FINC 3511- CORPORATE FINANCE
Expanded Course Outline
SPRING 2011
Section 01 – 10:00 am - MWF

Professor: Ron Best
Phone: (678) 839-4812
Office: Adamson 206
Office Hrs: M & W: 8:00-9:00 am; 12:30-3:00 pm; T: 12:30-3:30 pm; and by appointment.
(You are welcome to “drop-in” whenever I am in my office.)

Web-page: http://www.westga.edu/~rbest
Email: rbest@westga.edu

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

I. Catalog Description

Financial functions in the modern corporation with emphasis on its managerial aspects.

II. Required Background or Experience

A. Prerequisite: ACCT 2101

B. Prerequisite Justification: Knowledge of basic accounting techniques, financial statements, and basic legal concepts is essential for the usage of accounting information to serve the needs of finance.

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.

III. Expected Outcomes: (www.westga.edu/~accfin/outcomes.htm)

A. Communicate effectively in writing - LG1 (Learning Goal 1).

B. Apply basic quantitative skills to business problems – LG2.

C. Use computer resources to research and analyze business problems – LG3.

D. Develop the ability to read financial statements and use financial information, apply time value of money concepts and formulas, appropriately apply capital budgeting techniques, value securities, and make informed financial decisions – LG4, 6, 7.

E. Have an understanding of legal and ethical considerations that affect financial decision-making in corporations – LG5.
IV. Text and References


B. FINC 3511 Lecture Supplement, Ron Best (UWG Bookstore), REQUIRED.

V. Special or Unique Student Material:

Financial calculator that computes net present value (NPV) and internal rate of return (IRR). (e.g., Hewlett Packard 10B; Texas Instruments BA II+; Texas Instruments TI-84)

VI. Special or Unique University Facilities:

Access to Internet connected computer and library reference resources for term project.

VII. Expanded Description of the Course and Instructional Method:

A. Expanded Description of the Course: The course provides a framework of financial management at the introductory level. It is taught from the viewpoint of a corporate financial manager trying to maximize stockholder wealth. Topics include financial statement analysis, markets and institutions, risk and rates of return, time value of money, bond and stock valuation, cost of capital, capital budgeting, capital structure and leverage, dividend policy, and international finance. Upon successful completion of this course, you should understand: the structure of financial markets; how financial statements are used to analyze a company’s financial strength; the relationship of risk and return; how financial risk is measured; how to calculate and interpret present and future values; basic bond and stock valuation; how to calculate a firm’s cost of capital; how corporations select projects; the determinants of capital structure choice; and, factors that affect dividend policy.

B. Instructional Methods:
   a. Lecture and Problem Solving: Topics in financial management are discussed in lectures (both online and face-to-face) presented by the instructor. Students are expected to complete analytical problems in conjunction with lecture and solution presentations.

   b. Internet Materials: Various materials are available on the instructor’s home page and the CourseDen course site.

   c. Outside Assignments: Students are required to complete a basic financial analysis of an individual corporation and a consumer financial decision project. The projects are intended to introduce students to various sources of financial data. A substantial portion of the data must be collected using the Internet and the COMPUSTAT database. CourseDen housed quizzes and exams must be completed.
VIII. Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:

A. Evaluation tools: Grading weights are shown below. Quizzes are online. Your overall quiz score is calculated as the sum of your ten highest quiz grades (there are twelve quizzes: the two lowest scores are dropped). The two exams are in-class exams. Exam 1 covers material from the beginning of the course until the exam date. Exam 2 covers material after Exam 1 until the end of the course. A comprehensive Final Exam which covers all material from the beginning until the end of the course may be taken as an alternative to Exam 2 (see * below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Weights*</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10 highest)</td>
<td>20%**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Part 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Part 2</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>35%***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>35%***</td>
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*You may choose to take a comprehensive Final Exam instead of Exam 2. If you choose this alternative, the weight for Exam 1 will drop to 20% of your overall grade and the comprehensive Final Exam will count 50% of your overall grade. You must email me one week before the scheduled date for Exam 2 if you wish to take the comprehensive Final Exam.

**Each online quiz may be taken up to four times. The highest score is retained for grading purposes. The quizzes change each time they are opened. Quiz questions are randomly selected from the associated database.

***There are corresponding sample exams in CourseDen for all exams. Sample exams are provided as study aides. Sample exams can help increase your exam score, but cannot lower your scores. If your highest sample exam score is lower than your actual exam score, you keep your actual exam score. If your highest score on the sample exam is greater than your actual exam score, your exam score will be calculated as: Exam Score = (1/4)(Sample Exam Score) + (3/4)(Actual Exam Score).

Work submitted for credit in other courses will not be accepted for credit in this course. There is no extra credit in this course beyond that explicitly stated in the course syllabus or announced in class by the instructor. I reserve the right to “curve” grades.

