

Syllabus
FIN 504-01E: Financial Management
Fall 2012: August 27 – December 14
Web-Enhanced Instructional Method
[All times in Central Standard Time (CST)]

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Hours: Monday 12:00-5:00, other by appointment.

Website: eCollege online access to the course at <http://online.tamuc.org>

Course Description:

A study of business finance within the economic environment, including financial reporting, analysis, markets and regulations, with an emphasis on global and ethical issues. The course covers risk, valuation, planning and analysis including working capital management and capital budgeting, and other decision rules in the context of how to maximize the value of the firm. There is a focus on total quality management and financial considerations in the production of goods and services.

Prerequisites:

FIN304 - Intro Business Finance, or FIN501 - Finance for Decision Makers, or consent of instructor.

Overall Course Objectives:

FIN 504 is structured around three broad learning objectives. To successfully complete the course, students should:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the advanced concepts of contemporary financial management and the application of its methods.
2. Demonstrate an ability to analyze and apply asset valuation techniques.
3. Demonstrate an understanding and the ability to measure strategic financial decisions in a risk/return context as it relates to today's dynamic world.

A grading rubric for your achievement of the course objectives is provided at the end of this syllabus.

Preliminary Schedule:

WEEK BEGINNING

1	Aug 27	Introduction
2	Sep 3	Ch. 1 (online, no class due to Labor Day)
3	10	Ch. 2 (28-39), Ch. 17 (659-67)
4	17	Ch. 2 (39-53)
5	24	Ch. 5
6	Oct 1	Cont'd
7	8	Ch. 6
8	15	Ch. 7
9	22	<u>EXAM 1</u>
10	29	Ch. 8 (268-84)
11	Nov 5	Ch. 8 (285-305), Ch. 3 (71-73), Ch. 16 (594-604), Ch. 4 (130-34)
12	12	Ch. 14 (540-44,504-14), Ch. 13 (470-77), Ch. 4 (119-27)
13	19	Ch. 3 (73-94), Ch. 16 (590-94), Ch. 4 (127-30)
14	26	Ch. 12, Ch. 11 (402-8,412-15), Ch. 9
15	Dec 3	Ch. 10 (to 378,10A)
16	10	<u>EXAM 2</u>

Updates and additional detail will be provided in the Unit outline for the course in eCollege.

Learning Aids:

- a. The text required for all sections of FIN 504 is Contemporary Financial Management, 12th Ed., by Moyer, McGuigan, Rao, and Kretlow, ISBN-10: 0-538-47917-5 or ISBN-13: 978-0-538-47917-2, published by South-Western/Cengage Learning.
- b. Online textbook information is available at <http://academic.cengage.com/finance/moyer>. The student Free Companion Content site can be accessed at http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780538479172&token= [My experience thus far with this site has been disappointing. Many of the links have not worked and the content is limited. I prefer the 11th edition site, which contains chapter quizzes, notes, and flashcards. It can be accessed at http://websites.swlearning.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&flag=student&product_isbn_issn=9780324653502&disciplinenummer=414].
- c. Several financial calculators have been designed specifically for the types of calculations performed in this course. These calculators can also be useful outside of the classroom when making personal financial decisions. In this course, lectures and PowerPoint slides will be oriented toward the Texas Instruments BAI Plus, which costs about \$30. Another excellent financial calculator is the Hewlett Packard 10B. Most advanced mathematical calculators such as the TI-83 contain the financial functions needed for the course. If you already have one of these calculators then they will do just fine, although be aware that you will receive limited guidance on how they work. Make sure you have the manual and the time to figure them out on your own. If you need to purchase a calculator, the TI BA-II+ is recommended. Its quality is outstanding as is the HP's, but it tends to be easier for those who do not use a financial calculator frequently. For in-class exams, you are not permitted to use any device with communication capabilities (e.g., an iPhone or iPad) or with a built-in dictionary (i.e.,

translators). *Any calculator other than the TI and HP must be approved by the professor before it can be used on an exam.*

- d. You are expected to know what is currently going on financially in the *real world*. The basic premise underlying the pedagogy of the course is that the best way for you to learn about business finance is not merely by watching a professor do it, but by taking a semester to "live" the subject. This means thinking through the concepts on your own, reading the financial news (particularly The Wall Street Journal), watching business news on TV (e.g., Bloomberg, CNBC, or Fox Business), and even viewing popular movies about Wall Street.

