submission.

Task 7: Once you have fixed the similarities, please submit your draft to me by the due date. Please note that this draft is worth 50 points. I will read your paper and provide my comments and concerns.

Task 8: You must incorporate my comments and concerns before resubmitting your revised paper into turnitin.com. Also, be sure to fix any new similarities identified by turnitin.com before submitting your final paper to me.

Task 9: You must submit a word document of your final paper online by the due date. Also, please email an electronic copy of the final paper to profbalamaniam@gmail.com (backup copy). The final paper is worth 250 points.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS: Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one (1) week of returning to class. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, must notify the instructor in writing of each scheduled class day that he/she will be absent for a religious holy day.

Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD): Individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely because of their disability, from participation in any academic program at Sam Houston State University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. Note: No accommodation can be made until you register and get approved through the Counseling Center. Phone: (936) 294-1720 and Email: disability@shsu.edu

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the class room. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action, per the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, as printed in Guidelines. Members of this class are subject to these guidelines.

A NOTE ABOUT YOU AND THIS COURSE

Students learn best in quite different ways. One of the advantage of the availability of online material for the course is that it allows students to approach the course in ways that suit their personal styles and preferences. In classrooms, instructors are inclined to teach either as they were taught or as they think the average student prefers. With an online course that offers online materials, all the instructor-presented class material is laid out in the form on video presentation, power-point slides, instructor's lecture notes, and worked out examples and students can do with it whatever they prefer to learn in as personal and unique a fashion as possible.

This course, by design, specifically accommodates different learning styles by involving a variety of components, including text, lecture video presentations, handouts, and power-points slides. Since you have probably learned as prescribed or required by a classroom teacher and are not used to designing your own learning strategy, it might take a little time to do that and to settle into a comfortable routine. I think you will find that as you figure out on your own how to learn the material, you're learning experience will be enhanced.