

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Mahendrarajah Nimalendran (Nimal)

*John H. and Mary Lou Dasburg Chair
Professor of Finance
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Office: STZ 303C

Office Hours: M, W, 6th Period

I am generally around each day, and if my schedule permits, I am willing to meet with students outside of office hours. If you need to set up a more formal meeting, please email or call me to set up an appointment.

Phone: (352) 392-9526

Email: Use: mahen.nimalendran@warrington.ufl.edu (Please indicate your course – FIN5437)

Teaching Assistant: Manvendra Tiwari

Office: STZ 311

Email: Use: manvendra.tiwari@warrington.ufl.edu

As the course teaching assistant, Manvendra will be responsible for grading the assignments. He will also be available if you have questions about the course material. He will not be holding regular office hours, but please feel free to contact him (email is probably best) if you have any concerns/questions about your grade in the class.

Course Sections:

Section 158F: Monday and Wednesday, Periods 1-2; Hough 150

Section 5281: Monday and Wednesday, Periods 7-8; Hough 150

Section 5282: Monday and Wednesday, Periods 3-4; Hough 150

Course Objectives and Scope

This course is designed for the general business student, not just the finance specialist. Since this is a survey course, we will cover many topics in finance. We will begin with a general overview and then go into more detail on several concepts, financial instruments, and techniques used in financial decision-making.

The course objectives will be pursued through lectures, assigned readings, quizzes, mid-term exam, group assignments, discussion of important developments in finance as reflected in leading publications, and a final exam.

The chief objectives of the course are:

1. To introduce you to the world of finance. Anyone involved with the management of a business needs to have at least some minimal knowledge of business finance.
2. To introduce you to basic financial concepts, such as the time value of money, asset valuation (bonds and stocks), and risk and return.
3. To introduce you to the basic quantitative tools for analyzing financial problems.

I hope that by the end of this course you will have a grasp of basic finance principles and that you will have gone beyond just memorizing facts and formulas. This will enable you to better understand current events in finance and will provide a solid framework for any subsequent courses you may take in finance.

Assurance of Learning

Each program at the Warrington College of Business Administration has developed goals and objectives that express the most valued skills and knowledge that students should be able to demonstrate upon completion of the total learning experiences in that program.

The program goals and objectives that apply to this course are the following:

Learning Goal 5: Program graduates will be competent across business disciplines.

5A Students will apply the essential elements of core business principles to analyze and solve problems in the business environment.

5B Students will apply essential elements of core business principles to construct and implement decision making processes in the business environment.

Required Material

- Throughout the term, I will periodically post class notes and other information on the class website.
- Financial Calculator and/or Excel spread sheet will be used throughout the course. Also a financial calculator or EXCEL will be necessary for the exams. I am not requiring or recommending a specific calculator – any basic model is fine as long as it does the basic time value of money functions and the cash-flow (NPV, IRR etc.) functions.

A good calculator is the HP-10BII+. I have posted a tutorial for this calculator on the class web page.

Note, that on the exams you must use an approved financial calculator and/or a blank EXCEL sheet ONLY.

Recommended Material

There is no required textbook for the class. The following is a recommended textbook.

- Brigham, E. F., and M. C. Ehrhardt, “*Financial Management: Theory and Practice*,” 15th. Edition, Cengage Learning.

Class Participation and Attendance

Since most of the course is based on lectures and class participation, your attendance is absolutely critical for your success in learning the material. Hence, part of your grade will be based on your attendance and class participation. You are allowed to miss one class without a penalty. After that you will lose 20 (Max 100 points) points for each class you miss. If you have a conflict (job interview or an emergency, which has to be documented) then you should let me know in advance. If you miss more than five classes then you will get an F for the course.

Team Assignments

There will be two team assignments. The teams will be assigned on the first day of class.

Each team should submit only one report assignment. **The reports should be typed, and they are due at the beginning of the class on the assigned date.** Deadline will be strictly enforced. It is important that everyone in the team participate in solving and writing-up the report.

Peer Evaluation of team members

At the end of the course, each member in a team will be evaluated by others in the team

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using a scale of 1- 5 (1=poor and 5=excellent). Your team assignment grade will be reduced by 25% if your participation evaluation is between 2 to 3. It will be reduced by 50% if it is between 1 and 2, and by 100% if it is less than 1.

Final Exam

Your final exam will be similar to the sample exam that will be provided. The exam will be comprehensive, and will include all the material covered during the course. You will take the final exam on the assigned date in class.

