



Sam Houston State University

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL BUSINESS AND FINANCE

SYLLABUS – FINC 3310 SPRING 2018

COURSE TITLE: Financial Markets and Financial Institutions
INSTRUCTOR: Ray Sanders
E-MAIL: raysanderslpc@gmail.com
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
TEXT: *Financial Markets and Institutions 8th ed.*, F. Mishkin & S. Eakins, Pearson Publishing, 2015 http://wps.prenhall.com/bp_mishkin_finmkt8

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: There are many supplement materials (PowerPoint slides, review problems, etc.) to be found on Blackboard. I also periodically update materials or make announcements through Blackboard. Thus, it is important that you periodically check Blackboard for course updates and be certain that the email address listed on the Blackboard system is one that you regularly access or from which you have messages forwarded.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: A practical introduction to the workings of today's financial markets and financial institutions, providing students with an understanding between theoretical concepts and real world applications. Students completing this course will be prepared for successful careers in the financial services industry or successful interactions with financial institutions. Readings and case studies are utilized to provide a contemporary perspective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will improve their analytical abilities and concrete problem-solving skills while learning about financial markets. The major objectives of this course are:

- To build student's knowledge and understanding of financial markets and institutions.
- To provide students with a practical understanding of the fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories of financial markets and financial institutions.
- To introduce students to common terminology used in financial markets and financial institutions.
- To provide students with opportunities to build their skills in topic research and in expressing themselves both orally and in writing.

CLASS MEETINGS: The Woodlands Center, Wednesdays, 6:00pm – 8:50 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 and ending with the final exam on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 8:30pm – 10:30pm

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Class time will be devoted to highlighting important material from the chapter assigned, improving problem-solving skills, and working on topic research skills. It is assumed that you have read all assigned material carefully and completed the assigned homework **BEFORE** class begins.

COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS: There will be three unit exams and a final comprehensive exam as well as chapter quizzes, a term paper, and an oral presentation of that term paper. All assignments will receive equal weighting and be averaged together to determine the students final grade. Course grades are determined by applying the following scale to each student's weighted average as follows:

90.00 and above	A
80.00 to 89.99	B
70.00 to 79.99	C
60.00 to 69.99	D
Below 60.00	F

There will be three multiple choice unit exams and an optional comprehensive final exam (see Make-Up Exams below for further explanation). Exams will be given at the beginning of the class period indicated and students will have up to one and a half hours to complete the exam.

Your exams will be graded and returned to you for review. Problems with taking any exam(s) on the scheduled date(s) must be discussed with the instructor before the exam. The exams will count equally toward your final grade.

Homework will be assigned for each class in the form of a short quiz on the chapter assigned for that week. These will be posted to Blackboard, must be printed, and completed prior to the start of class. We will go over the questions in class, the quizzes will be taken up for recording the grades and then returned prior to the end of each class. No late assignments will be accepted. If an assignment is late a grade of zero (0) will be earned. Quizzes are designed to probe the student's understanding of the chapter concepts, theories, principles, definitions, and terminology, and to prepare the student for the unit exams. The total of the quizzes will count equally toward your final grade.

A term paper will be required on a topic each student will select from a list provided by the instructor or any other instructor-approved financial topic. Only one student may pick a specific topic, so it will be on a first come first served basis. Please let me know when you have selected a topic so I can confirm it has not already been picked. Term papers will have the following requirements: minimum of four (4) fully typed pages with 1" margins and font of 12pt on the topic picked, plus an End Notes reference page with MLA format with at least three (3) different references, and a header page with your name, class, topic picked, and the date of presentation. These papers are designed to help the student communicate in writing their understanding of a financial topic and should include the student's opinion about the topic and its affects. The student will also give an oral and PowerPoint presentation of their paper to the class summarizing the topic discussed in the paper. Each presentation should be at least four minutes and no more than seven minutes. Your grade will reflect your skills in presenting to a group and in your understanding the topic being discussed. Papers and presentations will be divided into two groups by the instructor. Your term paper and oral presentation will be averaged equally toward your final grade.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: No make-up exams will be given. If an exam is missed, a grade of zero (0) will be assigned. If more than one exam is missed, a score of zero (0) will be retained for those missed exams. Under very rare circumstances, a make-up exam may be arranged. This highly unlikely occurrence is at the totally arbitrary discretion of your instructor. Each student has the option to drop their final exam if the student is pleased with their combined averaged grade at the end of the semester before the final is taken. If the student wishes to take the final exam, then that final exam grade can replace the lowest of your exam scores if it will improve their grade. There will be NO extra credit assignment opportunities given, however there are bonus point opportunities on each unit exam.

