



## **Course Syllabus: Business Finance**

Dillard College of Business DB129  
FINC 3733 Section 201  
Spring Semester and January 20 – May 13, 2026

### **Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Robert C. Forrester  
Office: Dean's Suite DB 233  
Office hours: M-TH 2-3:30 p.m.  
Office phone: (940) 397-6343  
E-mail: [robert.forrester@msutexas.edu](mailto:robert.forrester@msutexas.edu)

### **Course Description**

Introduction to the principles of financial management applied by domestic and international firms. Core topics include financial analysis, time value of money, risk and return, asset valuation, cost of capital and capital budgeting.

### **Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Cornett, Adair, and Nofsinger. *M: Finance*, 6e, McGraw-Hill Irwin, ISBN: 978-1265290825. Connect 1 Semester Access Card for *M: Finance* homework.  
Required digital materials for this course are included as part of the Courseware Access and Affordability Program at MSU Texas. Your materials will be available the first day of class, for all students in your class. To access your materials, please log into D2L and navigate to your course.

### **Learning Goals**

General Learning Goals:

Demonstrate problem solving and decision-making abilities through the critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information.

Demonstrate a competency in speaking and writing for common business scenarios.

Be able to utilize available technology for common business applications.

Demonstrate ethical reasoning skills within a business environment.

Have an understanding of the influence of global and multicultural issues on business activities.

These general learning goals are among those established by the Dillard College of Business Administration. General learning goals represent the skills that graduates will carry with them into their careers. While assessing student performance in obtaining these general learning goals, the Dillard College is assessing its programs. The assessments assist us as we improve our curriculum and curriculum delivery.

**Course Specific Learning Goals:** After completing this course, students should be able to:

Firm organization and principal-agent relationships.

Fundamental financial statement analysis.

Time value of money, asset valuation, and the risk-return relation.

Cost of capital and capital budgeting.

### **Tutoring Assistance**

Located in Moffett Library's first floor in the Learning Center and is free. Refer to: [MSU Tutoring](#)

### **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

### **Moffett Library**

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

## **Grading**

Course Grade - List all graded assignments with their point value and or percentage of total grade. Letter Grade Scale indicate the overall points or % to letter grade scale for example 1270 to 1137 = A.

*Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment*

Assignments	Points
Homework	80
Assessment Quiz	20
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Final Exam	100
Total Points	500

*Table 2: Total points for final grade.*

Grade	Points
A	450
B	400 to 449
C	350 to 399
D	300 to 349
F	Less than 300

## **Homework**

For the chapters we cover this semester, there are online assignments on the textbook companion website. I recommend you finish the chapter reading assignment before we cover that chapter in class, and work on the classroom practice assignments while we cover that chapter. I have opened the Smartbook Assignments in McGraw-Hill as they can help you better understand how to work the problems. The Smartbook Assignments are NOT required. Only the Homework Assignments are required. The assignments allow multiple attempts, so you can try and submit your results as many times as you want for each assignment, and I will record your highest score. I will give you full credit for all the assigned homework you successfully complete. However, I realize that some problems can be very difficult; therefore, if you maintain an 80% overall average on the homework throughout the semester, then you will receive full credit. I do not round homework averages (79.9% won't work). All chapter homework assignments are due at midnight on the date of the associated chapter exam. All homework is available from the first day of class, therefore, no late assignments are allowed. Please do not ask.

## **Exams**

There will be four exams during this semester in the assigned classroom. The first three exams will be held during the regular class hours. The final exam will be held by the university schedule. Each of the three midterm exams consists of 30 multiple-choice questions. The final exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions. 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. Graphing calculators such as TI-83 or TI NSpire are not allowed on exams. The use of cell phones is not allowed during the exams.

The exams must be taken as scheduled. Athletes traveling must schedule the exam prior to the exam date with the instructor and Anne Dugan (940) 397-4380.

There are no make-up exams in this course and students missing an exam without a valid excuse will receive an exam grade of zero for the specific exam. A valid excuse is defined as an authorized absence (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 document justifying the absence must be turned to the instructor within one week from the absence, and the weight assigned for the missed exam will be redistributed to the other exams. No student will be allowed to miss the final exam.

## **Final Exam**

The final exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions. You will need a Scantron and calculator. You will have two hours to complete the exam. The exam will be on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in our regular classroom. No student will be allowed to miss the final exam.

## **Extra Credit**

There is not any extra credit assignment in this course.

## **Late Work**

No late work is accepted. Please do not ask.

## **Make Up Work/Tests**

No missed assignments and tests can be made up. Please do not ask.

## **Important Dates**

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 23, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

- Deadline to file for May graduation: February 16, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the 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 difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

### **Attendance**

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. 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.

### **Online Computer Requirements**

Taking a class with online material requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class.

**\*Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **\*Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a

student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### **Instructor Class Policies**

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 with the MSU Distance Education Website.

Students have the responsibility to check regularly the course pages on D2L for new postings and course material.

### **Change of Schedule**

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.

### **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) 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. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **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](#).

### **College Policies**

#### [Campus Carry Rules/Policies](#)

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### *Smoking/Tobacco Policy*

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### *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 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 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, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### *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 MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUREady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

**\*Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

## Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	1/19/2026	Martin Luther King's Birthday Observed - No Class	-	1/21/2026	Syllabus Introduction to Finance	Ch 1
2	1/26/2026	Reviewing Financial Statements	Ch 2	1/28/2026	Analyzing Financial Statements	Ch 3
3		Analyzing Financial Statements			Exam I (Ch. 1, 2, 3)	-
4	2/9/2026	Time Value of Money: Part 1	Ch 4	2/11/2026	Time Value of Money: Part 1	Ch 4
5	2/16/2026	Time Value of Money: Part 2	Ch 5	2/18/2026	Time Value of Money: Part 2	Ch 5
6	2/23/2026	Valuing Bonds	Ch 6, Ch 7	2/25/2026	Valuing Bonds	Ch 7
7	3/2/2026	Exam II (Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7)	-	3/4/2026	Valuing Stocks	
8	3/9/2026	Spring Break	-	3/11/2026	Spring Break	-
9	3/16/2026	Valuing Stocks	Ch. 8	3/18/2026	Characterizing Risk and Return	Ch 9
10	3/23/2026	Characterizing Risk and Return	Ch 9	3/25/2026	Estimating Risk and Return	Ch 10
11	3/30/2026	Estimating Risk and Return	Ch 10	4/1/2026	Cost of Capital	Ch 11
12	4/6/2026	Cost of Capital	Ch 11	4/8/2026	Exam III (Ch. 8, 9, 10, 11)	
13	4/13/2026	Capital Budgeting Criteria	Ch 12	4/15/2026	Capital Budgeting Criteria	Ch 12
14	4/20/2026	Chapter 12 Assessment Quiz	-	4/22/2026	Weighting NPV and Other Capital Budgeting Criteria	Ch 13
15	4/27/2026	Weighting NPV and Other Capital Budgeting Criteria	Ch 13	4/29/2026	Weighting NPV and Other Capital Budgeting Criteria	Ch 13
16	5/4/2026	Weighting NPV and Other Capital Budgeting Criteria	Ch 13	5/6/2026	Review	
17	5/11/2026	No Class		5/13/2026	Final Exam 3:30 - 5:30 pm DB129	-