Course Syllabus
FCBE 3720-M50 – Financial Markets
Fall Semester, 2020
3.0 Credit Hours
(Last updated: 8/8/2020)

Instructor: Al Carrion, Ph.D., CFA
E-mail: mcarrion@memphis.edu
Office: FCBE #429

Office Hours: As this is a fully online class, the standard means for communicating with the instructor is via course email throughout the semester. However, office appointments and phone calls can be scheduled.

Course Overview:
This course examines the operation of financial markets and financial intermediaries, along with their role in providing financing to the corporate and public sectors of the economy. The objective of the course is to provide detailed knowledge of a variety of financial instruments and the markets in which they trade. Topics covered include the financial system, the markets for different types of securities, and financial derivatives.

Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites:
FIR 3410

Required Text:

Note: eBook, looseleaf, and rentals are all acceptable options and may be available at a substantially lower price than purchasing the standard bound hardcopy version.

Location of Course Materials:
This is a fully online course and all course materials (lectures, discussion topics, news, etc.) are located on the eCourseware website.
Course Objectives:

By successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Apply the loanable funds theory to explain why interest rates change and to explain the theories behind the term structure of interest rates.
- Describe the organizational structure of the Fed and the mechanics of monetary policy and explain how the Fed influences monetary policy.
- Describe the different types of money market, debt market, and mortgage market securities; explain the valuation and risk of these securities.
- Describe the private equity market and how an investor participates in the stock market; explain how to value stocks and measure their risk; describe the common types of stock transactions and explain how stock transactions are executed; describe the key functions of securities firms.
- Summarize the different types of derivative securities markets and explain how each can be used to manage risk.
- Perform basic interest rate, return, and valuation calculations.

Fogelman College: Learning Outcomes for Your Degree

This course is designed to help you to meet the overall learning objectives for the BBA degree offered by the Fogelman College. You should take the time to become familiar with the overall learning objectives as a student in the BBA degree program.

- BBA Program Outcomes
- BBA in Accounting Program Outcomes
- MBA Program Outcomes
- IMBA Program Outcomes
- EMBA Program Outcomes
- MSBA Program Outcomes
- MS in Accounting Program Outcomes
- MA in Economics Program Outcomes
- PhD Program Outcomes

Course Methodology

This is an online course and much of the learning will be self-managed and self-paced. This has the benefit of accommodating each student’s unique schedule and learning style. Everything will be done fully online and asynchronously (meaning the class will not meet at specific times). However, we will move through this material together as a class, participate in online discussions, and have regular deadlines to meet.

Professor’s Expectations of Students:

In general, you should assist the instructor in creating a positive, supportive environment for learning by staying engaged in the course and actively participating in all online discussions.
**Student's Expectations of the Professor:**

In my role as your instructor, there are certain things you can expect from me including: well-organized and engaging learning experience, response to emails within two (2) business days, and feedback on all work submitted within 7-10 calendar days.

**Grading and Evaluation Criteria**

Over the semester, you will have a variety of opportunities to earn points towards your final (overall) letter grade in this course. This section of the syllabus describes the assessed work you will be doing and how overall (final) letter grades will be computed.

**Final Course Grades**

Final course grades are earned according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point Range</th>
<th>Assigned Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100 %</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89.99 %</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79.99 %</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69.99 %</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 60 %</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your overall grade for the semester is based on how well you perform on a mixture of formal activities including discussions, quizzes and projects. I reserve the right to curve grades at the end of the semester. A description of each of the assessed activities can be found after the course topics outline below.

**Summary of Graded Activities**

Points earned on the assessed activities will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Topics (7 @ 4 pts each)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework (7 @ 10 pts each)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (7 @ 25 pts each)</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>273 pts</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Topics:

Unit 1: Introduction to the Course Overview of the Financial Environment
- Role of Financial Markets and Institutions
- Determination of Interest Rates
- Structure of Interest Rates
- Reading Assignment: Chapters 1-3

Unit 2: Debt Security Market
- Money Markets
- Bond Markets
- Reading Assignment: Chapters 6-7

Unit 3: Debt Security Market (continued)
- Bond Valuation and Risk
- Mortgage Markets
- Reading Assignment: Chapters 8-9

Unit 4: Equity Markets
- Stock Offerings and Investor Monitoring
- Reading Assignment: Chapter 10

Unit 5: Equity Markets (continued)
- Stock Valuation and Risk
- Market Microstructure and Strategies
- Reading Assignment: Chapters 11-12

