



Course Syllabus: Financial Markets and Institutions

Dillard College of Business Administration

FINC 3353 Section X20

Spring Semester, January 20 – May 16, 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Adam Y.C. Lei, Ph.D., CFA

Office: Dillard Building 219

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

Office Phone: (940) 397-4403

Email: adam.lei@msutexas.edu

Class Hours

Online through D2L (Desire-to-Learn)

Course Description

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

Course Prerequisite

Junior standing or above or consent of the chair.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required:

- 1) Course Material (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 (only the textbook is required; we do not need the publisher's MindTap access).

Recommended:

The Wall Street Journal.

Other Requirements

- 1) Each student registered in this course is required to have the access to a modern personal computer, laptop, or other electronic device that is capable of playing video files in the MP4 format, opening PowerPoint files, PDF files, and Excel files, and a webcam with/and a microphone to use the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor for the course quiz and exams (explained later). A reliable broadband internet connection is also required for downloading the course material and taking the exams. Each student should download their own course material for D2L tracking purposes, and no technical problem at a student's end will be considered for grading purposes.
- 2) Each student should have a calculator capable of calculating the time value of money (a financial or scientific calculator will do). A student is expected to be familiar with the functions of their own calculator.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the Midwestern State University (MSU) D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience technical difficulties, please contact the [MSU Distance Education Office](#).

Course Objective

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) Understand issues that are related to globalization and international business activities.

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.

Grading and Evaluation

Course Grading:

Table 1: Grade Components and Associated Percentage Grades

Component	Percentage
Self-Introduction Video	1%
Course Information Quiz	2%
Midterm Exam I	23%
Midterm Exam II	23%
Midterm Exam III	23%
Final Exam	23%
Participation	5%
Total	<u>100%</u>

Table 2: Numerical Grade to Letter Grade Conversion

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

Exam grades will be posted on D2L under Gradebook after each exam. Grade adjustment, if any, will be announced on D2L after an exam is closed. 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 their full face under proper lighting, state their 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 January 24, 2026 (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.

Course Information Quiz:

The course information quiz consists of 10 multiple-choice questions on information contained in this syllabus and the document "Course Map and Instructions," both available on D2L under the content module "Course Information." The quiz is available on D2L under the "Assessments" and then "Tests" tabs from **12:00 am U.S. central time on January 20, 2026 (Tuesday) to 04:30 pm U.S. central time on January 24, 2026 (Saturday)**.

(Saturday). The quiz has a continuous 60-minute time limit once it starts, and the time limit cannot be interrupted. The quiz can be taken unlimited times before **04:30 pm on January 24, 2026 (Saturday)**, and the highest score among the attempts will be recorded as the quiz grade. The 04:30 pm quiz deadline applies to any and every student. An unsaved/unsubmitted quiz by the quiz deadline will have a quiz grade of zero. 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. This quiz is worth two points toward the semester grade (each quiz question is worth 0.2 point).

Per the University mandate to ensure the integrity of online exams, taking the quiz and exams in this course requires the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor. The Lockdown Browser is available for

download through the [University Web Link](#), and it will not allow students to print, copy, go to another website, or access any other application when using the browser. The Lockdown Browser supports Windows and macOS, and it might not work with devices using other systems. Please note that students do not access the quiz or exams through the Lockdown Browser directly. Students need to access the quiz or exams by logging into D2L in a normal browser, navigating to the quiz or exams, and then launching the Lockdown Browser as instructed by the associated webpages. The Respondus Monitor is a fully-automated online proctoring service integrated with the Lockdown Browser. The service flags events and proctoring results by analyzing video and audio recordings of students during an online exam. Each student taking the quiz and exams in this course needs to have a functioning webcam with/and a microphone for the Respondus Monitor, and follows the instructions on the associated webpages. For the video recordings, students should show their full faces and shoulders under proper lighting with sound recording enabled. Exam submissions of students not meeting the video/audio recording requirements will not be accepted in this course.

