Course Information

Instructor: Christina Fusch, DBA
Phone: (206) 735-0696 (you can text me)
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This is an introduction to financial management. The course examines a firm's need for funds; the institutions, instruments and markets concerned with raising funds; and the techniques of analysis used to determine how effectively these funds, once raised, are invested within the firm.

Prerequisites: ECON 1002, MATH 1105, ACCTNG 2400, INFSYS 2800, and a minimum overall GPA of 2.0.

Please note: you are responsible for knowing what is on this syllabus.
Please note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus during the course as needed.

Course Objectives (Student Competencies & Outcomes)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to...
1. Define and explain the financial environment.
2. Provide an integrated framework of the financial management of corporations.
3. Examine and demonstrate the many tools and techniques employed by finance.
4. Assess the balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows through the lens of financial management.
5. Explain and evaluate the time value of money.

Required Materials


A Financial Calculator. This should have N, i/y, PV, PMT, and FV Functions. The TI-BAlI Plus model or HP-10B model are good calculators (at about $30 at the bookstore and mass merchandisers) for this and more advanced finance courses. You could also use an app on your phone, but try to find one that fits one of the models listed above so you can follow the guides to program it.

Connect Course Page: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/fin3500sp2021

Please Note: when appropriate, the instructor will assign articles and outside reading materials

Time Requirements

If this course were offered on campus, you’d be in class 2.5 hours/week plus travel time. The online version is no different in terms of expectations for your involvement. This is an active online course that requires 3 hours of your time each week in addition to the time it takes you to read the required materials, watch the videos, and complete the assignments. That means that you need to plan to spend a minimum of 6 hours every week (up to 9-10 hours a week) on activities related to this course. If you are worried about your preparedness, consider taking the Online Readiness Survey to help decide if an online course is right for you.

Technology Requirements

As a student in an online course, you are expected to have reliable internet access almost every day. If you have computing problems, it is your responsibility to address these or to use campus computing labs. Problems with your computer or other technology issues are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations and missed deadlines for the course. If you have a problem, get help in solving it immediately. At a minimum, you will need the following software/hardware to participate in this course:
1. Computer with an updated operating system (e.g. Windows, Mac, Linux)
2. Updated Internet browsers (Apple Safari, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox)
3. Ability to navigate Canvas (Learning Management System)
4. Minimum Processor Speed of 1 GHz or higher recommended.
5. DSL or Cable Internet connection or a connection speed no less than 6 Mbps.
6. Media player such as VLC Media Player.
7. Adobe Flash player (free)
8. Adobe Reader or alternative PDF reader (free)

Technology problems are not the responsibility or specialty of the instructor. It is your responsibility to seek help from the above resources in order to complete your assignments on time.

If this is your first online course, it is recommended that you log into Canvas and complete the Online Course Overview listed in your Canvas course list. If you’ve already completed the orientation, you do not have to retake it but you can refer to it for helpful videos and tutorials about the technologies used in this course.

Connect

Successful completion of student responsibilities in this class also requires access to Connect via an Internet browser. Our course page is: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/fin3500sp2021
You are expected to login to the Connect classroom at least 1 time per week. You will need access to Connect to take the class homework, quizzes, and exams. Technical support can be accessed by clicking the Help tab in the top right corner of the screen or visiting https://mhedu.force.com/CXG/s/.

Technology problems are not the responsibility or specialty of the instructor. Therefore, it is your responsibility to seek help from the above resources in order to complete your assignments on time.

Grading Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>4 Exams</th>
<th>16 Connect Homework</th>
<th>16 Connect Quizzes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = 940&lt;</td>
<td>870-899</td>
<td>770-799</td>
<td>740-769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- = 900-939</td>
<td>840-869</td>
<td>740-769</td>
<td>700-739</td>
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<tr>
<td>B = 800-839</td>
<td>770-799</td>
<td>740-769</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+ = 810-899</td>
<td>C+ = 770-799</td>
<td>D+ = 670-699</td>
<td>F = &lt;599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C = 740-769</td>
<td>D = 640-669</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C- = 700-739</td>
<td>D- = 600-639</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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FAQ: How do I know my grade?
The total points possible in this course are 1000. You can calculate your grade by adding all the points you have on assignments and matching the number to the scale above. For example, you need between 740 and 769 points for a C grade, or at least 940 points for an A grade. You can also monitor your homework, quiz, and exam grades on Connect.

Letter Grades:
- “Incomplete” and “V”: Please note that I do not grant either of these grades except in very extreme medical cases and only at my own discretion. Moreover, you must have completed all
assignments in the course with the exception of the fourth exam and have a passing grade to even be considered.