Unit 6: Derivative Markets
- Financial Futures
- Options Markets
- Swap Markets (optional)
- Reading Assignment: Chapters 13-14, 15

Unit 7: The Fed and Monetary Policy
- Function of the Fed
- Monetary Policy
- Reading Assignment: Chapters 4-5

Schedule of Activities

For a complete semester schedule of readings, activities, and due dates for assignments, please refer to the “Schedule of semester activities Fall 2019” that can be found in the online course area under “Getting Started.”
For each unit, you will need to do the following:

a. read the assigned chapters, and additional reading
b. review the PPT file for the chapters
c. listen to the power point presentation or other supplemental materials (if available)
d. complete homework assignments before deadline
e. participate in discussions
f. take the unit quiz after you have learned the material

Discussion board and team learning

Each unit has a link for discussions. Post your questions and comments about the materials in the unit. Your active participation in posting questions and providing timely and insightful replies will count towards your participation grade for the course.

Homework assignments

Homework will be assigned for selected chapters. Please complete them before the deadlines and submit your work to the Dropbox.

Quizzes

Quizzes are given for each unit. Each quiz will be available to you for at least a few days. Although it is open book/notes, there will be a time limit for each quiz. All quizzes are to be completed individually!

Final Exam Schedule

This course does not have a final exam. Please see section “Summary of Graded Activities” for grading details.

Course Policies and Student Resources

E-MAIL

All students are required to maintain and access their University of Memphis (@memphis.edu) email account. You will receive all official course correspondence at this email account. Any inability to receive incoming mail in a timely fashion (e.g., not regularly checking your email, having a “full mailbox” condition, etc.) is the student’s responsibility.

Attendance

Since this is an online class taught asynchronously, there are no scheduled meeting times. Thus, formal attendance will not be taken. However, you are expected to stay active and engaged throughout the academic term and keep up with the schedule of activities. Your full engagement in the class begins on the first day of the semester and should be maintained until the last assignment is submitted. For students receiving federal student loans, any lack of
engagement in the course may be treated as non-attendance and potentially impact access to student loans in the future.

**Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class in addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional disciplinary procedures. ([https://www.memphis.edu/osa/students/academic-misconduct.php](https://www.memphis.edu/osa/students/academic-misconduct.php)). Note that using a “Solutions Manual” is considered cheating. If you have any questions about academic integrity or plagiarism, you are strongly encouraged to review the Fogelman College’s Website on Academic Integrity.

**Participation**

To be successful in this course as a student, you must stay active and involved throughout the entire semester. Students are expected to participate in all interactive aspects of the course. You should also regularly communicate with the instructor as part of your overall learning experience, check into the course frequently for announcements (usually on the course homepage), and actively participate in threaded discussion events (both formal and informal). You should plan on logging into the course at least three times each week.

**Classroom or Online Behavior**

All participants in the course should be considerate of the other course participants and treat them (as well as their opinions) with respect. The class will operate under the assumption that any and all feedback offered is positive in nature and that the intentions of the person(s) providing feedback are strictly honorable. Insensitivity in this area will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about online communication, you should review the Fogelman College’s Netiquette website.

**Late Assignments**

Assignments and projects may be submitted anytime up to and including the date due. Please review all information in this syllabus and related “Course Activity Summary / Schedule” for all due dates for formally assessed work. Late work will only be accepted in special circumstances when the instructor is notified promptly of the situation and it is submitted before the unit has been graded. In no cases will a student be allowed to submit late work more than once per semester without a 50% penalty unless formal documentation of extreme extenuating circumstances is provided.

**Extra Credit**

There is no extra credit offered in this course. Your final grade will be computed based on your work on the formal/assessed activities previously described in this syllabus.
Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

Student Accommodations

- Students with accessibility issues or learning accommodation issues due to a disability should contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to submit an official request for course accommodations.
- Contact DRS at 901.678.2880 or at drs@memphis.edu. ([https://www.memphis.edu/drs/index.php](https://www.memphis.edu/drs/index.php))

Student Health

Students who have a positive COVID-19 test should contact the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@memphis.edu. Also see the FCBE COVID-19 Notice Page at: [https://www.memphis.edu/fcbe/faculty/covid_19_notice.php](https://www.memphis.edu/fcbe/faculty/covid_19_notice.php).

Student Resources

Please access the FCBE Student Services page for information about:

- Students with Disabilities
- Tutoring and other Academic Assistance
- Advising Services for Fogelman Students
- Technical Assistance

Students who need additional resources can visit the Dean of Students Office website at [https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/index.php](https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/index.php).