

FIN 501, Section 31E, L3 Students only
Finance for Decision Makers
Spring 2014

Instructor: Srinivas Nippani, Ph.D.

Classroom: Rock 154

Meeting Time: 6.15-8.55 pm between 1/13/2014 through 5/9/2014

Office: BA 102G (Texas A&M Commerce)

Office Phone: 903-886-5678

Office Hours: TR 9.30-11.00 am. Office Hours Online for FIN 504 class only (in class live):
5.30-6.00 pm on Wednesdays.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will focus predominantly on an intermediate comprehension of corporate finance and business management. We will start with a review of accounting and basics of time value of money. Next, we analyze financial statements in order to identify a firm's strengths and weaknesses. We then move to financial leverage and financial forecasting concepts for managing current assets and current liabilities. The second half of the course will be devoted to advanced time value of money concepts and methods companies use to choose acceptable investment projects.

REQUIRED TEXT AND OTHER MATERIALS:

1. *Fundamentals of Financial Management*, Concise edition, 7th Edition; Brigham and Houston, South-Western, 2012, ISBN: 978-0-538-47711-6

2. **Financial Calculator: I strongly recommend the Texas Instruments BA II plus Professional calculator and my explanations will be based on this calculator in the class.**

You can see what this calculator looks like and how to use it at this website.

http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/ti_ba2/

For free guidebook see:

http://education.ti.com/guidebooks/financial/baiipluspro/BAIPLUSPROGuidebook_EN.pdf

3. Access to a Computer with the latest version of Microsoft Excel.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes Assessment: All of the topics covered in the course are covered with a specific course objective in mind. The course objectives for this course are given below which will be created into a learning outcomes assessment rubric (given below the objectives) to measure student performance in the class. The objectives for this course are:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental concepts of corporate finance and its principles and methods.
2. Understand and apply valuation techniques of securities, projects and corporations.
3. Demonstrate an understanding and show ability to measure financial decisions in a risk/return environment.

Criteria (Course Objectives)	1 (Unsatisfactory)	2 (Emerging)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)
Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental concepts of corporate finance and its principles and methods.	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding any of the fundamental concepts of corporate finance and its principles and methods.	Student can demonstrate some understanding of the fundamental concepts of corporate finance and its principles and methods.	Student can demonstrate understanding of all of the fundamental concepts of corporate finance and its principles and methods and analyze issues accordingly.	Student can demonstrate understanding of all of the fundamental concepts of corporate finance and its principles and methods and display an ability to analyze and synthesize accordingly.
Understand and apply valuation techniques of securities, projects and corporations.	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding of any valuation techniques of securities, projects and corporations.	Student can demonstrate an understanding of valuation techniques but none of the application to the projects or corporations.	Student can demonstrate an understanding of valuation techniques and all of the application to the projects or corporations and can analyze issues accordingly.	Student can demonstrate an understanding of valuation techniques and all of the application to the projects or corporations and display an ability to analyze and synthesize accordingly.
Demonstrate an	Student cannot	Student can	Student can	Student can

understanding and show ability to measure financial decisions in a risk/return environment.	demonstrate an understanding of these processes or there measurement.	demonstrate an understanding of these processes but not the measurement.	demonstrate an understanding of these processes and there measurement and can analyze issues accordingly.	demonstrate an understanding of all of these processes and there measurement and display an ability to analyze and synthesize accordingly.
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Attendance, Exams and Grading:

Attendance is Compulsory as this is a graduate level class. The grading is based on the following scale:

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Final (Compulsory)	100 points

Total (counting the highest of the two mid-terms and the final)	200 points

I will drop the lower of the two scores on the first two exams in determining the final grade. If you miss a mid-term exam that will be your dropped grade. My exams will be based on material covered in class. For each student the total points will be added up and converted to a percentage at the end of the semester to decide the final grade. The following scale will be applied to decide the final grade for students: 90% and above: A grade, 80%-89.99%: B grade, 70%-79.99%: C grade, 60%-69.99%: D grade and below 60% F grade. I will try to adhere to the above grading scale but I reserve the right to deviate from it. My exams are normally of multiple choices and you can use a calculator on them. However, the exams are designed for speed and accuracy. No student will be given an opportunity to make up for an inadequate performance on an exam and make-up exams will be given for only medical reasons.

Tentative Course Schedule

We will cover the chapters in the order that they are given in this schedule below:

Chapters: 1, 5, 3, 4, 2, 7, 9, 8, 10, 11. Mid-term Exam 1 will be over chapter 1, 5 and 3, Mid-term 2 will be over chapter 4, 2, 7 and 9 and the final will be over chapters 7-11 (includes chapters 7 and 9 which were part of the second mid-term also).

*Some of the chapters mentioned above may include material that is not part of the textbook. Only a part of the material will be used in some of the chapters. We may do some chapters only in part. I reserve the right to change anything in the syllabus if I feel it is necessary.

Tentative Class Schedule

January 14: Ch. 1
January 21 and 28: Chapter 5
February 4: Chapter 3
February 11: Mid-term Exam 1 over chapters 1, 5 and 3
February 18: Chapter 4
February 25: Chapter 2
March 4: Chapter 7
March 11: University closed due to spring break
March 18: Chapter 7 (Continued) and chapter 9
March 25: Chapter 9
April 1: Mid-term Exam 2 over chapters 4, 2, 7 and 9
April 8: Chapter 8
April 15: Chapter 10
April 22: Chapter 10 (continued) and chapter 11
April 28: Chapter 11 (finishing)
May 6: Final Exam over chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

*I reserve the right to change the above schedule. I also reserve the right to include excel concepts in class work, especially in chapters dealing with Time Value of Money Concepts. In case these are used, you will be given an opportunity to get credit for your work. This could be made part of the exam scores.

Academic Misconduct: Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. Please remember that this is a graduate level class and you are graded against each other. By giving someone answers to exam questions helps neither you nor them. If I catch someone cheating, I will deal with that in accordance to the policies of the Texas A&M University-Commerce. **While you can use calculators, textbook and class notes on the exam, you should not take the help of any other person. I will give an “F” grade to any student who cheats or encourages cheating and will do my best to get them expelled from the University.**

An Important Note: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment" Student Handbook.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu