

FINC 6532-FINANCE
Expanded Course Outline
Carrollton, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 PM
Spring 2012

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The policy of the University of West Georgia is that each student is responsible for checking his/her my.westga.edu email account on a regular basis.

I. Catalog Description:

A study of the major financial tools and techniques through problem solving and case studies.

II. Required Background or Experience:

A. Prerequisite: FINC 3511

B. Prerequisite Justification:

Basic knowledge of finance and present is value needed in order to work with security valuation, risk/return trade off, capital budgeting analysis, financial data, security markets, financial instruments, and cost of capital analysis.

C. General Education (Core) Contribution:

The course uses the writing skills developed in English courses, oral skills developed in speech courses, mathematical methods and critical thinking acquired in mathematics courses. In addition, the course uses basic accounting knowledge gained in ACCT 2101, 2102, legal knowledge from BUSA 2106, and familiarity with a spreadsheet program.

III. Expected Outcomes and Course Learning Objective

A. Improve communication effectiveness in oral and written presentations--LG 1.

B. Apply quantitative skills to business problems—LG 5.

C. Have an understanding of political, legal, and ethical considerations that affect the economic environment and decision making in corporations--LG 4, 5.

D. Develop the ability to read financial statements and financial information—LG 5.

E. Expand mastery of spreadsheet and word processing skill- LG 5.

F. Understand in detail financial principals, institutions, and management in corporate activities--LG 5.

Specific Course Learning Objective: Students comprehend and apply accounting information to evaluate financial performance, value financial securities, value the firm, and make value enhancement decisions.

IV. Text and References:

TEXT - Michael Ehrhardt and Eugene Brigham, Corporate Finance: A Focused Approach, 4th edition, South-Western Cengage Learning. Textbook decision made by instructor.

V. Special or Unique Student Material:

A financial calculator with a “cash flow” button is needed. Examples: HP 10B, TI BAII Plus, TI 83 (mildly preferred).

VI. Special or Unique University Facilities:

Access to a personal computer with spreadsheet and word processing programs as provided by the student lab. http://www.westga.edu/~chodges/html/finc_6532.html is the location of the course Webpage. WEBCT Vista (webct.westga.edu) will be used to distribute information and administer quizzes.

VII. Expanded Description of the Course and Instructional Method:

A. Expanded Description of the Course:

The course provides a conceptual framework within which key financial decisions and risks relating to corporations are analyzed. This analysis considers shareholder wealth maximization, the firm’s relationship to its environment, interpretation of accounting data, use of present value analysis and capital budgeting, financial risk management, capital acquisition analysis, capital structure decision, valuation of financial instruments, identification and valuation of real and financial options.

B. Instructional Methods:

1. Lecture and Problem Solving:

Topics are discussed via lectures, problem solving, and student generated topics. During lectures, students contribute through their comments and their evaluation of analytical problems. Classes will typically be devoted to analytical problem solving and student generated discussions, while conceptual lectures will be delivered via streaming video. Students may view the conceptual lectures in either a group or individual setting.

2. Group Research Project:

Each group is responsible for conducting a financial research project. The research project develops a model to predict some critical financial variable. The written paper should be structured in a manner similar to academic journal articles. The grade for the project will be a combination of group grade (assigned by instructor) and peer grade (assigned by fellow group members). The project description is attached to the syllabus.

3. Quizzes:

WebCT based quizzes are used as a substitute for homework questions and problems. A quiz is created for each chapter covered in the course. These quizzes are diagnostic in nature, in that their purpose is to allow students to determine areas needing further study. As multiple attempts are allowed on each quiz, and only the highest grade for each quiz is used in calculating quiz grades, it is anticipated that most students will average close to 100 on the quizzes.

VIII. Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:

A. Evaluation Tools:

Group Research Project	20%
Quizzes	30%
Midterm exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

There is no extra credit in this course. Work submitted for credit in other courses will not be accepted for credit in this course.

B. Learning Domains:

1. Cognitive: Knowledge, Comprehension, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation.
2. Affective: Receiving, Responding, Valuing, Organization, and Characterization.

IX. Tentative Schedule

Week:	Chapter(s)	Topic
January 12	Syllabus	Course Introduction
	Chapter 1	Overview of Financial Management
January 19	Chapter 2	Review of Financial Statements
January 26	Chapter 3	Financial Analysis and Financial Planning
February 2	Chapter 4	Time Value of Money Intro, Bring Financial Calculator
February 9	Chapter 4	More Time Value of Money
February 16	Chapter 5	Bonds, Bond Valuation, and Interest Rates
February 23	Chapter 6	Risk, Return, and the Capital Asset Pricing Model
March 1	Exam 1 over chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (120 minutes), Exam 1 Review	
March 8	Chapter 7	Stocks, Stock Valuation, and Stock Market Equilibrium
March 15	Chapter 8	Financial Options, and Applications in Corporate Finance
March 29	Chapter 9	Cost of Capital
April 5	Chapter 10	Capital Budgeting Basics
April 12	Chapter 11	Capital Budgeting Cash Flows and Risk Analysis
April 19	Chapter 15	Capital Structure
	Exam Preparation, Project Due	

Final Exam: April 26, Thursday, 8:00-10:30 PM

NOTE 1: The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is March 1, 2011.

NOTE 2: This course covers the following AACSB perspectives:

- Influence of legal and regulatory issues
- Written communication
- Social issues
- Ethical issues

NOTE 3: This course covers the following teaching objectives:

- developing written communication skills
- develops analytical/critical thinking
- encourages social responsibility