ATTENDANCE: Regular class attendance is necessary and expected to do well in this course. Attendance will be taken for each scheduled class period. If you come in late, please check with the instructor to make sure you are marked as being in attendance. A seating chart will be circulated at the beginning of the second class period. Your seat at that time will become your permanent seat. This will help me learn your names more quickly and help you learn the names of your classmates. One class period, equal to three hours, can be missed without penalty, except for examination days and presentation days. For each hour missed from the 4th through the 7th, 1-point will be subtracted from the final grade for each hour missed. All absences totaling 8 hours or more will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- Students are expected to remove their caps, hats, or other headgear while in class.
- Eating and drinking are strictly prohibited in the classroom with the exception of bottled water.
- I expect you to be respectful and courteous to others. Cell phones, and anything else that rings, beeps, or otherwise disturbs the class and/or your instructor should be disabled for the duration of the class.
- During class, you may use your computer only for class-related activities. These include activities such as taking notes on the lecture underway or following the lecture on the PowerPoint slides provided on Blackboard. If you use your computer in ways that are deemed disruptive by your classmates or your instructor, you will be asked to turn the computer off.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see the [SHSU Academic Honesty Policy](#).

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20..." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see the [SHSU Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy](#).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the 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 should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Tentative Course Outline

Date	Discussion	Reading	Quiz Due
January 17, 2018	Introduction, Syllabus, Chapter 2	Chapter 2	none
January 24, 2018	Chapter 9 Central Banks	Chapter 9	Chapter 2 & 9
January 31, 2018	Chapter 10 Monetary Policy	Chapter 10	Chapter 10
February 7, 2018	Chapter 17 Banking & Management	Chapter 17	Chapter 17
February 14, 2018	Unit Exam 1 – Chapters 2, 9, 10, 17	Work on Term Paper	& Presentation
February 21, 2018	Chapter 11 Money Market	Chapter 11	Chapter 11
February 28, 2018	Chapter 12 Bond Market	Chapter 12	Chapter 12
March 7, 2018	Chapter 13 Stock Market	Chapter 13	Chapter 13
March 14, 2018	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS	
March 21, 2018	Unit Exam 2 – Chapters 11, 12, 13	Work on Term Paper	& Presentation
March 28, 2018	Chapter 14 Mortgage Market	Chapter 14	Chapter 14
April 4, 2018	Chapter 20 Mutual Funds	Chapter 20	Chapter 20
April 11, 2018	Chapter 21 Insurance & Pension Funds	Chapter 21	Chapter 21
April 18, 2018	Unit Exam 3 – Chapters 14, 20, 21	Work on Term Paper	& Presentation
April 25, 2018	All Term Papers Due / 1 st half Presentations		
May 2, 2018	2 nd Half of Presentations		
May 9, 2018	OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM	Comprehensive	

Term Paper Topics

Bit Coin – A new internet currency?

Apple Pay – Is it for me?

Mining for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies?

Why should I invest for retirement?

EMV chip cards – Do we need them?

Square vs. Pay Pal – which is better?

Virtual Wallet – Is it here to stay?

M-PESA. Kenya's money alternative.

Future of on-line banking – What's next?

Can my bank account get hacked?

Tax Reform – What happens to the consumer?

Tax Reform – What happens to the IRS?

Amazon vs. Wal-Mart, who's worried?

Apple vs. Androids, what's in the future?

A case for online shopping only?

When is the next stock market crash?

Private Equity Investor's role in the future.

Venture Capital's role in the future.

Banking trends for 2018 & why the change?

Critical issues facing Banks in 2018.

Changing Bank regulations and how consumers are affected.

What cyber risks do financial markets face in the future?

How will Investment Management Companies attract millennial investors?

The “Fiduciary Rule” and how it affects Life Insurance & Annuity Companies futures.

What affects have Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria had on P&C Insurance companies?

Will rising interest rates help Life Insurance companies why or why not?

Credit Union vs. Bank – What's the difference and why do I care?

Future of Fintechs and why are they leading innovation in the banking industry?

The “Bull Market” for stocks, will it continue?

When will the “Bear Market” return and what will be the leading indicators?

Oil prices, Gold prices, and Interest rates. Do they move together or not?

Using interest rate hedges and other financial derivatives. Are they good or bad? Why?

Cryptocurrency and money laundering. What's the risk?

Regulatory approval of Bitcoin, will it ever happen? Why or why not?