B. Administrative Policies
a. Information regarding course grades will not be given over the telephone. Grades will be posted in CourseDen.

b. Requests for quiz and exam score adjustments must be made in writing (email is fine) within ONE WEEK of grade assignment.
c. **Attendance Policy:**
   i. **Regular Class Meetings:** Attendance will be taken using a seating chart and signup sheet (this helps me learn your name). It is your responsibility to sign the roll.
   
   ii. **Rounding Points:** You start the semester with two ROUNGING POINTS. If you do not lose the points, they will be added to your overall average grade at the end of the semester. Each unexcused absence results in the loss of 0.5 rounding points.
   
   iii. **Scheduled Exams:** No makeup quizzes will be given unless offered to the entire class. If you miss a quiz you will receive a grade of zero on that quiz. Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped before the quiz average is calculated. Makeup exams are generally not given. If the absence is excused, you will take a comprehensive final exam whose weight will be increased to include the weight of the missed exam. If the absence is not excused, you will receive a zero for that exam. You are encouraged to notify me in advance if you know you will be unable to take an exam at the scheduled time. In any event, you must notify me within one week of the missed exam, or the absence will not be excused and you will receive a zero for the missed exam.
   
   iv. **General:** You are responsible for knowledge of any administrative announcements (test information, schedule changes, etc.) that are posted in CourseDen or sent to your official UWG email address.

d. **Code of Conduct:** Honesty and integrity are necessary to the academic and professional functions of business. Dishonesty undermines the foundation of the academic environment. Improper academic conduct shall be interpreted to mean the obtaining and using of information during an examination by means other than those permitted by the instructor, including supplying such information to other students. All forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and falsification of academic records are subject to disciplinary action.

C. **Learning Domains:**

IX. **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

**NOTES:**
- Fridays are reserved for online assignments/quizzes, so there are no face-to-face meetings.
- All quizzes open when the class begins. Quizzes close at 11:59 pm on the dates shown below.
- Do not attempt quizzes during the period from 10:00 pm on Fridays until 7:00 am on Saturdays due to CourseDen maintenance during this period.
Jan 5 Introduction/Orientation
7 Introduction/Orientation

10 Chapter 1
12 Chapters 2 and 6
14 Online Review

17 MLK HOLIDAY
19 Chapter 3
21 **Online Quiz 1 - Chapters 1, 2 and 6, and 3 (closes 1/24)**

24 Chapter 4
26 Chapter 4
28 **Online Quiz 2 – Chapter 4 (concepts) (closes 1/31)**

31 Chapters 4 and 16

Feb 2 Chapters 4 and 16
4 **Online Quiz 3 - Chapters 4 and 16 (closes 2/7)**

7 Chapter 8
9 Chapter 8 – **Project Part 1 Due – 5:00 pm (Submit in CourseDen)**
11 **Online Quiz 4 - Chapter 8 (closes 2/14)**

14 Chapter 5
16 Chapter 5
18 **Online Quiz 5 - Chapter 5 (Concepts and Lump Sum Problems) (closes 2/21)**

21 Chapter 5
23 Chapter 5 and Review Session
25 **Online Quiz 6 - Chapter 5 (All) (closes 2/28)**

28 **Exam 1 (Part 1) – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16 - (Open 5:00 am to 11:59 pm)**

Mar 2 **Exam 1 (Part 2) – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16 - (Open 5:00 am to 11:59 pm)**
(March 2 – **Last day to withdraw with grade of W**)

4 Optional Progress Meetings – Dr. Best’s Office

7-11 **SPRING BREAK**

14 Chapter 7
16 Chapter 7
18 **Online Quiz 7 – Chapter 7 (closes 3/21)**

21 Chapter 9 (online)
23 Chapter 9
25 **Online Quiz 8 - Chapter 9 (closes 3/28)**
28 Chapter 10
30 Chapter 10 – Project Part 2 Due – 5:00 pm (Submit in CourseDen)

Apr 1 
4 Chapter 10
6 Chapter 10
8 Online Quiz 10 - Chapter 10 (WACC) (closes 4/11)

11 Chapter 11
13 Chapter 11
15 Online Quiz 11 - Chapter 11 (closes 4/18)

18 Chapter 12
20 Chapter 12
22 Online Quiz 12 - Chapter 12 (closes 4/25)

25 Chapters 13 and 14
27 Review Session

FINAL EXAM
Wednesday, May 4, 2011 – 8:00 – 10:00 am

NOTE 1: This course covers the following AACSB perspectives: influence of legal and regulatory issues; ethical issues; written and oral communication; and social issues

NOTE 2: This course covers the following teaching objectives: developing oral communication skills; developing analytical/critical thinking; and encouraging social responsibility.