Grading:

To implement the grading rubric, an overall score will be calculated as the equally-weighted average of a mid-term and a final exam. Both exams will be closed-book, largely if not entirely multiple-choice, and most of you should be pressed for time in taking them. (If you are a slow exam taker or need open books or notes then you may wish to switch to a section offered by a different professor.)

The grade scales are the customary: *A for 90 and above, B in the 80s, C in the 70s, D in the 60s, and F below 60*. There will be no rounding per sé to the next highest integer, e.g., 69.9 is in the 60s and hence is a D. However, solely at the professor's discretion, exceptional performance by a student during class discussion (which you can't achieve if you do not attend) and other non-exam activities (such as helping your classmates in the eCollege weekly discussion forum and identifying articles in *The Wall Street Journal* that relate to the material being learned) may be considered in close borderline cases (as in 89.7). Failure to attend and participate in class will not help your case. Others may hurt it, such as: answering questions incorrectly because you are not prepared for the discussion, disrupting class by arriving late or leaving early, wasting class time by asking questions that you should have known the answer to if you had listened better or read the text more closely. In a nutshell, it boils down to whether you are conducting yourself professionally and responsibly, or are you doing things that are disappointing and perhaps even aggravating. If you want help on a borderline grade, you have a chance with the former. Don't even think about it if your behavior is the latter.

Be aware that the exams in this class are challenging. It is the nature of the material, and no doubt the fill-in-the-blank format will not help. The basic grading process is straight-forward: either you selected the correct choice for each question or you did not. On this basis, several of you probably will not even answer half of the questions correctly. To account for the difficulty, some professors put only the easiest questions on an exam or give points for performing a myriad of other activities, such as doing weekly quizzes or participating in discussion groups. I'm sorry; my class is not a make-work course. If you can make an A (or whatever your goal is) simply by doing well on the exams then I do not want you to be penalized for *not* spending time on learning activities which you did not really need. The results will speak for themselves. I do take into account the difficulty of the material, but my approach is to augment the scoring by treating some questions on the exam as bonus -- in that if you miss such questions then no points will be deducted whereas points will be added for the bonus questions answered correctly. The determination of which question ends up as a bonus is based on an algorithm that evaluates how many in the class missed it. This way, a very difficult question -- which some professors might leave off an exam because few would be expected to answer it correctly -- can be included on mine so as to give credit to those with the superior knowledge, while not penalizing others for failing to have that degree of expertise. Your score will not be less for having missed a bonus question. Just make sure that you get the more normal, easier questions right!

Even with these bonus possibilities, grades in this class customarily run low. Many of you will drop because you recognize you have gotten hopelessly behind. This is not a course where you can catch-up a couple of nights before the exam. Forget it. You will just end up mentally exhausted. The material has to seep-in slowly. For those who complete the course, about a fourth make an A, another quarter a B, about a third receive a C, with some failing to pass at all. Please do not take this course if you are not ready for it. If a C or lower would be detrimental to your graduate program standing, get up to speed first, such as by taking FIN 501. The material in 501 and 504 is quite similar. But the expectations are not. Enter FIN 504 at your own risk!

If you wish to dispute the accuracy of your grade, all graded material will be kept for one week only following the end of the semester, after which time no grade will be open to reexamination.

Seeking Assistance & Course Learning Strategy

I will be available by email (which I endeavor to answer within 24 hours) and during office-hours to help you with problems you may be having learning the course material. However, before asking me a chapter-specific question, you are expected to first seek the aid of your classmates by posting it in each week's respective Discussion Thread. eCollege is a learning environment where everyone is expected to participate. One of the best ways to retain and strengthen your understanding of the material is to assist others in their learning and to build off each other's knowledge and experience. Everyone has something to offer. Get to know your classmates informally through the eCollege Student Lounge. Whether looking for a job lead or advice, a movie review, or some other personal life issue, all of you share something in common – your university and a desire to learn and further your career. Online learning can be cold and isolated. It need not be. Take advantage of the networking possibilities and friendships that can be gained by communicating among yourselves.