The unlimited attempts allowed on the quiz are designed for students to iron out any technical issues they may encounter when using the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor. Students needing technical help should contact the [MSU Distance Education Office](#). Students who do not complete the quiz are held accountable and at their own peril that they may later experience technical difficulties when taking the exams in this course.

Exams:

There will be three midterm exams and one final exam during this semester. The exams are non-comprehensive, but the coverage of a later chapter might require the knowledge from earlier chapters. An exam will be available online through D2L from 12:00 am U.S. central time on the exam open date to 04:30 pm U.S. central time on the exam close date (please see the end of this syllabus for the exam dates). Each of the three midterm exams and the final exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions (each question is worth 2.5 points) and has a continuous 90-minute time limit once the exam starts. The time limits of the exams cannot be interrupted. In addition, each exam can only be taken once, and it must be saved/submitted by 06:00 pm on the exam close date. The 06:00 pm exam deadline applies to any and every student. An unsaved/unsubmitted exam by 06:00 pm on the exam close date will have an exam grade of zero. To prevent cheating, the exam questions and possibly the order of choices in a question are randomized. Different students may also get different questions of the same difficulty level in each exam. Students are not allowed to capture the exam questions

by any means while taking an exam. During an exam, collaboration between/among students, using any additional electronic device other than a dedicated calculator (using a calculator app on a non-calculator device is not allowed), and using any artificial intelligence (AI) model, such as ChatGPT or alike, virtual machine, any unsanctioned software/browser extension, or any unauthorized assistance in any way are considered cheating and will result in an exam grade of zero, regardless of the grade an exam submission initially receives. This course follows the University's Academic Dishonesty Procedure as described in the Student Handbook and reports any incident of cheating through the Department and the College. Any student involved in such incident will have the right to appeal the sanction imposed.

The exams must be taken as scheduled, and no student is 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. The D2L record of an exam attempt serves as the official record of whether a student takes the exam as scheduled. 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 prevents the student from taking the exam as scheduled, and such event is deemed acceptable by the instructor. Personal reasons and technical problems at a student's end will not be considered a valid excuse for a missed or an incomplete exam. 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 opens 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 opens or not providing the document justifying the excuse in time will receive an exam grade of zero for the specific exam.

Please note that taking the exams in this course also requires the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor, as described in the section "Course Information Quiz." This course does not accept exam submissions in which students appear to look at something or somewhere other than paper-based material or a dedicated calculator for answers, or to answer numerical questions correctly without doing calculations, at the sole discretion of the instructor. It is a student's responsibility to make sure that they do not

create such appearance during an exam. For instance, if you were looking at the paper-based material or a dedicated calculator, show in the video you and the paper-based material or the dedicated calculator that you were looking at concurrently. If you were doing calculations, show in the video you and the calculations that you were doing concurrently.

This course also does not accept exam submissions with video recordings in which 1) there is no sound recording, 2) students appear to be talking, speaking, or repeating the questions verbally during an exam, and 3) students did not show their full faces and shoulders under proper lighting. A student is exempted from the above video/audio requirements in the exams only if the student provides documentation/justification from the Disability Support Services Office in advance. An unaccepted exam submission will result in an exam grade of zero regardless of the grade the submission initially receives. The exam grade will be released on the D2L Gradebook after the status of an exam submission, whether accepted or not accepted, is determined.

When an exam submission is not accepted and receives an exam grade of zero, a student has the following two options: 1) accept the exam grade of zero as is, and 2) retake the exam within 48 hours of grade release with a grade penalty of 25 points (i.e., the grade earned on the retake, if the second exam submission is accepted, will be lowered by 25 points for not meeting the exam requirements in the first exam submission). If the second exam submission is still not accepted, or the exam is not retaken within 48 hours of grade release for any reason, the exam grade of zero becomes final. It is a student's responsibility to check the status of their exam submission, and if the exam submission is not accepted and they decide to retake the exam, do so within 48 hours of grade release. This course does not allow exceptions to the above rules. *Students contacting the instructor in attempts to argue over the unacceptance of an exam submission, violate the rules, or negotiate a different outcome will lose one point in the participation grade each time such instance occurs.

