



**Course Syllabus: Independent Graduate Study in Finance**  
Dillard College of Business Administration  
FINC 6553-301  
Summer I 2026

**Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

This course covers key concepts and tools in corporate financial management. Topics include time value of money, review and analysis of financial statements, bond and stock markets and valuation, corporate valuation, capital budgeting and project valuation analysis, risk and return, and risk and cost of capital. Students will learn to integrate these concepts from the perspective of value creation and apply them to quantitative valuation analysis of firms and projects.

**Course Prerequisites**

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 a late point of this semester.

**Course 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 — upon completion of this course, students should be able to:**

- Understand key financial concepts including time value of money, financial analysis, bond and stock markets and valuation, corporate valuation analysis, and capital budgeting and project valuation analysis.
- Integrate these concepts from the perspective of value creation.
- Apply these concepts to valuation analysis.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

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

**Textbook Purchase Options:**

- University Textbook Affordability Program (default): Online access to the publisher’s textbook companion website (Connect) is necessary to complete the chapter assignments. To save student time and money, this course has been enrolled in the University’s Textbook Affordability Program. Access to the E-book and Connect will be available in D2L on the first day of class for all students in this class. The price has been charged to your student account, and is below the publisher’s website price.
- Opt-out option: You may opt out of the special pricing and purchase your textbook 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, please contact the university Bookstore at [jenny.denning@msutexas.edu](mailto:jenny.denning@msutexas.edu).

Connect — Publisher’s Online Learning System (Required).

Course Name: FINC 6553 Independent Graduate Study in Finance – Summer I – 2026.

Excel: Excel version 2016 or newer is required.

Desire2Learn (D2L) Learning System. From D2L you will see this syllabus, lecture slides, important announcements, and a message board for communicating with other students.

Required Calculator: A financial calculator, the Texas Instruments BA II Plus, is required for this course. You will use it for time value of money, bond and stock valuation, and other financial calculations throughout the term and on all exams. Graphing calculators, phone calculator apps, and other devices are not permitted during exams. Please obtain your BA II Plus early and become familiar with its functions before the first exam.

**Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

Success in this course depends heavily on consistent work outside of scheduled class time. Since this is an online course, students take charge of their own learning pace and should plan substantial time each week to read the assigned chapters, study the lecture notes posted on D2L, work through the chapter examples and end-of-chapter problems, and complete the Connect online assignments. These activities

reinforce the material, so plan ahead and allow plenty of time rather than leaving the work until just before deadlines. The instructor is available for questions by email and by Zoom appointment.

## Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

## Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Students shall follow the Student Honor Creed in the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog. A student who commits academic dishonesty is subject to conduct sanctions (please refer to the Midwestern State University Student Handbook for the definitions of Academic Dishonesty, Conduct Sanctions, and Academic Misconduct Procedures). Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism — the act of using source material of other persons (published or unpublished) without following accepted techniques of crediting. Refer to: [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

The course grade will be determined as follows. Detailed explanations for each component are below.

Contribution to Grade	Percentage of Final Grade
Homework (10 assignments)	25%
Midterm Exam (1 exam)	25%
SmartBook	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Your final grade will be determined based on the percentage points of your assignments accumulated over the semester as follows.

A = 90-100                      B = 80-89.99  
C = 70-79.99                    D = 60-69.99  
F = below 60

## Homework

There will be ten (10) online homework assignments delivered through the publisher’s Connect platform, one for each chapter/lecture covered in this course. Homework contributes 25% of the final grade, with each assignment worth 2.5%. All homework is available online beginning on or after June

1, 2026. Students must adhere strictly to the homework deadlines contained in Connect and in the course schedule. Due dates are set for 11:59 pm Central on the scheduled day. Students are required to have individual access to the Connect website and complete the online assignments independently. Late submissions will not be accepted and will automatically result in a grade of zero. There will be no homework date extensions.

### **Quizzes**

No quizzes are given in this course.

### **Exams**

There are two exams in this course: one midterm exam and one final exam. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade, for a combined 50%. Both exams are mandatory; no exam score is dropped. A student who misses an exam without an approved, documented excuse will receive a grade of zero for that exam. Exams may include questions on any material covered in the course — lecture notes, chapter readings, homework, and SmartBook readings. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during exams, and all exams must be taken as scheduled.

### **Projects Required**

No standalone projects are required in this course.

### **Mid-Term Exam**

There will be one midterm exam during the semester, worth 25% of the final grade. The midterm is mandatory. The exam date and chapter coverage are detailed in the Course Schedule and posted on D2L. Respondus LockDown Browser with a webcam is required to take the exam. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted during the exam.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam is mandatory and worth 25% of the total grade. It is scheduled for the final week of the term — see the Course Schedule for the exact date and coverage. The final is not dropped and not replaced under any circumstance. Respondus LockDown Browser with a webcam will be required to take the exam. Failure to take the exam will result in a grade of F for the course. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during the exam.

Students must download and install Respondus LockDown Browser in advance and ensure their webcam is working before the exam. Test it early — technical difficulties on exam day will not be grounds for additional time.

### **SmartBook**

SmartBook adaptive reading assignments are delivered through McGraw Hill Connect and contribute 25% of the final grade. There will be one SmartBook assignment per chapter covered in the course. Each assignment guides students through the chapter readings with adaptive questions that adjust to your level of mastery. Students must complete SmartBook readings individually by the deadlines posted on

Connect and in the course schedule. Late SmartBook submissions will not be accepted and will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. There will be no SmartBook deadline extensions.

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit assignments are not offered in this course.

### **Late Work**

Late work is not accepted. All homework due dates are set for 11:59 pm on the scheduled day; there will be no homework date extensions.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

There are no make-up exams in this course. Students missing an exam without a valid excuse will receive an exam grade of zero. If the absence is excused (authorized, or unforeseeable, proved, and documented within one week), the weight of the missed exam will be redistributed to the other exam.

### **Important Dates**

This course observes all deadlines on the official University Academic Calendar, including the last day for term schedule changes, the graduation filing deadline, and the last day to drop with a grade of "W." Students are responsible for confirming the current term's dates on the Academic Calendar. For dropping, withdrawing, or voiding a course, see the Drops, Withdrawals & Void policy.

- Refer to: [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**

Reading the assigned material and completing assignments on schedule is expected. See the university catalog for the University Class Attendance Policy. 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. Students who fail to submit more than three assignments without valid excuses will be dropped from this course with a failing grade. Students with more than two warnings for indifferent conduct or missed work will be dropped from this course with a failing grade.

### **Online Computer Requirements**

Each student registered in this course must have access to a modern personal computer, laptop, or other electronic device capable of playing MP4 video files with sound and opening PowerPoint, PDF, and Excel files. A student webcam is required. A reliable broadband internet connection is also required for downloading course material. Technical problems on the student's end will not be considered for grading purposes. Assignments and tests are due by the due date; personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered as a basis for an extension or excused absence.

## **Instructor Class Policies**

Student Honor Creed: “As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.” It is 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. The instructor cannot provide technical support for a student’s hardware or software problems other than ensuring the provided course material is in working order; for D2L problems, contact MSU technical support or email [D2L Student Support](#). Students are responsible for regularly checking D2L for new postings and course material. Redistribution of any course material provided by the instructor in any form outside this class constitutes copyright infringement and is prohibited.

## **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) exist 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**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should follow the grade appeal procedures outlined in the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog.

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

## Course Schedule:

<b>Financial Analysis: Course Schedule (Summer 2026)</b>								
<i>All deadlines are 11:59 PM Central.</i>								
Week	Dates	Chapters / Topics	Homework	HW Due	SmartBook	SB Due	Exam	Exam Due
<b>Week 1</b>	Jun 1 – Jun 7	Ch. 1: Introduction to Corporate Finance Ch. 2: Financial Statements and Cash Flow Ch. 3: Financial Statements Analysis and Financial Models	HW 1, 2, 3	Sat, Jun 6	SB 1, 2, 3	Sat, Jun 6	—	—
<b>Week 2</b>	Jun 8 – Jun 14	Ch. 4: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation Ch. 5: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation	HW 4, 5	Sat, Jun 13	SB 4, 5	Sat, Jun 13	<b>Midterm Exam (Ch. 1–5)</b>	<b>Sun, Jun 14</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	Jun 15 – Jun 21	Ch. 6: Stock Valuation Ch. 7: Net Present Value and Other Investment Rules	HW 6, 7	Sat, Jun 20	SB 6, 7	Sat, Jun 20	—	—
<b>Week 4</b>	Jun 22 – Jun 28	Ch. 8: Making Capital Investment Decisions Ch. 9: Risk Analysis, Real Options, and Capital Budgeting	HW 8, 9	Sat, Jun 27	SB 8, 9	Sat, Jun 27	—	—
<b>Week 5</b>	Jun 29 – Jul 3	Ch. 11: Return and Risk: The Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)	HW 10	Thu, Jul 2	SB 10	Thu, Jul 2	<b>Final Exam (Ch. 6,7,8 9, and 11)</b>	<b>Thu, Jul 2</b>

*Exam structure: There is one midterm exam (end of Week 2) and one final exam (Fri, Jul 3); no exam scores are dropped. Both exams are mandatory. A missed exam without a documented, approved excuse receives a zero. Failure to take the final results in a grade of F.*