FIN 6540/3540 Financial Institutions and Markets
Summer 2021

Contact Information
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Welcome
Welcome to the online edition of Finance 6540/3540 class. I will be following your progress during the semester and will provide you with suggestions and support to help you in the process.

Course Description and Goals
This course examines how financial markets function, their role in raising capital for the economy, and institutions that facilitate the flow of funds. Advances in technology have significantly altered the landscape in financial markets and institutions in the past two decades. Fintech (financial technology) firms have arrived offering mechanisms to simplify and streamline traditional transactions and produce new products and services. Apple Pay, Venmo, blockchain, and cryptocurrencies introduce a fascinating landscape on how modern finance will look like in the years ahead.
The course provides an in-depth analysis of the foundations of finance, including interest rates, risk, financial instruments, and institutions that trade them. The weekly readings, lectures posted on Panopto, SmartBook reviews, practice questions, and graded homework assignments are carefully selected to help you learn the subject and receive the skill-set required in the marketplace. The goal is to prepare you for positions in the financial industry or other sectors requiring such knowledge.
Prerequisite: Financial Management (Finance 6500/3500)

Textbook

Course Schedule
Week of May 17   Ch. 1 - 2  Introduction; Determinants of Interest Rates
Week of May 24   Ch. 3, 5  Interest Rates and Securities Valuation; Money Markets
Week of May 31   Ch. 6 - 7  Bond Markets; Mortgage Markets
Week of June 7    Ch. 8  Stock Markets
June 12, 10 am   Exam 1
Instructions on How to Prepare For This Course

Your weekly graded homework assignments are posted every Monday morning and are due on the following Sunday at 11:59 pm. Homework questions and problems are worth 1/3rd of your grade and are an essential part of your learning process.

Take advantage of the SmartBook assignments and practice problems that come with McGraw Hill Connect. These materials are not graded, and they are intended only for your leaning.

You will take your exams on the designated dates and times.

Time Requirements
As a summer course, I may guess ten hours per week on average, but it can be more or less depending on your prior work or education experience.

Technology Requirements
You will be navigating McGraw-Hill Connect through Canvas. McGraw-Hill Connect is a web-based assignment and evaluation platform that will help your coursework with engaging content, immediate feedback, and more practice opportunities. You may also access SmartBook / LearnSmart for review of each chapter and practice of its content. SmartBook serves as a study guide. To access Smartbook, you will go to Canvas and choose McGraw-Hill Connect from the left side menu, and then you will find the SmartBook/LearnSmart.

As a student in an online course, you are expected to have reliable internet access almost every day. 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 the Canvas Learning Management System
5. Internet connection with a speed of no less than 6 Mbps.
7. Adobe Flash Player (free)
8. Adobe Reader or alternative PDF reader (free)

How to Use Canvas
If this is the first time you use canvas, you first log in to canvas.umsl.edu, sign in, go to the first column on the left, select help, click on the Search the Canvas Guide, and follow the instructions.

**Chat Sessions**
I have enabled the chat key on canvas. This will help us exchange ideas, especially when there is financial news to analyze or other topics. I will inform you when a chat session will be forthcoming.

**Honor Code and Academic Integrity**
Academic integrity requires students and faculty to communicate with one another in a mutually respectful manner and to accept responsibility for one’s actions. I expect class members to treat each other with respect and use professional language in exchanges. In your interactions with me, you can address me either as Professor or Dr. Arshadi. You can follow the university's policies related to academic honesty stated in https://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/policy/academic-dishonesty.html.

**Course Grade**
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II (Not comprehensive)</td>
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