



Dillard College of Business Administration

FINC 3353.101
Financial Markets and Institutions
Fall 2025

Class Hours

Monday and Wednesday,
02:00 pm to 03:20 pm, Dillard Building 121

Contact Information

Instructor: Adam Y.C. Lei, Ph.D., CFA
Office: Dillard Building 219
(940) 397-4403 adam.lei@msutexas.edu

Office Hours: Monday, 03:30 pm to 04:30 pm,
Tuesday, 01:00 pm to 02:00 pm,
Wednesday, 03:30 pm to 04:30 pm, and by appointment

Course Materials

Required:

- 1) Lecture Notes (PowerPoint slides; available through D2L), and
- 2) *Financial Markets and Institutions*, 14e, by Jeff Madura and Ohaness Paskelian, Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-0357988299 ([Web Link](#) for students choosing the eBook option; we do not need the publisher's MindTap access).

Recommended: The Wall Street Journal.

Course Prerequisites

Junior standing or above or consent of the chair.

Course Description

Characteristics, functions, and interaction of financial markets and institutions; current developments and trends; factors in interest rate determination.

Course Objective

A. *General Learning Goals:*

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

- 1) Demonstrate problem solving and decision making abilities through the critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information.
- 2) Demonstrate a competency in speaking and writing for common business scenarios.
- 3) Have an understanding of the influence of global and multicultural issues on business activities.

B. Course Specific Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have developed the understanding of:

- 1) The importance and determinants of interest rates.
- 2) The structure and functions of the Federal Reserve System.
- 3) Characteristics and functions of financial markets.
- 4) Characteristics and functions of financial institutions.
- 5) Current developments, trends, and interaction of financial markets and institutions.

Other Requirements

Each student should have a calculator capable of calculating the time value of money (a financial or scientific calculator will do) in class. A student is expected to be familiar with the functions of his/her own calculator.

Grading and Evaluation

Course Grading:

Component		Percentage
Self-Introduction Video		1%
Midterm Exam I		30%
Midterm Exam II		30%
Final Exam		30%
Participation		9%
Total		<u>100%</u>
Bonus: Course Evaluation		0.5%

Numerical Grade	Meaning	Letter Grade
90 to 100	Excellent	A
80 to 90	Good	B
70 to 80	Satisfactory	C
60 to 70	Passing	D
Below 60	Failing	F

All grades are firm and nonnegotiable. There is no rounding in grades, and there are no bonus points or extra credits other than the specified grade components at the end of semester. To maintain the fairness to the entire class, the same grading criteria will be

applied to every student, and no personal reason will be considered for grading purposes. No grade will be disclosed by email or by phone.

Self-Introduction Video:

Each student in this course is required to prepare a self-introduction video, and submit the one single video file through the Dropbox in D2L (to the folder “Self-Introduction Video” under the “Assessments” and then “Assignments” tabs in D2L). In the video, a student should *show his/her full face under proper lighting, state his/her full name and major(s), and make an introduction of oneself. The video should be no less than 10 seconds but no more than 30 seconds in length.* The self-introduction video is worth one point toward the semester grade, and only videos meeting all of the above requirements will earn the full point. Students who cannot meet all of the requirements because of religious or medical reasons should submit a one-page typed and signed statement requesting an exemption of the requirements to the instructor before the video due date specified below. The approval of the request depends on whether the submitted statement provides the necessary and sufficient information justifying the exemption.

*The video is due at 04:30 pm U.S. central time on **August 30, 2025 (Saturday)**.*

Students can submit the video file as soon as the semester begins, and no late submission will be accepted for any reason. **Students contacting the instructor in attempts to make a late submission of the self-introduction video will lose one point in the participation grade.*

Exams:

There will be three exams during this semester in the assigned classroom. The first two exams will be held during the regular class hours. The final exam will be held by the university schedule (please see the end of this syllabus for the exam dates). The exams will include questions on any covered material, e.g., lecture notes, classroom discussions, and reading assignments. Each student will need a calculator and ScanTron for the exams. The use of cell phones and any form of sharing are not allowed during the exams.

The exams must be taken as scheduled, and no student will be exempt from any exam. *There is no make-up exam in this course after the fact, and students missing an exam at the scheduled time without prior consent from the instructor will receive an exam grade of zero for the specific exam.* Students with valid excuses or authorized absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities (please see Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog for the definition) should make prior arrangements with the instructor to take the exam at an alternative time. A valid excuse for exam purposes is defined as an *unforeseeable, proved, and documented* event that requires the student's *presence* in a place other than the classroom during the exam time, and such event is deemed acceptable by the *instructor*. *Misreading, forgetting, or inattention to the exam dates and time specified in the syllabus will not be considered a valid excuse for a missed exam. No illness-related excuses will be accepted unless a*

*student has a doctor's note or is a hospital inpatient during the scheduled exam time. In the case of a valid excuse, the instructor must be notified of the excuse **before** the scheduled exam time and the document justifying the excuse must be turned to the instructor within one week from the exam. A student failing to notify the instructor the excuse before the scheduled exam time or not providing the document justifying the excuse in time will receive an exam grade of zero for the specific exam.*

Participation:

A student's grade on class participation depends on four factors: 1) Attendance, 2) Performance on raising and answering questions in class, 3) Obedience of class rules and instructions, and 4) Grades on random assignments. There is no guarantee that a student attending every class will automatically receive the full credit on class participation. In addition, a student loses one point in the participation grade for each attempted violation of class rules and instructions. It is a student's responsibility to know the class rules and instructions.

Class Attendance, *Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog*

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. An instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

For the record keeping purpose, each class period a roll sheet will be passed through the class and each student will need to sign on the roll sheet. Signing any other student's name on the roll sheet is considered as an act of disruptive conduct in this course. Inconsistent signature styles on the roll sheet will be deemed as evidence against a student's attendance.