- “S”, “Audit”, “W”: These letter grades are between you and the registrar, I play no role in them. It is your responsibility to know the final dates to apply for these – please see the Academic Calendar at [www.umsl.edu/services/academic/publications/calendar/academic_calendar.html](http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/publications/calendar/academic_calendar.html).

**FAQ: Is there Extra Credit in this class?**

There is no guarantee that there will be any extra credit in this course. Remember that extra credit is a privilege, not a right. You should focus on doing your best on the work assigned in the course. If I see an opportunity for extra credit, I will provide the details. But please note: I want you to focus on the course assignments, so the extra credit will most likely be additional and more difficult material.

**When to Expect Your Grades**

The homework, quizzes, and exams are automated by the *Connect* software so you should have immediate feedback on your work.

**Checking Your Grades**

Take charge of your education! Be an active learner and dedicate yourself to your success. Keep an eye on your grades on *Connect* every week. If there is a discrepancy, e-mail me and put it in writing. Follow up *before* the end of the course. If there is a problem, don’t wait 5 weeks to ask me about it. Follow up. Be sure to come to class so you can get the latest announcements on grading and opportunities for improvement.

**Special Needs**

UMSL is committed to providing its students access to education. Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact Disability Access Services (DAS) immediately. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the office of DAS in order to receive official university services and accommodations. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. Information about your disability is confidential. Once DAS reviews your medical documentation, they will provide you with the information and steps to inform me about the accommodations to which you are entitled. Your accommodations will begin as soon as we discuss your approved accommodations. To contact DAS: 144 Millennium Student Center, (314) 516-6554, cramert@umsl.edu, and/or [http://www.umsl.edu/services/disability](http://www.umsl.edu/services/disability)
Connect Homework

Course Objectives: This assignment meets course objectives 1-5 (please see page 1 for list).

Purpose: If the course material is the foundation to achieving the course objectives, the homework is the first step to help you learn the course material through application of the financial frameworks. The homework is also designed to prepare you for class and to succeed on the quizzes and exams.

Process: There are 3 steps that you will need to conduct:

1. Log on to our Connect course page: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/fin3500sp2021
2. On our course homepage, select the “Homework” folder
3. Select and take the appropriate homework

Procedure: There are 16 homework assignments in this course, based on each chapter of the textbook you are required to read. These are Corporate Finance chapters 1-14, 16, and 17 (we skip chapter 15). Each homework has 15 questions, including multiple choice, worksheet, and excel simulations. Each question is worth 1 point for a total of 15 points per homework. You will have unlimited attempts and no time limit to complete the homework. All questions are randomized for each student and on each attempt. It is open book, notes, and internet. But you must work on the homework by yourself.

Due Dates: All the homework are due Saturday, May 15th at 11:59pm, the last day of the semester. Yes, that means you have until the last day of the semester to complete all the homework. You’re not imagining this. This is my attempt to give you the ultimate flexibility and low-pressure environment to practice with the material. But keep in mind, the homework is meant to prepare you for the quizzes and exams. If you leave them until the last minute, you are missing out on valuable practice that you get credit for. So time management here, set your schedule early on and stick to it.

Late Policy: The only due date is the last day of the semester, Saturday, May 15th at 11:59pm. But I strongly recommend that you keep up every week with the assigned homework. I have scheduled them to complement the course material and prepare you for the quizzes and exams. The decision is yours, but having to take 16 homework at the end of the course does not sound like very much fun. Please note that the Connect system will shut down the homework at the deadline so you will no longer be able to view or take them. If you wait until May 15th and have some kind of emergency, there will not be anything I can do to help you. So plan ahead.

FAQ: What if I disagree with the answer? Let me know and we will talk about it. I cannot promise you your point back, but I will hear you out. Any inquiries need to be made before the end of the last day of the session on Saturday, May 15th at 11:59pm.

FAQ: What if my technology, internet, or power fails? Know your options. If there is a problem with Connect, immediately contact Connect (https://mhedu.force.com/CXG/s/) and record your ticket number. On your end, try to keep this from happening by using a computer on campus or somewhere else you trust the connection and electricity. Plan ahead: complete your work at least a day before the due date so you have buffer time. If you wait to do your work until the night it is due and something happens, or you wait weeks to reach out to me on a problem – I reserve the right to do nothing.

Grading: Homework are graded by the Connect system. Correct answers will receive a point, incorrect answers will not. There is no partial credit. If you have concerns, it is your responsibility to contact me within a week of when you took the homework and before the end of the semester.
**Connect Quizzes**

**Course Objectives:** This assignment meets course objectives 1-5 (please see page 1 for list).

**Purpose:** The quizzes are designed to help you practice applying the course material and get ready for the exams. Use the quizzes as a way to test your knowledge of the course material to be sure you are learning what you need to know for the exams.

