



Dillard College of Business Administration

Syllabus: Financial Administration

FINC 5713 Section X10 (Online) Fall 2020

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Qian Li, CFA, Associate Professor in Finance

Office: Dillard Building 205

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM, 5 PM – 7 PM;
Wednesday 9 AM – 10 AM; Thursday 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

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Course Materials

- Required Textbook:
 - a. Corporate Finance: A Focused Approach, 7th Edition, by Michael Ehrhardt and Eugene Brigham, Cengage Learning, ISBN: 978-1337909747
 - b. Customized [Harvard Business School \(HBS\) Coursepack](#). The link to purchase the coursepack is also provided on D2L. Please respect the publisher's copy rights and purchase the cases directly from the HBS Publishing website. Do not make photocopies without the publisher's consent.
- D2L Access
Due to the online nature of this course, we will make extensive use of Desire2Learn (D2L) this semester. Make sure that you have access to this course on D2L. From D2L you will see many important materials such as course syllabus, lecture notes and announcements. If you have problem accessing D2L, please refer to the [help page](#) about your login information.
- Computer, Software, and Internet
Due to the online nature of this class, students are required to have access to a computer capable of playing videos files, opening PDF files, and using Microsoft Office Suite. MSU students can have free access to Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access, through the [Microsoft website](#). If you run into any problem with the Office Suite, please contact [MSU IT Department](#) for help

A reliable broadband internet connection is required for downloading and viewing course materials and taking online exams. No technical problem at a student's end will be considered or excused for grading purposes.

- Online Exam requirements
This course requires the use of Respondus LockDown Browser for online exams. A webcam is also required. The computer needs to meet the system requirements for installing Respondus Lockdown Browser. Please be advised that Chromebooks Laptop, smart phones, or tablet may not meet the requirements for the Respondus browser and webcam monitoring. Watch [this video](#)

to get a basic understanding of the LockDown Browser. Download instructions and guidelines are available on D2L.

Course Prerequisite(s)

BUAD 3033, FINC 3733 or BUAD 5006, and consent of the Graduate Coordinator.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure that you meet the prerequisite requirements. Failure to do that may result in withdrawal from the class, even at late point of this semester.

Learning Goals

A: DCOBA Graduate Program General Learning Goals

GLG1: Our students will exhibit the characteristics of leadership.

Objective: Our graduates will have the capacity to lead effectively.

In this class students will form teams to work on case analysis projects. Project grades will reflect students' leadership and participation in the team projects.

GLG3: Our students will produce creative responses to business situations.

Objective: Our graduates will demonstrate the capability to critically analyze business situations and develop creative solutions to opportunities and problems.

In this class students will be required to analyze numerous cases. The analysis will include identifying the problem(s), suggesting possible alternatives to solve the problems, recommending the best alternative, and presenting an implementation plan. Grades will reflect the quality of the analysis.

GLG5: Our students will communicate at a professional level.

Objective: Our graduates will be able to communicate in a professional business manner.

In this class students are required to write case analysis reports. Grades will be affected by the effectiveness of the writing communications.

B. Course Specific Learning Goals:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. understand key financial concepts such as:
 - Time Value of Money
 - Financial analysis
 - Corporate valuation analysis
 - Capital budgeting and project valuation analysis
2. integrate these concepts from the prospective of value creation.
3. apply these concepts to the analysis of intermediate level finance cases.
4. contribute to team projects based on logical and appropriately focused analysis and make reasonable conclusions and recommendations based on assigned cases.
5. submit well written, grammatically correct and well-organized case report

Grading and Evaluation:

Grades are determined by the following components:

a. Exams:

There will be two equally weighted exams. Each exam is weighted 20% into the overall grade. Format and content of the exam will be announced on D2L prior to the exam.

Both exams are mandatory. Please refer to the tentative course schedule at the end of this syllabus for exam dates. The exam will be open between 8am and 10pm on the exam day. Students have two hours to complete and submit the exam once they start an exam. There will be no make-up for the exams. It is the student's responsibility to know when and how the exams will be held.

If you miss one exam, with a valid reason, the weight of the missed exam can be transferred into the other exam you can take. This option can only be exercised once, meaning that if you miss more than one exam, you lose at least 20%.

Situations that can be excused include: active military/police/firefighter assignment, jury duty, university functions (for example, athlete events or student conferences), and medical emergency for yourself or your immediate family members. Supporting documents are required. Missing any exam without a valid excuse will automatically result in a grade of zero for that specific exam.

