FINC 4532- PROBLEMS IN CORPORATE FINANCE
Expanded Course Outline
SPRING 2013 - Section 01 – MW 12:30 pm

Professor: Ron Best
Phone: (678) 839-4812
Office: Adamson 206
Office Hrs: M & W: 8:00-9:30 am; 2:00-3:00 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:
I check “regular” email most often (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.

I. Catalog Description
An examination of various topics in finance including bankruptcy and reorganization, mergers and acquisitions, lease financing, and others. The course emphasizes logical financial decision-making techniques through the examination of underlying theories and through problem solving. Problems, cases, and directed readings are used extensively.

II. Required Background or Experience
A. Prerequisite: FINC 3511
B. Prerequisite Justification: In-depth knowledge of the time value of money and a basic knowledge of capital budgeting, the cost of capital, short-term financing, and accounting are required.
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. The knowledge gained in ACCT 2101 and 2102, MGNT 3600, and ECON 3402 and 3406 are used. Statistics is used throughout the course.
III. Expected Outcomes: (http://www.westga.edu/accfin/index_16277.php)

A. Improve communication effectiveness in oral and written presentations - LG1 (Learning Goal 1).
B. Apply statistical techniques to finance problems – LG2.
C. Understand how time value of money and capital budgeting techniques are used to analyze each of the topics within the class. – LG4, and LG6.
D. Know where finance fits into the structure and organization of the firm. – LG4.

IV. Text and References


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, library resources, and RCOB computer lab.

VII. Expanded Description of the Course and Instructional Method:

A. Expanded Description of the Course: The course examines the investment banking process including how and why stocks and bonds are issued and the regulation of securities markets. The course considers the major ways to reorganize and/or expand the firm, including bankruptcy, mergers and acquisitions, and international finance. Lastly, the course considers balance sheet management, which includes liquidity management, leasing, and other asset-based financing.

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 and offer comments in class. Problems and cases are analyzed and discussed in class.

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 assigned problems and/or cases. CourseDen housed quizzes must be completed.
VIII. Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:

A. Evaluation tools: Grading weights are shown below. All quizzes and exams are taken online. There are eleven quizzes. The two lowest quiz scores from Quizzes 2 through 11 are dropped before your overall quiz score is calculated. Exams 2 and 3 are not cumulative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Weights*</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quizzes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Letter Grade</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%*</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td><strong>Each online quiz may be taken up to four times.</strong> The highest of the four scores for each quiz is retained for grading purposes. The quizzes change each time they are opened. Quiz questions are randomly selected from the database.</td>
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</tbody>
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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. **Class Meetings:** You are expected to attend all class meetings except January 9 which will be an online review session. Attendance will be taken at all other classes. Each absence beyond the first two will result in a one-point reduction in your overall course average. All points deducted from students missing class will be equally divided among students missing two or fewer classes.

   ii. **Scheduled Exams: No makeup quizzes will be given.** If you miss a quiz you will receive a grade of zero on that quiz. Your two lowest quiz grades from Quizzes 2 through 11 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. Makeup exams will be more difficult.

   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.

C. Learning Domains:

IX. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:
- 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.

1/7    Introduction/Orientation
1/9    Online Time Value of Money Review (No class meeting)
      Self-Test Introduction (must be completed by 11:59 pm on 1/14)

1/14-18 Agency Theory – Chapter 14
      Online Quiz 1 – Time Value of Money Review (closes 1/22)

1/21    MLK Holiday
1/22-25 Agency Theory – Chapter 14
      Online Quiz 2 – Agency Theory (closes 1/28)

1/28-2/1 Investment Banking and Issuing Securities – Chapter 19
      Online Quiz 3 - Chapters 4 and 16 (closes 2/4)

2/4-8    Mergers and Acquisitions – Chapter 25
      Online Quiz 4 – Mergers and Acquisitions (closes 2/11)

2/11    Review
2/13    Exam 1

2/18-22 Financial Distress – Chapter 26
      Online Quiz 5 – Financial Distress (closes 2/25)

2/25-29 Long-Term Debt and Leasing and Other Asset-Based Financing – Chapters 21 & 22
      Online Quiz 6 – Long-Term Debt and Leasing (closes 3/4)

3/4-8    Multinational Financial Management – Chapter 27
      March 4 – Last day to withdraw with grade of W
      Online Quiz 7 – Long-Term Debt (closes 3/11)
3/11  Review  

3/13  Exam 2

3/18-22  Spring Break

3/25-29  Liquidity Management – Chapter 22
Online Quiz 8 – Liquidity Management (closes 4/1)

4/1-5  Accounts Receivable and Inventory Management – Chapter 23
Online Quiz 9 – Acc Rec and Inventory Management (closes 4/8)

4/8-12  Accounts Receivable and Inventory Management – Chapter 23
Online Quiz 10 – Acc Rec and Inventory Management (closes 4/15)

4/15-19  Financial Planning – Chapter 24
Online Quiz 11 – Financial Planning (closes 4/22)

4/24  Exam 3 – 11:00 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.