



FINC 3310 - 01

Spring 2018

Financial Institutions & Markets

Instructor: Karen Sherrill, Ph.D.
Email: kesherrill@shsu.edu
Class Meetings: Monday and Wednesday 9:30-10:50 AM
Class Location: SHB 138
Office Hours: 11:00 – 12:00 AM and 3:30-4:30 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays or by appointment. I'm also available via e-mail.
Office Location: 210G
Office Phone: (936) 294-4558
Department: Department of General Business and Finance
Credit Hours: 3

Course Description:

This course will emphasize critical thinking skills in addition to being an introduction to key concepts in Finance. We will explore the structure of the financial system with emphasis on the role, operations, and regulations of financial institutions and markets. The nature, participants, instruments, and relationships of the money and capital markets will be examined.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the function of the financial system
2. Understand the operations and structure of Federal Reserve System
3. Understand the basics of banking
4. Understand the basics of the bond market
5. Understand the basics of the stock market
6. Understand the basics of the money market
7. Understand the basics of the mortgage market
8. Understand the basics of insurance and pension funds
9. Understand interest rates and their role in valuation

Course Textbook:

Financial Markets & Institutions; Mishkin and Eakins, 8th Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2015

ISBN#: 978-0-13-342362-4



Course Coverage: Below is a (tentative) list of the chapters we will cover.

Chapter 2	Overview of the Financial System
Chapter 9	Central Banks and the Federal Reserve System
Chapter 10	Conduct of Monetary Policy: Tools, Goals, Strategy, and Tactics
Chapter 17	Banking and the Management of Financial Institutions
Chapter 3	What Do Interest Rates Mean and What is Their Role in Valuation?
Chapter 11	The Money Markets
Chapter 12	The Bond Market
Chapter 13	The Stock Market
Chapter 14	The Mortgage Markets
Chapter 20	The Mutual Fund Industry
Chapter 21	Insurance Companies and Pension Funds
Chapter 22	Investment Banks, Security Brokers and Dealers, and Venture Capital Firms

Grading: Students' grades will be determined by a basic point scale and a standard university grade distribution. There will be three examinations, worth a combined total of 80% of your grade. There will be a number of homework assignments worth a combined 10% of your grade. There will be a number of critical thinking exercises that will be worth 10% of your grade.

Exam I = 26.67%

Exam II = 26.67%

Exam III = 26.67%

Homework = 10%

Critical thinking exercises = 10%

The points accrued by students will be assigned a letter grade based on the following scale.

Letter	Points
A	90 and higher
B	80 to 89.99
C	70 to 79.99
D	60 to 69.99
F	59.9 and below

Student Requirements: The material presented is chosen specifically for the likelihood that it is either relevant to you now or will be within the next few years. There will be information provided in class that is NOT in the book. There is also information in the book that is NOT presented in class. Students are responsible for ALL material covered in class and in the reading assignments.

Attendance: You are strongly encouraged to attend class meetings. I will add 3% in extra credit points for all students who do not miss more than 3 classes in the semester. This means you can miss 3 classes and still get the 3% but if you miss 4 classes you do not get the points. It is all or nothing. Repeated lateness to class will count as an absence. So **if you are habitually**



late, you will NOT receive the 3%. Material discussed in class may not be on the slides or in the book and may be on the test. You are responsible for this material whether you are in attendance or not.

Attention: It is expected that not only do you attend class, but that you pay attention while in class. EAR BUDs, HEAD PHONES or other LISTENING DEVICES are NOT ALLOWED in class. If you are using any of these or are consistently and repeatedly on your phone or other electronic device for purposes other than note taking, you will NOT receive your attendance extra credit points. This is at my discretion. I will be the judge determining if you are on your phone excessively during class.

Examinations: Please note that these dates are tentative. If I decide to change them, I will provide advance notification.

- Exam I – Chapters 2,9,10, and 17 Wednesday February 21
- Exam II – Chapters 3,11,12, and 13 Wednesday April 4
- Exam III – Chapters 14, 20, 21, and 22 Given during finals week – May 7-10

The Exams cover the chapters listed above. The exams are not cumulative, but material covered in one chapter may be relevant in a subsequent chapter and it is expected that you are familiar with material covered previously.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams may be administered for excused absences only. Excused absences **require documentation**. If a student misses an examination for any unexcused non-emergency, he or she will receive a zero. If a student knows beforehand that he or she will miss an examination, they must contact me immediately. Make up exams may be different from those administered during class.

Homework: I will assign homework problems for the material we cover in class. The homework will be assigned with a due date and posted in the Blackboard site. You are responsible for submitting the homework on the due date whether you are in class on the due date or not. The homework will be graded. Your overall average grade on the homework assignments will be worth 10% of your total grade.

Homework assignments must be submitted in hardcopy, **not electronically** in order to get credit. Homework assignments must be done in a neat and legible manner. Points will be taken off for sloppy, unstructured, or difficult to read submissions.

Homework is due on the due date. If you are absent for an excused reason, please contact me before the due date and make arrangements for submitting the homework. Failure to do so results in a zero for the assignment. **THERE IS NO LATE HOMEWORK SUBMISSION ALLOWED FOR ANY REASON!!!**



Critical Thinking Exercises: I will assign critical thinking exercises for the material we cover in class. These will be various assignments where you will have to evaluate information and draw your own conclusions. These will be assigned with a due date and posted in Blackboard. The assignments will be graded. Your overall average grade on the critical thinking assignments will be worth 10% of your total grade.

Excused Absences: Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family, and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, and religious holy days. **You must have documentation in order to be excused.**

Even if you have an excused absence, you are still responsible for all material covered while you were out and you are responsible for any assignments during your absence.

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be offered, it is solely at my discretion. Grading of extra credit work and assigning of points is again, solely at my discretion. Any extra credit assignments offered will be offered to everyone, however, they may be assigned in class and may or may not be posted on the Blackboard site.

Other: Once class is over, I will not assign any more assignments. There is no opportunity for extra credit after the end of the regular class sessions. If you are worried about your grade, please come see me well in advance of the final week.

Please visit the following site for other important policies:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>