



Soules College of Business

FINA 3311 – PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE – SECTION 002

Term: Spring/2025

Course Dates: Jan 13, 2025 - May 3, 2025

Professor: Dr. Vishal Sharma

Course Times: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am to 12:20pm

Office Phone: 903.730.3935

Classroom: 211

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Prerequisite courses: ACCT 2301, and ECON 2301 or ECON 2302

Student (Office) Hours: Location 350.14 Soules CoB; Tuesday/Thursday 12:30pm to 2:00pm, or by appointment.

Course Overview and Objective

This course is a basic level introduction to fundamental concepts of finance covering diverse topics, outlining the structure, and functioning of the financial industry. While it assumes no prior knowledge of finance, students should know basic accounting and economic concepts. Students from any business discipline who wish to pursue advanced coursework in finance will benefit from this course. The course includes not only a general overview of the various sub-disciplines of finance, but also a deep understanding of certain basic concepts such as time value of money, risk and return, valuation of equity and debt, and their applications into the real-world decisions including capital budgeting. By the end of this course, students should have a good understanding of the basic techniques needed for making sound financial decisions.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand time value of money and its applications.
- Interpret financial statements and learn to apply them in financial decisions.
- Understand risk and return, their relationship, and applications.
- Value simple equity and debt securities.
- Make calculated financial decisions in areas of capital budgeting.

What do I expect from you?

- Be prepared for the class with access to lecture slides that will be available on Canvas.
- Read the assigned chapters *before* the class and come prepared with questions.
- I like to interact. I do not want to sound like a recorded lecture. Therefore, I expect you to actively participate in the class during discussions.

- Treat your fellow students with respect and integrity. For group work, I expect participation and contribution from each individual member of the group.
- **Use of gadgets:** No cell phones or other devices please. I reserve the right to discipline any student (including reduction of grades) that violates this policy.
- **Laptops:** Some in-class work might require laptops; I will give you sufficient notice to bring your device in case I plan to teach some concepts using a laptop. However, students found to engage in other activities including web surfing, checking emails, or texting or communicating in other ways using laptops are subject to be disciplined, including reduction of grades.

What can you expect from me?

- Be prepared with course contents and answer all your questions either during the class or office hours.
- Respond to your questions or doubts on a timely basis.
- Make reasonable accommodation in case you face any difficulties in understanding concepts.
- Be fair in the grading process.
- Alter the structure of delivery to suit the requirements of the majority of the class.

Required Textbooks and Readings

- **Primary Textbook:** *Essentials of Corporate Finance* by Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan, 11th edition. McGraw-Hill; ISBN 978-1-264-10157-3 (bound edition); 978-1-265-41496-2 (loose-leaf edition)
- A softcopy of the textbook is provided under our library's eTextbook offering. See Canvas for more details regarding accessing or downloading the textbook.
- Additional readings as assigned during the course.

Calculator Policy

I advise you to invest in a good financial calculator; I personally own a Texas Instrument BA II Plus. I discourage using smart phone calculators during class. **Smart phone calculators are strictly prohibited during tests and exams.** I have provided video tutorials on Canvas to help you learn the functions and how to operate BA II Plus. It is your responsibility to go through the videos and become proficient in using the calculator to solve problems in class. During exams, you must completely erase any contents in the memory of your financial calculator *before* you start the exam.

Recommended Resources

- Read at least one financial newspaper every day!

Course Structure

This is an in-person class. I expect all students to attend every class unless they seek leave of absence **prior** to the class. Some topics or technical skills that are ancillary to the main course contents might be uploaded as a recorded video on Canvas. In that case, students must comply with in-class instructions to access and learn from recorded media.

Canvas

I use Canvas extensively in communicating with students. I will use Canvas to share all lectures slides prior to the class, assign homework or assignments, announce grades, send instructions or other communication to students, and engage in any other activity required for the smooth functioning of the class. I highly recommend keeping Canvas application updated, and allowing notifications, if you have not already switched them on, so that you don't miss any communications from me.

Tips for Success in this Course

1. **Participate.** I encourage interaction among students, and with me during the class or office hours. Interaction brings clarity of thought and ideas. It also exposes you to other perspectives and ideas which you might not have thought about. Participation allows you to clearly communicate your ideas and develop critical thinking, an extremely important skill for your career.
2. **Manage your time.** I understand you have commitments beyond this class. Try working in blocks of time and ensure you have enough room to finish assignments, allowing extra space for any challenges including tech issues that might pop up.
3. **Canvas.** I cannot stress enough about using Canvas to stay on top of class activities. Switch notifications on to ensure that you don't miss any communication from me. Be sure to enable notifications to be sent instantly or daily. ([Canvas Notification Guide](#))
4. **Do not fall behind.** If you feel you are starting to fall behind, check in with me as soon as possible so I can help in a timely manner. I strongly discourage last-minute requests.
5. **Ask for help if needed.** If you are struggling with a course concept, reach out to me and/or your classmates for support.
6. **Success on exams or tests:** Majority of my tests and exams comprise questions from assignments and in-class problems. Therefore, I advise you to religiously complete your assignments and understand the concepts and techniques used in solving problems. During lectures, I frequently signal important topics, concepts, or questions that have a strong possibility of appearing on tests. Therefore, I highly encourage you to attend lectures without fail.