Instructor Drop, *Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog*

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 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.

Students who miss more than one third of the class periods without valid excuses will be dropped from this course with a failing semester grade. A valid excuse for participation purposes is defined as an authorized absence due to required participation in university-sponsored activities (please see Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog for the definition), or an *unforeseeable, proved, and documented* event that requires the student's *presence* in a place other than the classroom during the class period, and such event is deemed acceptable by the *instructor*. In the case of an excused absence, the instructor must be notified of the excuse and the document justifying the absence must be turned to the instructor, both within one week from the absence.

Students who fail to meet class assignments, show indifferent attitudes, or reveal disruptive conducts will be given warnings each time such instance occurs. Students with more than two warnings will be dropped from this course with a failing semester grade.

Bonus: Course Evaluation:

At the end of each semester/term, the University emails course evaluation links to the official school email accounts (not the D2L email accounts) of students, and students in this course earn the course evaluation bonus credit based on an honor system after they complete the evaluation of this course. *Specifically, a quiz item "Course Evaluation," which asks whether a student has completed the evaluation of this course through the course evaluation link emailed by the University, is available on D2L under the "Assessments" and then "Tests" tabs from 12:00 am U.S. central time on **November 30, 2025 (Sunday)** to 04:30 pm U.S. central time on **December 4, 2025 (Thursday)**. A student who has completed the evaluation of this course and answers affirmatively in the quiz would earn the course evaluation credit. The quiz has a continuous 60-minute time limit once it starts, and the time limit cannot be interrupted. The quiz can be answered unlimited times before 04:30 pm on **December 4, 2025 (Thursday)**, but only an affirmative answer will be recorded for the quiz grade. The 04:30 pm quiz deadline applies to any and all students. An unsaved/unsubmitted quiz by the quiz deadline will have a quiz grade of zero. Please note that students who forgot to do the course evaluation or who did the course evaluation but forgot to complete the quiz will not earn the course evaluation credit. There is no make-up quiz after the quiz ends. **Students contacting the instructor in attempts to do a make-up quiz will lose one point in the participation grade.* The course evaluation credit is worth half of one point toward the semester grade.*

Other Course Policies

- 1) Please bring a calculator to class.
- 2) It is obviously in a student's best interests to attend class regularly.
- 3) Students are expected to read the class material before and after the scheduled classes.
- 4) Announcements not made in class will be posted online through D2L. Students have the responsibility to check the postings and class material regularly.
- 5) Students who need to leave the classroom early and will not be back for that class period should notify the instructor before the class starts. Arriving late and leaving early without prior instructor acknowledgement are considered as acts of disruptive conduct in this course.
- 6) *Video, audio, and image recording other than taking handwritten or typed notes in the classroom is not allowed without the prior consent of the instructor.*
Redistribution of any course material provided by the instructor in any form outside this class constitutes copyright infringement and is prohibited.

Academic Integrity

Students shall follow the "Student Honor Creed" in the Midwestern State University Student Handbook. A student who commits academic dishonesty is subject to academic sanctions (please refer to the Midwestern State University Student Handbook for the definitions of Academic Dishonesty and the Academic Dishonesty Procedure).

Americans with Disabilities Act

This course follows the university policies and guidelines suggested by the Disability Support Services Office for qualified students. Students are referred to the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog for details.

Campus Carry Policy

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 webpage at [Campus Carry Rules/Policies Web Link](#).

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for this course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

References

Midwestern State University Student Handbook: [Student Handbook Web Link](#)
Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog: [Undergraduate Catalog Web Link](#)

Course Content and Outline

I. Overview of the Financial Environment

Chapter 1: Role of Financial Markets and Institutions

Chapter 2: Determination of Interest Rates

Chapter 3: Structure of Interest Rates

II. The Fed and Monetary Policy

Chapter 4: Functions of the Fed

III. Debt Security Markets

Chapter 6: Money Markets

Chapter 7: Bond Markets

Chapter 9: Mortgage Markets

IV. Equity Markets

Chapter 10: Stock Offering and Investor Monitoring

Chapter 12: Market Microstructure and Strategies

V. Derivative Security Markets

Chapter 13: Financial Futures Markets

Chapter 14: Option Markets

VI. Commercial Banking

Chapter 17: Commercial Bank Operations

Chapter 18: Bank Regulation (: Reading assignment; to be covered in the final exam.)

Chapter 19: Bank Management

VII. Nonbank Operations

Chapter 21: Thrift Operations

Chapter 22: Finance Company Operations

Chapter 23: Mutual Fund Operations

Chapter 24: Securities Operations

Course Schedule

Month	Date	Schedule	Date	Schedule
8	25	Introduction	27	Concepts Review & Chapter 1
9	1	<i>Labor Day</i>	3	Chapter 2
	8	Chapter 3	10	Chapter 4
	15	Chapter 6	17	Chapter 6 & 7
	22	Chapter 7	24	TBA
9/10	29	Exam I	1	Chapter 9
10	6	Chapter 9	8	Chapter 10
	13	Chapter 10 & 12	15	Chapter 12
	20	Chapter 13	22	Chapter 13 & 14
	27	Chapter 14	29	TBA
11	3	Exam II	5	Chapter 17
	10	Chapter 17	12	Chapter 19
	17	Chapter 21	19	Chapter 22
	24	Chapter 23	26	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
12	1	Chapter 24	3	TBA

Due Dates

Self-Introduction Video: August 30 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
Course Evaluation (Quiz): December 4 (Thursday), 04:30 pm

Exam Dates

Exam I: September 29 (Monday)
Exam II: November 3 (Monday)
Final Exam: December 10 (Wednesday), 05:45 pm to 07:45 pm