



Dillard College of Business Administration

Syllabus: Financial Administration
FINC 5713 -X20 (Online) Spring 2024

Instructor Contact Information

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

Office: Dillard Building 205

Office Hours: Tuesday 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM; Wednesday 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM;
Thursday 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM

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Course Materials

- Required Textbook: Corporate Finance: Core Prin & Applications, 7th Edition, by Ross, Westerfield, Jaffe and Jordan. ISBN: 9781265215972. Published by McGraw Hill.

To save student time and money, I have opted to have this course in the University's Textbook Affordability Program. Online access to the textbook and the textbook companion website (Connect) will be available in D2L on the first day of class for all students enrolled in this class. The price has been charged to your student account. This pricing is below the publisher's website price.

You have the choice to opt out of this special pricing and purchase your course material and online access on your own. If you decide to opt out, the instructions will be in your MSU student email on the second day of class. For questions concerning the Textbook Affordability Program or if you need assistance, please contact the university Bookstore at jenny.denning@msutexas.edu.

- 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.
- Online Exam requirements
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.

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

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 course students will be required to conduct quantitative analysis for numerous cases. The analysis will include identifying the problem(s), suggesting possible alternatives to solve the problems, and identifying the most reasonable estimate and risks. Grades will reflect the quality of the analysis.

GLG4: Our students will integrate knowledge across business disciplines.

Objective: Our graduates will demonstrate the capability to integrate knowledge across business disciplines.

In this course, to conduct reasonable valuation analysis, students will integrate their knowledge across business disciplines such as Accounting, Economics, and Management to assess firm performance and project firm growth. Grades will reflect their knowledge and skills in the analysis.

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
 - Bond and stock markets and bond and stock valuation
 - Corporate valuation analysis
 - Capital budgeting and project valuation analysis.
2. integrate these concepts from the prospective of value creation.
3. apply these concepts to valuation analysis.

Grading and Evaluation:

Grades are determined by the following components:

a. Exams:

There will be three exams. Please refer to Table 1 for the weight of each exam to the final grade. More details such as format and content of each exam will be announced on D2L.

All exams are mandatory. Please refer to the tentative course schedule at the end of this syllabus for exam dates. Each exam will be open between 8am and 10pm on the scheduled 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 a student must miss one exam with a valid reason, the weight of the missed exam can be transferred into the other exams the student can take. This option can only be exercised once, meaning that if one misses more than one exam, one loses at least 15%.

Situations that can be excused include religious holy days, 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. For more information about authorized absences, excused absences defined by state regulations, and the required documentations, please refer to the [Registrar](#) section in the university catalog.

For exam absences due to religious holy day, military/policy/firefighter/jury duty, or personal emergencies, please contact the [Dean of Students](#) office. The Dean of Students will process student requests and notify the instructor.

Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the college dean or Athletic Director and the Provost. Absences due to academically related activities such as class field trips or student conferences require a written notification from the faculty member who sponsors or organizes the activities.

Missing any exam without a valid excuse and supporting documents or notification from the Dean of Students office will result in a grade of zero for that 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 strictly prohibited. Please refer to the Academic Integrity section of this syllabus regarding the consequences.

b. Assignments:

There will be online assignment(s) for each lecture covered in this course. More details such as the format and coverage of the online assignments will be

communicated on D2L. Students are required to have individual access to the Connect website and complete the online assignments independently. Late submission will not be accepted and will automatically result in a grade of zero for the assignment.

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

Table 1: Grade Components

Element	Weights
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3 (Final Exam)	15%
Assignments	5% * 10 = 50%
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 or project designed for or given to any individual student. Emails to bargain for higher grades will not be replied.

Additional Course Policies

1. When emailing the instructor, please include "FINC 5713-X20" in the email subject.
2. 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.
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.

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 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, you 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.

Week	Starts on (Monday)	Ends on (Sunday)	Coverage
1	1/15/2024	1/21/2024	Class introduction. syllabus and class policy discussion
2	1/22/2024	1/28/2024	Lecture 1: Intro for Corporate Financial Management
3	1/29/2024	2/4/2024	Lecture 2: Review of Financial Statements
4	2/5/2024	2/11/2024	Lecture 3: Financial Statement Analysis
5	2/12/2024	2/18/2024	Lecture 3 Cont.: Financial Models
6	2/19/2024	2/25/2024	Exam 1 scheduled on Wednesday, Feb 21
7	2/26/2024	3/3/2024	Lecture 4: Discounted CF Valuation
8	3/4/2024	3/10/2024	Lecture 5: Interest Rate and Bond Valuation
9	3/11/2024	3/17/2024	You have worked very hard. Enjoy the spring break.
10	3/18/2024	3/24/2024	Lecture 6: Stock Valuation
11	3/25/2024	3/31/2024	Lecture 7: NPV and Other Investment Rules
12	4/1/2024	4/7/2024	Exam 2 Scheduled on Wednesday, Apr 3rd
13	4/8/2024	4/14/2024	Lecture 8: Capital Investment Decisions
14	4/15/2024	4/21/2024	Lecture 9: Risk and Return
15	4/22/2024	4/28/2024	Lecture 10: Risk and Cost of Capital
16	4/29/2024	5/5/2024	Final Exam scheduled on Wednesday, May 8th