



Principles of Finance

Prof. Todd Stonitsch, Ph.D., FRM / University of South Carolina

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the modern evolution of Finance by analyzing fundamental financial concepts and exploring how these concepts relate to current events in the financial world. Upon completion, students will have a solid foundation of knowledge in a wide range of topics such as FinTech (crypto currencies), global finance, investment choice, security valuation and more. This course is designed to give students a “hands-on” experience identifying problems and developing solutions to real world financial issues.

READING MATERIALS

Textbook: Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, 13th edition (by Ross, Westerfield and Jordan) McGraw-Hill/Irwin; ISBN-13: 978-1260772395; **(required)**

Calculator: Texas Instruments BA II Plus financial calculator OR Microsoft Excel **(required)**; if you use other models, it is your responsibility to learn how to use them. Bring your device to **EVERY** class meeting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The primary method of instruction will be lectures and class discussions. The material in the course is such that it requires a significant amount of quantitative analysis. The text is meant to be a learning tool that supplements the lectures. In many cases, the lecture will present material in a manner quite different from that in the text. Attendance, therefore, is extremely important.

- **Exams:** There will be 2 exams for the course; one midterm each representing 25% of your final grade and a cumulative final exam representing 25% of the final grade. All exams will be a combination of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Numeric Problems. Points will only be given for correct answers (no partial credit).
- **Homework:** Homework will be given periodically throughout the semester. Though not graded, they are designed to be practice for the exams.
- **Attendance:** Students are required to attend a minimum of 80% of all classes. For each class missed beyond this minimum threshold, 5 points will be subtracted from the student’s overall grade.

| | Percent of total |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Exam 1 | 25% |
| Exam 2 | 25% |
| Current Events Presentation | 20% |
| Final Presentation | 30% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Academic Dishonesty is never acceptable and will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

– WEEK I –

Monday (26 June)

Syllabus, Intro to Finance and Understanding Financial Statements

Tuesday (27 June)

Understanding Financial Statements, Time Value of Money

Wednesday (28 June)

Time Value of Money

Thursday (29 June)

Global Currencies and Exchanges

– WEEK II –

Monday (3 July)

Financial Innovation / FinTech

Tuesday (4 July)

Current Events / Review

Wednesday (5 July)

Exam 1

Thursday (6 July)

Investment under Risk

– WEEK III –

Monday (10 July)

Security Valuation

Tuesday (11 July)

Understanding the Financial Crisis

Wednesday (12 July)

Financial Markets

Thursday (13 July)

Capital Budgeting / Investment Choice

– WEEK IV–

Monday (17 July)

Corporate Scandals

Tuesday (18 July)

Final Presentations

Tuesday (18 July)

Exam 2