**Process:** There are 3 steps that you will need to conduct:

1. Log on to our Connect course page: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/fin3500sp2021
2. On our course homepage, select the “Quizzes” folder
3. Select and take the appropriate Quiz

**Procedure:** There are 16 quizzes in this course, based on each chapter of the textbook you are required to read. These are *Corporate Finance* chapters 1-14, 16, and 17 (we skip chapter 15). Each quiz has 15 questions, including multiple choice, worksheet, and excel simulations. Each question is worth 1 point for a total of 15 points per quiz. You will have **three** attempts and no time limit to complete each quiz. All questions are randomized for each student and on each attempt. It is open book, notes, and internet. But you must work on the quiz by yourself.

**Late Policy:** The only due date is the last day of the session, **Saturday, May 15th at 11:59pm**. But I strongly recommend that you **keep up every week** with the assigned quiz. I have scheduled them to complement the course material and prepare you for the exams. The decision is yours, but having to take 16 chapter quizzes at the end of the course does not sound like very much fun. **Please note that the Connect system will shut down the quizzes at the deadline so you will no longer be able to view or take them.** If you wait until May 15th and have some kind of emergency, there will not be anything I can do to help you. **So plan ahead.**

**FAQ:** *What if I disagree with the answer?* Let me know and we will talk about it. I cannot promise you your point back, but I will hear you out. Any inquiries need to be made before the end of the last day of the session on **Saturday, May 15th at 11:59pm**.

**FAQ:** *What if my technology, internet, or power fails?* Know your options. If there is a problem with Connect, immediately contact Connect (https://mhedu.force.com/CXG/s/) and record your ticket number. On your end, try to keep this from happening by using a computer on campus or somewhere else you trust the connection and electricity. Plan ahead: complete your work at least a day before the due date so you have buffer time. If you wait to do your work until the night it is due and something happens, or you wait weeks to reach out to me on a problem – I reserve the right to do nothing. Keep in mind that you have 3 attempts on the quizzes, so figure out how to do your best within those 3 attempts.

**Grading:** Quizzes are graded by the **Connect** system. Correct answers will receive a point, incorrect answers will not. There is no partial credit. If you have concerns, it is your responsibility to contact me within a week of when you took the quiz and before the end of the semester.
Exams

Course Objectives: This assignment meets course objectives 1-5 (please see page 1 for list).

Purpose: Reading is one of the best ways to achieve knowledge. It is important that you read, reflect, and analyze your textbook. It introduces the basic patterns of finance so is thus important to understand your textbook to achieve the course objectives. The homework and Canvas materials helped you learn the material while the quizzes helped you test your knowledge. The exams are designed for you to demonstrate and solidify your knowledge.

Process: There are 3 steps that you will need to conduct:

1. Log on to our Connect course page: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/fin3500sp2021
2. On our course homepage, select the “Exams” folder
3. Select and take the appropriate Exam

Procedure: You will have 120 minutes to take each exam. You only get one attempt on each exam. Expect 15-50 questions, a number I will adjust depending on the content. If you have been practicing the homework and doing the quizzes, the exam questions will be very familiar. Each exam is 130 points. Use your financial calculator, textbook, and any notes you want. You must work on and complete the exam by yourself. There are 4 exams in this course, each covering different chapters.

Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4) – due on Sunday, February 21st at 11:59pm
Exam #2 (Chapters 5-8) – due on Sunday, March 21st at 11:59pm
Exam #3 (Chapters 9-12) – due on Sunday, April 25th at 11:59pm
Exam #4 (Chapters 13-17) – due on Saturday, May 15th at 11:59pm

Late Policy: All the exams should be up by the first week of our course. So plan ahead. Use good time management to give yourself buffer time to complete the exams. If you miss the deadline for an exam, you can still take it up to 3 days late, but there is an automatic point deduction of -50 points per day late up to 130 points after 3 days. There is so much in this class that is flexible, but not here. You need to make these exams a priority. If you are concerned that your life might prevent you from completing them, plan to take them very early. Even a month early is up to you depending on your situation. That is an option for you.

FAQ: What if I disagree with the answer? Let me know and we will talk about it. Any inquiries need to be made before the end of the last day of the session on Saturday, May 15th at 11:59pm.

FAQ: What if my technology, internet, or power fails? This is an online class. You must be sure you have a stable internet connection and electricity. If you lose power or internet or anything else on your end that prevents you from finishing your exam by the deadline, you will not receive a re-do. Plan ahead.
Academic Honesty

Please note that I take extremely seriously the university’s policy on the need for academic honesty in all your work. I refer you to UMSL’s Student Standard of Conduct (https://www.umsl.edu/~studentconduct/), where guidelines on cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are spelled out.

