

William Paterson University
COTSAKOS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Department of Economics, Finance, and Global Business

Corporate Finance-- FIN 3200 (3 credits)
Winter, 2015
December 22, 2014–January 11, 2015

- 1. Professor** Francis Cai, Ph.D.

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Email: caif@wpunj.edu
- 2. Course Number and Title:** Corporate Finance -- FIN 3200(3 credits)
- 3. Course Description:** A study of the basic principles and practices of the financial management of private business corporations. The course provides an operational framework for financial analysis, planning and forecasting, along with profit analysis and financial control for today's business world.
- 4. Course Prerequisites:** ACCT 211 (Financial Accounting) and ECON 202 (Microeconomics)
- 5. Course Objectives:** This course will provide students with an understanding of the basic principles and practices of the management of the financial affairs of a business. This includes an understanding of the financial environment in which a private enterprise operates; the assessment of the financial condition of a business, and the investment and financing decision process that leads to wealth maximization. The topics include the importance of ethical business practices; the effect of taxes on financial decisions; the use of financial statements; the relationship between the present value and a future sum of money; and decisions on capital expenditures. Finally, students should feel comfortable to use the knowledge gained in this course to make personal financial decisions and to improve their understanding of the financial decisions at the firm where they will be (or are currently) employed.
- 6. Student Learning Outcomes:** Students should demonstrate an appreciation of the principles of financial management; in the context of private enterprise as a vehicle for creating wealth. They should understand the legal and ethical framework in which business is conducted; be able to measure and assess the financial performance of a business; demonstrate importance of the time value of money; apply

finance techniques to the investment and financing decisions of a business.

7. Teaching Methods:

This is a web-based online course.

“Learning Goals”: “Learning Goals” and Power-Point materials will be posted on Black Board.

Readings: Read the related chapters and chapter notes.

Discussion: Participate the discussion on Black Board’s discussion board.

Assignment: Every time we finish a chapter, I will post homework assignment for that chapter. I will also post the “due date” for the assignment. I expect that you will finish the homework assignments on time by following the “due date”. You may find the list of due dates on Blackboard. **I will randomly collect your homework assignments.** When I do so, I will make an announcement first, and you will use assignment manager to hand in your homework.

8. Assessment Methods:

Students should demonstrate their understanding of financial management principles through their performance on a combination of assignments, discussion, quizzes, and one project.

To take an on-line course, the student must take more responsibility for scheduling their learning activities than is the case with classroom instruction. Make sure you read the syllabus carefully and follow them as you participate in the course.

9. Textbook:

“Fundamental of Financial Management : Concise”
8th edition, by Eugene F. Brigham, Joel F. Houston,
Thomson South-Western

10. Recommended

- 1) Study Guide to “Fundamental of Financial Management : