FINC 3511- CORPORATE FINANCE
Expanded Course Outline
SPRING 2014 - Section 01 – MW 9:30 am

Professor: Ron Best
Phone: (678) 839-4812
Office: Adamson 206
Office Hrs: M & W: 8:00-9:30 am; 1:50-2:50 pm; T: 8:00-11:00 am; 12:30-2:30 pm.
(You are welcome to “drop-in” whenever I am in my office.)

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

Additional Contact Information:
Please send all email to my UWG account (rbest@westga.edu). If calling, try my office number first, 678-839-4812. If you have a problem that needs immediate attention, call or text me at my cell number: 678-378-8573. If there is no answer, call me at home: 770-838-9165 (leave a message if I am not available to take your call). Please do not call my home before 8:00 am or after 9:30 pm.

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. Check to be sure that your account has not exceeded its quota and can receive new messages.

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: (http://www.westga.edu/accfin/index_16277.php)

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

A. FINC 3511 Lecture Supplement, Ron Best, Available in CourseDen (no charge) REQUIRED.


V. **Special or Unique Student Material:**

Financial calculator with net present value (NPV) and internal rate of return (IRR). (e.g., Hewlett Packard 10B; Texas Instruments BA II+; Texas Instruments TI-83 or 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 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. CourseDen housed quizzes and exams must be completed.
VIII. Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:

A. Evaluation tools: The quizzes and the Midterm Exam are taken online. The Final Exam must be taken in class. There are twelve quizzes. The two lowest quiz scores are dropped before your overall quiz score is calculated. The Midterm Exam covers material from the beginning of the course until the exam date. The Final Exam is comprehensive covering all material from the beginning until the end of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADING WEIGHTS*</th>
<th>GRADING SCALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10 highest) 15%*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 1 5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2 5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam 35%**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Final Exam 40%**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>Final Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Each online quiz may be taken up to four times. The highest score for each quiz is retained for grading purposes. The quizzes change each time they are opened.

**There are corresponding sample exams in CourseDen for all exams. Sample exams are provided as study aides. Sample exams can increase your exam scores, 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:

\[ \text{Exam Score} = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)\text{(Sample Exam Score)} + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)\text{(Actual Exam Score)} \]

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 Information

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. 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. You start the semester with two Rounding Points. If you do not lose the points, they will be added to your overall average grade at the end of the semester. Each absence results in the loss of 0.5 rounding points. If you miss a class, online lectures are available on the course website (or CourseDen). Audio-enhanced solutions are available on the course webpage (or
ii. **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. **If you miss an exam,** you will receive a zero unless your reason for missing the exam is deemed valid by the instructor. You must contact me regarding your excuse for missing an exam within one week of the closing time of the exam or you will receive a zero on the exam.

iii. **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. Please read and adhere to the UWG Honor Code: [http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php](http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php). Please read and adhere to the UWG Honor Code: [http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php](http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php).

e. Student Rights and Responsibilities: Review information at this link: [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf) The document at this link contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

f. Credit Hour Policy (3 credit hours): Students in this class will spend around 150 minutes per week with faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online). Generally, students can expect to spend at least an additional 300 minutes per week beyond instruction. This additional work may include, but is not limited to, readings, assignments, projects, group work, research, and test preparation.

C. **Learning Domains:**


IX. SCHEDULE: (The schedule may require modification as the semester progresses. Any changes will be noted in CourseDen.)

- 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.**

**Important Dates:**
- February 19  Project 1 (submit in CourseDen by 11:59 pm)
- February 25-26  Midterm Exam – Available online in CourseDen
- February 26  Deadline to withdraw with a grade of W.
- April 9  Project 2 (submit in CourseDen by 11:59 pm)
- April 23  Final Exam – Adamson 227 (must be taken in class)

1/6-10  Introduction/Orientation, Chapters 1, 2, and 6
1/13-17  Chapter 3
**Online Quiz 1 – Covers Syllabus and Introduction/Orientation (closes 1/21)**
1/20  MLK Holiday
1/21-24  Chapter 4 – Concepts
**Online Quiz 2 - Chapters 1, 2 and 6, and 3 (closes 1/27)**
1/27-31  Chapters 4 and 16
**Online Quiz 3 - Chapters 4 and 16 (closes 2/3)**
2/3-7  Chapter 8
**Online Quiz 4 - Chapter 8 (closes 2/10)**
2/10-14  Chapter 5
**Online Quiz 5 - Chapter 5 (Concepts and Lump Sum Problems) (closes 2/17)**
2/17-21  Chapter 5
**Project 1 – Due 2/19 at 11:59 pm (Submit in CourseDen)**
**Online Quiz 6 - Chapter 5 (All) (closes 2/24)**
2/24  Review for Midterm Exam

**Midterm Exam – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16**
The Midterm Exam is available online in CourseDen from 1:00 am on February 25, 2014 until 11:59 pm on February 26, 2014.

**February 26 – Last day to withdraw with grade of W**

3/3-7  Chapter 7
**Online Quiz 7 – Chapter 7 (closes 3/10)**
3/10-14  Chapter 9
Online Quiz 8 - Chapter 9 (closes 3/24)

3/17-21  Spring Break

3/24-28  Chapters 13 and 10
Online Quiz 9 – Chap 13 and 10 (Component Costs of Capital) (closes 3/31)

3/31-4/4  Chapter 10
Online Quiz 10 - Chapter 10 (WACC) (closes 4/7)

4/7-11  Chapter 11
Project 2 – Due 4/9 at 11:59 pm (Submit in CourseDen)
Online Quiz 11 - Chapter 11 (closes 4/14)

4/14-18  Chapters 12 and 14
Online Quiz 12 - Chapter 12 (closes 4/21)

Final Exam – Comprehensive (covers all chapters)
Wednesday, April 23, 2014 – 8:00 – 10:30 am – Adamson 227

You may bring two pages of handwritten notes (you may write on front and back of both pages), as much blank paper as you wish, and any financial calculator to the exam.