Syllabus
Spring 2010

FIR 3410 Business Finance, Section 1

Instructor Information:
  Instructor's Name:  Mr. Leslie Mathis, MS, MBA, MIM, CFA
  Office Hours:  Monday & Wednesday 11:15-12:15; Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00-5:30
  Office Telephone Number: 678-4642
  Office Location:  FAB 446
  E-Mail:  LMATHIS@memphis.edu
  Class Time and Location:  MWF 10:20-11:15 am in FCB 128

Course Information:
  Required Textbook and Materials:
  Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, customized edition by Robert Parrino and David Kidwell
  Wiley Plus homework manager (bundled with the customized textbook)

  Financial Calculator.  The Hewlett Packard 10bii is the preferred calculator. The HP calculator is available at the book stores and office supply stores and retails for $30-35. An alternative way to purchase the calculator is through the Hewlett Packard Academic Program available via www.shopping.hp.com/academy

  Course Learning Objectives:
  Upon completing this course, a student should

  --have an understanding of financial statements and be able to use ratios to analyze a company.
  --be aware of the financial environment and understand how taxes, interest rates, and government regulation affect a firm and its financial policies.
  --understand the different types of risk and the relationship between risk and return.
  --be able to use a financial calculator to determine the present value and future value of a lump sum, an annuity, or an uneven cash flow stream.
  --be familiar with the terminology associated with bonds and be able to determine the value of a bond given its expected cash flows.
  --understand how to value a company's stock and be familiar with the assumptions that underlie stock valuation.
  --know how to calculate a firm's weighted average cost of capital.
  --understand the techniques used in capital budgeting and how to use these techniques to determine whether a project is profitable enough to pursue.
Course Policies:

Course Assignments:
Business Finance is a problem oriented course. In order to master the various valuation and analytical techniques, students need to work the assigned homework problems on their own. I plan to go over some of the problems in class. Remember the idea of homework is to provide practice for the exams.

Grading Policy:
I will determine the final grades based on 4 exams and the Wiley Plus homework assignments. The final exam will count 30%, exams 1-3 will count 20% each, and the Wiley Plus homework assignments will count 10%.

If a student cannot attend an exam because of illness or emergency, the student needs to send an e-mail to me at LMATHIS@memphis.edu explaining the situation. (I insist on e-mails rather than voice mails.) I reserve the right to ask for documentation. If I agree that the absence is unavoidable, then either a make-up exam will be scheduled or the test weight will be added to the final exam. This decision will be made by the instructor depending on circumstances. **Failure to communicate the reason of your test absence by e-mail AND avoidable absences will result in a 0 grade for the missed exam.**

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice questions and problems. In preparing for the exams, students should focus on the learning objectives (which are e-mailed to the class about a week prior to the exam), homework problems, readings, and class notes. The final exam will be selectively comprehensive. A student missing the final exam will receive an incomplete. It is his/her responsibility to contact the instructor to arrange an exam after final exam week.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance at class sessions is highly recommended. Excessive absences are usually correlated with below average grades. Students are responsible for any assignments or information presented in class regardless of their attendance.

Academic Integrity Statement:
During tests, students should not use answers generated by other students. Furthermore, they need to keep their test papers flat on their desks, and answers should be covered. Students who use answers from other students should expect to receive 0 on that exam and may be asked to drop the course. Your instructor will be taking active measures on tests to prevent students from using answers from other papers.

Students will not be allowed to use a cell phone in class during exams. Please turn off all cell phones and place them out of sight.

Plus and Minus Grades:
I do not plan to use plus and minus grades for the overall grades.
Suggestions for Maximum Performance:

Students need to recognize that Business Finance is harder than average for many students. In order to earn the best possible grades, I offer the following suggestions:

1. Attend every class session. You are responsible for material presented in class whether or not it is based on the textbook.
2. Attempt all homework problems. Trying to solve problems before I review them in class helps you to know whether you understand the ideas of the chapter.
3. Work problem sets and review problems that are handed out. Practice makes perfect. The more problems that you cover, the more confident that you will be on exam day.
4. Before the tests, go over the learning objectives that I hand out. This should help you to focus on what I consider to be the most important material for the exams.
5. Form a study group with other students to go over problems and discuss the main concepts.

Prerequisites:

Students must have taken ACCT 2020 (Fundamentals of Accounting II), Economics 2120 (Introduction to Microeconomics), and ISDS 2710 (Business Statistics) in order to be registered for this class.

Warning: A prerequisite and upper division check will be completed once the first class roll has been issued. You must meet the following requirements to be enrolled in any 3000-4000 level business course. Any student seeking a degree in the Fogelman College of Business must (1) have completed all required lower division Business Administration courses with a minimum grade of C (2.0) in each; (2) have a minimum quality point average of 2.25 (ACCT major 2.5) in all required lower division business courses and MATH 1312; and (3) have accumulated 55 hours of course work including the required 9 semester hours of English. Non-business majors must have junior or senior standing and have met specific prerequisites of courses.

If you have not met these requirements, it is your responsibility to correct the situation during the official add period. If you have not met these requirements and have not corrected the situation, you may be administratively dropped.

Course Outline

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M  Feb. 8  Chapter 4  
W  Feb. 10 Chapter 4  
F  Feb. 12  Review for Test 1  

M  Feb. 15  Test 1 (Chapters 1-4)  
W  Feb. 17  Chapter 5  
F  Feb. 19  Chapter 5  

M  Feb. 22  Chapter 5  
W  Feb. 24  Chapter 6  
F  Feb. 26  Chapter 6  

M  March 1  Chapter 6  
W  March 3  Chapter 7  
F  March 5  Chapter 7  

March 8-12  Fall Break  

M  March 15  Chapter 7  
W  March 17  Chapter 7  
F  March 19  Review for Test 2  

M  March 22  Test 2 (Chapters 5-7)  
W  March 24  Chapter 8  
F  March 26  Chapter 8  

M  March 29  Chapter 8  
W  March 31  Chapter 9  
F  April 2  Chapter 9  

M  April 5  Chapter 9  
W  April 7  Chapter 10  
F  April 9  Chapter 10  

M  April 12  Chapter 10  
W  April 14  Review for Test 3  
F  April 16  Test 3 (Chapters 8-10)  

M  April 19  Chapter 13  
W  April 21  Chapter 13  
F  April 23  Chapter 13  

M  April 26  Review for Final Exam  
W  April 28  Review for Final Exam  

Monday, May 3  8-10 AM  Final Exam