If I determine another person has assisted you on any part of the assignments in this course, I will note this as cheating and reserve the option of: 1) failing the assignment, 2) failing you for the course, and/or 3) referring you for additional academic action, which may include suspension from this institution with a permanent note in your file. I have very strong feelings on this subject; if you value your education, don’t do it. Below is a brief guide to what is considered cheating:

**Cheating During Testing**

- ‘Spontaneous’ cheating, such as copying off another student’s paper during examination. Penalty: from F on the test to F in the course.
- ‘Non-spontaneous’ cheating, which includes, but is not exclusive to, conspiracy to copy from another student’s paper during an examination, obtaining unauthorized (not previously distributed to any class) copies of examinations administered prior to the time of the examination, employing ‘crib’ notes during an examination. Penalty: from F in the course to suspension.
- ‘Planned’ cheating, such as having someone else assist you while taking online homework and quizzes – or having someone else login and take your assignments for you. Penalty: from F in the course to suspension.
Course Outline

Start Here Module: Introduction to Managerial Finance
Dates: January 19th - 24th (1 week)
To-Do List:
- Read the Syllabus on Canvas
- Get access to the textbook, either electronic or hardcopy (be sure it has Connect)
- Login to our Connect class page and save it for quick access (https://connect.mheducation.com/class/fin3500sp2021)

Module #1: Introduction to Corporate Finance
Dates: January 25th – February 7th (2 weeks)
Readings:
- Corporate Finance Chapter 1: Introduction to Corporate Finance
- Corporate Finance Chapter 2: Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow
Assignment To-Do List:
- Homework 1-2 on Connect
- Quizzes 1-2 on Connect

Module #2: Financial Statements and Planning
Dates: February 8th – 21st (2 weeks)
Readings:
- Corporate Finance Chapter 3: Working with Financial Statements
- Corporate Finance Chapter 4: Long-Term Financial Planning and Growth
Assignment To-Do List:
- Homework 3-4 on Connect
- Quizzes 3-4 on Connect
DUE Sunday (February 21st) at 11:59pm:
- Exam 1 on Connect

Module #3: The Time Value of Money
Dates: February 22nd – March 7th (2 weeks)
Readings:
- Corporate Finance Chapter 5: Introduction to Valuation – The Time Value of Money
- Corporate Finance Chapter 6: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
Assignment To-Do List:
- Homework 5-6 on Connect
- Quizzes 5-6 on Connect

Module #4: Valuation of the Market
Dates: March 8th – 21st (2 weeks)
Readings:
- Corporate Finance Chapter 7: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation
- Corporate Finance Chapter 8: Stock Valuation
Assignment To-Do List:
- Homework 7-8 on Connect
- Quizzes 7-8 on Connect
DUE Sunday (March 21st) at 11:59pm:
- Exam 2 on Connect
Module #5: Investment Decision Making  
Dates: March 22\textsuperscript{nd} – April 11\textsuperscript{th} (2 weeks with Spring Recess in between)  
Readings:  
- \textit{Corporate Finance} Chapter 9: Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria  
- \textit{Corporate Finance} Chapter 10: Making Capital Investment Decisions  
- \textit{Corporate Finance} Chapter 11: Project Analysis and Evaluation  
Assignment To-Do List:  
- Homework 9-11 on \textit{Connect}  
- Quizzes 9-11 on \textit{Connect}  

Module #6: Considering Historical Trends  
Dates: April 12\textsuperscript{th} – 25\textsuperscript{th} (2 weeks)  
Readings:  
- \textit{Corporate Finance} Chapter 12: Some Lessons from Capital Market History  
- \textit{Corporate Finance} Chapter 13: Return, Risk, and the Security Market Line  
Assignment To-Do List:  
- Homework 12-13 on \textit{Connect}  
- Quizzes 12-13 on \textit{Connect}  
DUE Sunday (April 25\textsuperscript{th}) at 11:59pm:  
- Exam 3 on \textit{Connect}  

Module #7: Capital Decisions  
Dates: April 26\textsuperscript{th} – May 9\textsuperscript{th} (2 weeks)  
Readings:  
- \textit{Corporate Finance} Chapter 14: Cost of Capital  
- \textit{Corporate Finance} Chapter 16: Financial Leverage and Capital Structure Policy  
- \textit{Corporate Finance} Chapter 17: Dividends and Payout Policy  
Assignment To-Do List:  
- Homework 14-16 on \textit{Connect}  
- Quizzes 14-16 on \textit{Connect}  

Module #8: Course Wrap-up  
Dates: May 10\textsuperscript{th} – May 15\textsuperscript{th} (1 week)  
DUE Saturday (May 15\textsuperscript{th}) at 11:59pm:  
- All Homework 1-16  
- All Quizzes 1-16  
- Exam 4 on \textit{Connect}  
~\textit{No Grace Period, No Exceptions!}~