

FINC 6532 - FINANCE
Expanded Course Outline
Thursday 7:00-9:30 PM, Adamson 117
Spring 2016

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Office: Adamson Hall - 205B
Office Hours: T&TH: 1:00-3:30 PM
W: 1:00-4:00 PM
Th: 5:00-7:00 PM
also by appointment (I am in the office most days; feel free to “drop-in.”)

The policy of the University of West Georgia is that each student is responsible for checking his/her my.westga.edu email account on a regular basis.

I. Catalog Description:

A study of the major financial tools and techniques through problem solving and case studies.

II. Required Background or Experience:

A. Prerequisite: FINC 3511

B. Prerequisite Justification:

Basic knowledge of finance and present is value needed in order to work with security valuation, risk/return trade off, capital budgeting analysis, financial data, security markets, financial instruments, and cost of capital analysis.

C. General Education (Core) Contribution:

The course uses the writing skills developed in English courses, oral skills developed in speech courses, mathematical methods and critical thinking acquired in mathematics courses. In addition, the course uses basic accounting knowledge gained in ACCT 2101, 2102, legal knowledge from BUSA 2106, and familiarity with a spreadsheet program.

III. Expected Outcomes and Course Learning Objective

A. Improve communication effectiveness in oral and written presentations--LG 1.

B. Apply quantitative skills to business problems—LG 5.

C. Have an understanding of political, legal, and ethical considerations that affect the economic environment and decision making in corporations--LG 4, 5.

D. Develop the ability to read financial statements and financial information—LG 5.

E. Expand mastery of spreadsheet and word processing skill- LG 5.

F. Understand in detail financial principals, institutions, and management in corporate activities--LG 5.

Specific Course Learning Objective: Students comprehend and apply accounting information to evaluate financial performance, value financial securities, value the firm, and make value enhancement decisions.

IV. Text and References:

Required is Fundamentals of Corporate Finance: A Focused Approach, Ehrhardt and Brigham, South-Western Cengage Learning (copyright 2013 or later), 5th edition. There are multiple ISBN; the one used by Amazon is 978-1133947530. Textbook decision made by instructor.

V. Special or Unique Student Material:

A financial calculator with a “cash flow” button is needed. Examples: HP 10B, TI BAI Plus, TI 83 (mildly preferred) is needed for exams. A calculator or spreadsheet software is needed for quizzes. During Exams, you are not allowed to use any device with a “wireless” connection (e.g. smartphone, iPad, tablet, laptop, etc.) as a calculator. The project requires spreadsheet software.

VI. Special or Unique University Facilities:

Access to a personal computer with spreadsheet and word processing programs as provided by the student lab. http://www.westga.edu/~chodges/html/finc_6532.html is the location of the course Webpage. CourseDen (D2L) will be used to distribute information and administer quizzes.

VII. Expanded Description of the Course and Instructional Method:

A. Expanded Description of the Course:

The course provides a conceptual framework within which key financial decisions and risks relating to corporations are analyzed. This analysis considers shareholder wealth maximization, the firm’s relationship to its environment, interpretation of accounting data, use of present value analysis and capital budgeting, financial risk management, capital acquisition analysis, capital structure decision, valuation of financial instruments, identification and valuation of real and financial options.

B. Instructional Methods:

1. Lecture and Problem Solving: Topics are discussed via lectures, problem solving, and student generated topics. During lectures, students contribute through their comments and their evaluation of analytical problems. Classes will typically be devoted to analytical problem solving and student generated discussions, while conceptual lectures will be delivered via streaming video. Students may view the conceptual lectures in either a group or individual setting.
2. Individual Research Project: There will be a multi-part graded assignment. The graded assignments and instructions are provided via the module labeled “Company Analysis Project.” This project requires you to apply much of the knowledge you obtain during the course of the semester. It allows you to examine an actual company by applying the analytical methods discussed in class. The project is designed to have a class average of above 90.
3. Quizzes: D2L based quizzes are used as a substitute for homework questions and problems. A quiz is created for each chapter covered in the course. The quizzes are due one week after we cover a chapter. These quizzes are diagnostic in nature, in that their purpose is to allow students to determine areas needing further study. As multiple attempts are allowed on each quiz, and only the highest grade for each quiz is used in calculating quiz grades, it is anticipated that most students will average close to 100 on the quizzes.

VIII. Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:

A. Evaluation Tools:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Individual Project | 18% |
| 2 Minute Feedbacks | 2% |
| Quizzes | 30% |
| Midterm exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

There is no extra credit in this course. Work submitted for credit in other courses will not be accepted for credit in this course.

B. Learning Domains:

1. Cognitive: Knowledge, Comprehension, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation.
2. Affective: Receiving, Responding, Valuing, Organization, and Characterization.

IX. Tentative Schedule

| Week: | Chapter(s) | Topic |
|-------------|---|-------|
| January 14 | Orientation | |
| | Chapter 1 (Overview of Financial Management) | |
| January 21 | Chapter 2 (Review of Financial Statements) | |
| January 28 | Chapter 3 (Financial Statement Analysis) | |
| February 4 | Chapters 4 (Time Value of Money and Intro to Valuation) | |
| February 11 | Chapter 5 (Bond Valuation and Interest Rates) | |
| February 18 | Chapter 6 (Risk and Return and the CAPM) | |
| February 25 | Exam Preparation | |
| March 3 | Mid-Term Exam | |
| March 10 | Mid-Term Exam review | |
| | Chapter 7 (Stock Valuation) | |
| March 24 | Chapter 9 (Weighted Average Cost of Capital) | |
| March 31 | Chapter 10 (Making Capital Budgeting Decisions) | |
| April 7 | Chapter 11 (Cash Flow Estimation and Project Risk Analysis) | |
| April 14 | Chapter 8 (Options) | |
| April 21 | Chapter 15 (Capital Structure) | |
| | Exam Preparation | |
| | Project Due | |

Final Exam: April 28, Thursday, 7:00-9:30 PM

NOTE 1: The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is March 3.

NOTE 2: This course covers the following AACSB perspectives:

- Influence of legal and regulatory issues
- Written communication
- Social issues
- Ethical issues

NOTE 3: This course covers the following teaching objectives:

- developing written communication skills
- develops analytical/critical thinking
- encourages social responsibility

NOTE 4: Credit Hour Policy (3 credit hours): Students in this class will spend 2.5 hours (150 minutes) per week with faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online). Generally, students can expect to spend about 5 hours of class work outside of the classroom each week. This out-of-class work may include, but is not limited to, individual quizzes, reading the chapters before a topic is covered in class, group assignments/ projects, research, and test preparation. The amount of out of class time required for a given outcome will vary by student.

NOTE 5: Please carefully review the information at the following link:

http://www.westga.edu/assets/Dept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf. The document at this link contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.