As discussed earlier, this is not a course that can be crammed into your head a few study sessions before the exam. You must keep up. Actively participate in the course each and every week by reading the text, attending or at least reviewing the class-live lectures, doing the publisher's online quizzes and working problems in the book, making thoughtful contributions in the weekly discussion threads, and even chatting with classmates. The best way for you to learn about corporate finance is not merely by watching your professor and the textbook authors do it, but by taking a semester to "live" the subject. This means thinking through the concepts on your own and staying current on the financial news. It will necessitate keeping up with [The Wall Street Journal](#) and knowing what is being covered on the financial TV channels. The point is to get engaged. And not just occasionally, but continually. Possibly you are one of the few who may be able to pass the course by cramming the night before. But why waste the opportunity? Learn finance by living it.

Student Behavior and Considerations:

Refer to the Student's Guide Book located at: www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook.htm

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

Students enrolled in online courses have the same rights and responsibilities as students in live, face-to-face courses.

You are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty while pursuing your academic goal(s). The university's statement on academic honesty is found in the Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures, A13.12, Academic Honesty. Academic dishonesty is defined in the following manner:

"Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material."

When taking an exam or conducting any other graded assignment in this course, you are not allowed to consult with any other person nor provide such aid to another student. The principle is simple: your grade is to reflect your work alone, and likewise your classmates' grades reflects their work alone and not yours.

Students found to have committed academic dishonesty will automatically receive a failing grade for the assignment and possibly the entire course, as well as face possible expulsion from the university.

To take this course, you must indicate by signature your agreement to the above and the statements provided on the College of Business and Technology Academic Honesty Policy.

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
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Technical Problems/Questions

Personal computer problems **do not** excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, Office Services such as Kinko's, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. If you have questions related to eCollege, A&M-Commerce's online course management system, click on "TECHNICAL SUPPORT" on the left side of your course screen. An email box will appear. Fill out this technical support form, click submit, and your questions will be forwarded to the technical support staff. A resolution will be sent to you from the technical support staff via email. If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The HelpDesk can be reached

by sending an email to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or by calling 866-656-5511. Additionally, you can click on the "Help" button located at the top of each page for more information.

If you use an Internet Service Provider other than the university, please contact a company representative if you are having difficulty accessing the Internet. Other support questions may be addressed to Computing, Telecommunications, and Information Systems (CTIS). The CTIS help desk is staffed Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm and can be reached at 903-468-6000. The after-hours and weekend emergency phone number is 877-808-1607. When the after-hours support number is dialed, the answering service representative will ask for your name and phone number. They will then contact the on-call CTIS technician who should return your call within about 15 minutes.

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

Objectives	1 (Unsatisfactory)	2 (Emerging)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)
Demonstrate an understanding of the advanced concepts of contemporary financial management and the application of its methods.	Student shows limited ability to understand or apply even the more basic concepts and methods of financial management.	Student shows understanding and the ability to apply only the more basic concepts and methods of financial management.	Student shows understanding and the ability to apply the basic but not advanced concepts and methods of financial management.	Student shows understanding and the ability to apply the advanced as well as basic concepts and methods of financial management.
Demonstrate an ability to analyze and apply asset valuation techniques.	Student shows limited ability to analyze or apply even the more basic techniques of asset valuation.	Student shows the ability to analyze and apply only the more basic techniques of asset valuation.	Student shows the ability to analyze and apply the basic but not advanced techniques of asset valuation.	Student shows the ability to analyze and apply the advanced as well as basic techniques of asset valuation.
Demonstrate an understanding and the ability to measure strategic financial decisions in a risk/return context as it relates to today's dynamic world.	Student shows limited ability to understand or measure even the more basic financial decisions involved in business management.	Student shows understanding and the ability to measure only the more basic financial decisions involved in business management.	Student shows understanding and the ability to measure the basic but not advanced decisions of financial management.	Student shows understanding and the ability to measure the advanced as well as basic decisions of financial management.