Course Evaluation

Two Team Assignments @ 100 each	200
Midterm Exam	300
Final Exam	400
Attendance/Participation	100
Total Points	1000
Score	Grade
Total \geq 930	A
$900 \leq$ Total $<$ 930	A-
$850 \leq$ Total $<$ 900	B+
$800 \leq$ Total $<$ 850	B
$750 \leq$ Total $<$ 800	B-
$700 \leq$ Total $<$ 750	C+
$650 \leq$ Total $<$ 700	C
Total $<$ 650	C- ~F

Re-Grading of Assignments

I will be happy to re-grade any assignment/exam that you feel is incorrectly graded. If you wish to have an assignment re-graded, please submit the assignment to me with a note asking for a re-grade. Include in your note a brief explanation of your reasons for a re-grade.

The following is from the University of Florida “Code of Student Conduct”

The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students are expected to pursue knowledge with integrity. Exhibiting honesty in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will encourage others to act with integrity. Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and a student being subject to the sanctions in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code. The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Academic Honesty Guidelines (University of Florida Rule 6C1-4.017).

Cheating

The improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying graded homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual(s) on a take-home test or homework when not specifically permitted by the teacher; looking or attempting to look at another student's paper during an examination; looking or attempting to look at text or notes during an examination when not permitted. The tendering of information includes, but is not limited to, giving of your work to another student to be used or copied; giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after taking an exam; giving or selling a term paper or other written materials to another student; sharing information on a graded assignment

Plagiarism

The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written materials or oral presentations for an academic requirement; submitting a paper which was purchased from a term paper service as your own work; submitting anyone else's paper as your own work.

So that there is no confusion, here are my expectations:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to work with their classmates or team mates to study, work problems and cases, and prepare for classes and exams. The goal is to maximize your understanding of the material.
2. Students are expected to include only their own work on the individual quizzes, assignments, and final exam. On the team assignments, each team is expected to do its own independent work. Cheating, as defined above, will not be tolerated.
3. Students are expected to contribute fully to each and every team assignment. Therefore, it is not permissible, say, for a team to split the case assignment so that each member of the team only contributes to part of an assignment. Each student is expected to be prepared to discuss cases that are open for discussion.
4. Plagiarism, as defined above, is not acceptable.

Library Resources

As a student at the University of Florida, you have free access to many of the online services that usually require a subscription. However, you will either need to access these services through a Library-related computer, or go through a “Proxy Server” using your GatorLink account username and password. To access the online Business Library section of the Smathers Library, go to

<http://businesslibrary.uflib.ufl.edu/>

On the right of the top line, click on Remote Logon. This will take you to a page that allows you to connect to on-campus services using the Library Proxy Server:

<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufproxy.html>

On the left of the screen, fill in your GatorLink Account Username and Password, and then click Login. This will take you back to the Smathers’ Library page, by using the Proxy Server:

<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/ufproxysuccess.html>

On the left of the screen you will see a dropdown menu under “UF Smathers Libraries”. Choose “Business Library” from the dropdown menu. This will take you back to the online Business Library, but through the Proxy Server:

<http://businesslibrary.uflib.ufl.edu/>

You could also click on “UF Libraries’ Home Page”, then “Business Library” under “George A Smathers Libraries”.

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Date	Course Topic	Text (Chapter)	Graded Assignment Due Date
1/4	Class Introduction, Corporate Objectives, Financial Environment	1	
1/9	Financial Statements	2, 3	
1/11	Time Value of Money	4	
1/16	MLK DAY - NO CLASS		
1/18	Interest Rates and Bonds	5	
1/23	Interest Rates and Bonds	5	Group Problem Set on Time Value of Money and Financial Statements
1/25	FIRST EXAMINATION (IN-CLASS)		FIRST EXAM, CHAPTERS 1-5
1/30	Risk and Return	6	
2/1	Risk and Return, Stocks	6,7	
2/6	Stocks	7	
2/8	Basics of Capital Budgeting	10	
2/13	Estimating Cash Flows and Risk	11	Group Problem Set on Interest Rates, Bonds, Risk & Return, and Stocks
2/15	Estimating Cash Flows and Risk	11	
2/20	SECOND (FINAL) EXAMINATION (IN-Class - regular scheduled exam time)		SECOND EXAM , CUMULATIVE WITH EMPHASIS ON CHAPTERS 6, 7, 10, & 11