Graded Course Requirements Information

Assignments

Assignments will help you better understand the course, more importantly, give you practice and prepare you for exams. I will upload them on Canvas and announce during the class or via email. It is your responsibility to check, access, and complete assignments before the due date. *Online assignments to be completed on Canvas may not be allowed access after the due date and time.* Note that assignments are individual responsibility; no collaboration is permitted, unless they are group assignments or stated explicitly to be a group responsibility. If you don't understand any part of your assignment, please get in touch with me immediately. Don't wait until the due date as I might not be available to help you. *Late submissions will not be awarded full grade.*

Exams

Exams are an important part of your grade. You will have three exams, including one Final exam. Refer to the course calendar for exam dates. Questions will include multiple choice and/or short answers. All exams will be closed book, closed notes or any other resources. I will discuss the contents of the exams in advance in the class. If you have any significant reason for rescheduling an exam, please contact me as soon as you learn that might have to miss the exam.

Late Work and Make-Up Exams

Late work will not be awarded full grade. I will first grade your submission on your effort (not considering late submission), then apply the following deductions depending on the actual submission time: deduct 20% for submissions up to the first 24 hours after the due date and time, and incrementally 10% for every 24 hours thereafter.

Example: If you submitted your assignment within 24 hours after the due date and time, and let's say you earned 90 points (out of 100) not considering the late submission, your final grade will be $90 - (20\% \text{ of } 90) = 90 - 18 = 72$ points.

If you submitted your assignment after 24 hours but before 48 hours of the due date and time, then your final grade in the above example will be $90 - (30\% \text{ of } 90) = 90 - 27 = 63$ points.

I will accommodate make-up exams on a case-by-case basis, depending on the reason. My decision will be final in this regard.

Grading Structure

Activity	Percentage (%)	Grading Scale
Survey – Beginning of the class	5%	A - (90% or higher) B - (80 - 89%) C - (70 - 79%) D - (60 - 69%) F - (Below 60%)
End of Semester course evaluation	5%	
Assignments	45%	
Mid Term Exam – 1	15%	
Mid Term Exam – 2	15%	
Final Exam	15%	
Total	100%	

Caution: As FINA 3311 is a core requirement, all finance majors need a grade of C or better to take finance courses subsequently. I reserve the right to alter the grading structure to comply with the level of difficulty of the exams or assignments.

I will share an excel template that estimates the grade you earned; you must keep the sheet updated as you finish each activity to get an estimate of what grade you are likely to earn.

Attendance Policy

I highly value your and my time during the class. Attending classes not only gives you an opportunity to learn other perspectives but also opens your mind to fresh and innovative ideas, and critically evaluate all possible options. I signal important concepts, questions and topics during class that have a high likelihood of showing up on your tests. Therefore, I highly recommend you attend every class!

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this course

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work. I encourage you to use AI tools to revise and edit your work (e.g., identify flaws in reasoning, spot confusing or underdeveloped paragraphs, or correct citations).

University Policies & Student Resources:

University policies and student resources are available on the University website and in Canvas under "Syllabus". These include policies on withdrawal from a class, use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the class, assignments and exams, students with special needs, military affiliated students, academic honesty and misconduct, and special absences. *You are required to keep yourself updated and comply with ALL policies.*

University policies may be found here: [University Policy](#)

Student resources may be found here: [Student Resources](#)

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates

Note: *This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course page for current topics and deadlines.* In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	Tue, Jan 14, 2025	Overview of Financial Management / Careers in Finance
	Thu, Jan 16, 2025	Introduction to Financial Management
Week 2	Tue, Jan 21, 2025	Financial Statements and Cash Flows
	Thu, Jan 23, 2025	Working with FS and CF
Week 3	Tue, Jan 28, 2025	Time Value of Money / Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
	Thu, Jan 30, 2025	Time Value of Money / Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
Week 4	Tue, Feb 04, 2025	Time Value of Money / Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
	Thu, Feb 06, 2025	Time Value of Money / Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
Week 5	Tue, Feb 11, 2025	NPV and Other Investment Criteria
	Thu, Feb 13, 2025	NPV and Other Investment Criteria
Week 6	Tue, Feb 18, 2025	<i>Midterm Exam 1</i>
	Thu, Feb 20, 2025	Valuing Bonds
Week 7	Tue, Feb 25, 2025	Valuing Bonds
	Thu, Feb 27, 2025	Valuing Bonds
Week 8	Tue, Mar 04, 2025	Valuing Bonds
	Thu, Mar 06, 2025	Valuing Bonds
Week 9	Tue, Mar 11, 2025	Risk and Return
	Thu, Mar 13, 2025	Risk and Return
Week 10	Tue, Mar 18, 2025	Spring break
	Thu, Mar 20, 2025	Spring break
Week 11	Tue, Mar 25, 2025	Equity Valuation
	Thu, Mar 27, 2025	Equity Valuation
Week 12	Tue, Apr 01, 2025	<i>Midterm Exam 2</i>
	Thu, Apr 03, 2025	Equity Valuation
Week 13	Tue, Apr 08, 2025	Dividends and Dividend Policy
	Thu, Apr 10, 2025	Dividends and Dividend Policy
Week 14	Tue, Apr 15, 2025	Leverage and Capital Structure
	Thu, Apr 17, 2025	Leverage and Capital Structure
Week 15	Tue, Apr 22, 2025	Cost of Capital
	Thu, Apr 24, 2025	Raising Capital
Week 16	Tue, Apr 29, 2025	<i>Final Exam</i>
	Thu, May 01, 2025	