

**FINC 6532-FINANCE**  
**Expanded Course Outline**  
**Thursdays 7:00-9:45 PM, Miller Hall 2214**  
**Spring 2018**

**Professor:** Charles Hodges  
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**Office:** ADAMSON 205B  
**Office Hours:** T, Th: 12:30-3:30 PM  
**W: 1:00-5:00 PM (may be virtual)**  
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](mailto: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 2016 or later), 6th edition. There are multiple ISBN; the one used by Amazon is 978-1-305-63710-8. Textbook decision made by instructor.

**V. Special or Unique Student Material:**

A financial calculator with a “cash flow” button is needed. Examples include the HP 10B, TI BAII Plus, TI 83 (mildly preferred). A calculator or spreadsheet software is needed for quizzes. 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. All needed materials are available in CourseDen (D2L). CourseDen will be used to distribute information and administer quizzes. Should CourseDen be unavailable, [http://www.westga.edu/~chodges/FINC\\_6532/finc\\_6532.html](http://www.westga.edu/~chodges/FINC_6532/finc_6532.html) is the link to the public Webpage.

**VII. Expanded Description of the Course, Instructional Method, and Administrative Policies:**

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 knowledge you obtained during the semester. You examine an actual company applying 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. 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.
4. **Exams:** Your Midterm and Final Exams are inclass exams. More details will be given as we approach the exams.

C. Attendance Policy:

1. Information regarding test scores will not be given out over the telephone. If you are absent when exams are returned, you must contact me in person to receive grade information. Requests for adjustments to exam scores must be made in writing within ONE WEEK of the return of the test. Only WRITTEN requests will be considered.
2. Attendance Policy:
  - a) **Regular Class Meetings:** You are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance will be taken each class period; using a seating chart or sign up sheet (the seating chart helps me to learn everyone’s name). Each absence, whether

excused or unexcused, beyond the first will result in a 1-point reduction in your overall course average. If you miss more than five class sessions, you will be dropped from the class. Attendance is a zero sum game. All points deducted from students missing more than one class will be proportionally allocated to students missing two or fewer classes.

- b) **Scheduled Exams:** Makeup exams will likely be more difficult than the scheduled exams and may include an oral portion. If your absence from an exam is not excused, you will receive a zero for that exam. If possible, please notify me in advance if you know you will be unable to take an exam at the scheduled time. In any event, you must notify me within two class days of the missed exam, or the absence will not be excused and you will receive a grade of 0 on the exam.
  - c) **General:** You are responsible for knowledge of any administrative announcements (test information, schedule changes, etc.) that are made at any time during scheduled class periods regardless of whether you attend. It is recommended that you make a reciprocal agreement with a classmate to share missed notes and other class information.
3. **Code of Conduct:** Honesty and integrity are necessary to the academic and professional functions of business. Acts of dishonesty undermine the basic foundation of the academic environment. Improper academic conduct on the part of students shall be interpreted to mean the obtaining and using of information during an examination by means other than those permitted by the instructor, including the supplying of such information to other students. All forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and falsification of academic records are subject to disciplinary action.
  4. **Extra Credit:** I do not give extra credit. I do not give credit for work done in other courses.

### **VIII. Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:**

#### **A. Evaluation Tools:**

Individual Project	10%
2 Minute Feedbacks	2%
Quizzes	33%
Midterm exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

#### **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 11	Orientation	
	Chapter 1 (Overview of Financial Management)	
January 18	Chapter 2 (Review of Financial Statements)	
January 25	Chapter 3 (Financial Statement Analysis)	
February 1	Chapters 4 (Time Value of Money and Intro to Valuation)	
February 8	Chapter 5 (Bond Valuation and Interest Rates)	
February 15	Chapter 6 (Risk and Return and the CAPM)	
	Exam Preparation	

February 22	Mid-Term Exam
March 1	Chapter 7 (Stock Valuation/Capital Markets History)
March 8	Chapter 9 (Weighted Average Cost of Capital)
March 15	Chapter 10 (Making Capital Budgeting Decisions)
March 22	No classes, Spring Break
March 29	Chapter 11 (Cash Flow Estimation and Project Risk Analysis)
April 5	Chapter 8 (Options)
April 12	Chapter 8 (Options)
April 19	Chapter 15 (Capital Structure)
April 26	Exam Preparation
	Project Due
<b>Final Exam:</b>	<b>May 3, 7-9 pm</b>

NOTE 1: The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is **February 28**.

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 3.0 hours (180 minutes) per week with faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online). Generally, students can expect to spend about 6 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:

[https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common\\_language\\_for\\_course\\_syllabi\\_v2.pdf](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.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.