Students are not allowed to capture/record the exam questions by any means while taking an exam. Collaboration among students while taking an exam is considered cheating and is prohibited. Please refer to the Academic Integrity section of this syllabus regarding to the consequences.

b. Case Analysis Reports:

Students will form groups to work on three case analysis reports. Each group should have no fewer than 3 students, and no more than 4 students. Each group needs to submit one copy of their written report to the D2L Dropbox for each case assignment by the deadline. Deadline for each case will be provided on D2L. Submission after the specified deadline will NOT be accepted and will automatically result a grade of zero for everyone in the group.

Table 1 and Table 2 below illustrate the grade components and the grading standard.

Table 1: Grade Components

Element	Points
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	20
Case Analysis Reports	60
Total Points	100

Table 2: Grading Standard

Grade	Points
A	90 or greater
B	80 to 89.99
C	70 to 79.99
D	60 to 69.99
F	Lower than 60

To maintain the fairness to the entire class, the same grading criteria will be applied to all students. Grades are not negotiable. There will be no bonus/additional assignment/project designed for or given to any individual student.

Additional Course Policies

1. Students have the responsibility to check in on D2L regularly for new announcements and course materials. Failure to do so may result in missing important instructions and updates and consequently lower test or assignment grades.
2. Due to the covid-19 situation and the online nature of this course, email and Zoom meeting are the preferred ways to communicate with the professor. Zoom meeting instructions will be posted on D2L. Please follow the social distancing and mask requirements during any face-to-face meetings.
3. Redistribution of any course material provided by the instructor in any form outside this class is strictly prohibited.
4. This class follows Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog regarding to the Instructor Drop: *An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 9 weeks of a long semester, the first 4 1/2 weeks of an 8 week part-of-term, the first 6 weeks of a 10 week summer term, or the 12th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.*

Academic Integrity

With regards to academic honesty, students are referred to the University's Student Honor Creed, including the following statement:

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests with each individual student.

This course follows Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog regarding to the Academic Dishonesty policy:

A grade of F given for academic dishonesty will be computed in the grade point average even if permission is granted for the course to be repeated. Additional college and program policies regarding academic dishonesty will apply.

Americans with Disabilities Act

If a student has an established disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act and would like to request accommodation, that student should see me as soon as possible (preferably within the first two weeks of the semester). Refer to my office hours and phone number shown on page 1. This class follows the guidelines suggested by [Office of Disabilities Support Services](#) for students who qualify for disability services. Please see [Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog](#) for details.

Campus Carry statement

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's [Campus Carry Policy](#) webpage.

Professionalism

The faculty, staff, and students of the Dillard College of Business Administration are committed to being a “professional” in our words, conduct, and actions. The qualities of a professional include:

- A commitment to the development of specialized knowledge
- Competency in analytical, oral and written communication skills
- Self-discipline
- Reliability
- Honesty and integrity
- Trustworthiness
- Timeliness
- Accountability for words and actions
- Respect for others and other cultures
- Politeness and good manners
- A professional image (professionals look professional)
- An awareness of their environment and adaptability to different settings
- Confidence without arrogance
- A commitment to giving back to your community

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course—not a “contract”—and is subject to change. Syllabus changes will be communicated on D2L.

Course Schedule

Table 3: Tentative Course Schedule

Since this is an online class, students are in charge of your own learning pace. The table below serves as a guideline for a reasonable study load each week and a reminder of the exam dates and group project report due dates.

Week	Monday Start	Coverage
1	8/24/2020	Syllabus, class policy and learning goals discussion
2	8/31/2020	Lecture 1: Intro for Corporate Financial Management
3	9/7/2020	Lecture 2: Review of Financial Statements
4	9/14/2020	Lecture 3: Financial Statement Analysis
5	9/21/2020	Case Report 1: AT&T vs. Verizon. Report due on Sunday, 09/27/2020
6	9/28/2020	Lecture 4: Time Value of Money
7	10/5/2020	Exam 1 on Friday, 10/09/2020
8	10/12/2020	Lecture 5: Bond valuation and Interest Rates
9	10/19/2020	Lecture 6: Stock Valuation and Corporate Valuation
10	10/26/2020	Case Report 2: Whole Food. Report due on Sunday, 11/01/2020
11	11/2/2020	Lecture 7: Cost of Capital
12	11/9/2020	Lecture 8: Capital Budgeting- Evaluating Cash Flows
13	11/16/2020	Lecture 9: Capital Budgeting-Cash Flow Estimation
14	11/23/2020	Group Discussion. Thanksgiving Holiday
15	11/30/2020	Case Report 3: American Solar, Inc. Report due on Sunday, 12/06/2020
16	12/7/2020	Final Exam on Thursday, 12/10/2020