Participation:

A student's participation grade depends on whether the student follows the class rules and instructions as specified in the course documents and/or posted on D2L. 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.

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 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. A student dropped from a class by a faculty member for disruptive behavior has the right of appeal to the Student Conduct Committee through the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (CSC 108).

Students who fail to meet class assignments, show indifferent attitudes, or commit disruptive conduct will be given warnings through their official MSU email accounts each time such instance occurs. Students with more than two warnings will be dropped from this course with a failing semester grade.

Other Course Policies

- 1) Please refer to the document "Course Map and Instructions," available on D2L under the content module "Course Information," first for further guidelines to this course.
- 2) The instructor cannot provide technical support to a student's hardware/software problems other than making sure that the provided course material is in working order. For problems related to D2L, please check the [MSU Distance Education Website](#) or contact the University through the [Online Problem Reporting System Web Link](#).
- 3) Students have the responsibility to check regularly the course pages on D2L for new postings and course material. New material for the coverage of each exam will be available over time.
- 4) 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).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

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.

Change of Schedule and Refund/Repayment Policy

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from the University may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs.

University Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall

be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State University are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on university property or at university-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Texas Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, please visit the University's [Campus Carry webpage](#) and refer to the [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, please visit the University's [MSUReady – Active Shooter webpage](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight.," available at the University's [Police Department webpage](#) and on [Youtube](#).

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

Course Content and Outline

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

The Fed and Monetary Policy

Chapter 4: Functions of the Fed

Debt Security Markets

Chapter 6: Money Markets
Chapter 7: Bond Markets
Chapter 9: Mortgage Markets

Equity Markets

Chapter 10: Stock Offering and Investor Monitoring
Chapter 12: Market Microstructure and Strategies

Derivative Security Markets

Chapter 13: Financial Futures Markets
Chapter 14: Option Markets

Commercial Banking

Chapter 17: Commercial Bank Operations
Chapter 18: Bank Regulation (: Reading assignment)
Chapter 19: Bank Management

Nonbank Operations

Chapter 21: Thrift Operations
Chapter 22: Finance Company Operations
Chapter 23: Mutual Fund Operations
Chapter 24: Securities Operations

Course Schedule

Table 3: Course Dates and Scheduled Content/Activities

Month	Week	Schedule
1	20-24	Chapter 1 & 2
1	25-31	Chapter 3 & 4
2	1-7	Chapter 4 & 6
2	8-14	Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 Exam I Open on February 13 (Friday), 12:00 am Exam I Close on February 14 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
2	15-21	Chapter 7 & 9
2	22-28	Chapter 9 & 10
3	1-7	Chapter 10 & 12
3	8-14	Chapter 7, 9, 10, & 12 Exam II Open on March 13 (Friday), 12:00 am Exam II Close on March 14 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
3	15-21	Chapter 13 & 14
3	22-28	Chapter 14 & 17
3/4	29-4	Chapter 17 & 18
4	5-11	Chapter 13, 14, 17, & 18 Exam III Open on April 10 (Friday), 12:00 am Exam III Close on April 11 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
4	12-18	Chapter 19 & 21
4	19-25	Chapter 22 & 23
4/5	26-2	Chapter 23 & 24
5	3-9	Chapter 19, 21, 22, 23, & 24 Final Exam Open on May 8 (Friday), 12:00 am Final Exam Close on May 9 (Saturday), 04:30 pm

Due Dates

Self-Introduction Video: January 24 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
 Course Information Quiz: January 24 (Saturday), 04:30 pm

Exam Dates

Exam I: February 13 (Friday), 12:00 am to February 14 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
 Exam II: March 13 (Friday), 12:00 am to March 14 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
 Exam III: April 10 (Friday), 12:00 am to April 11 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
 Final Exam: May 8 (Friday), 12:00 am to May 9 (Saturday), 04:30 pm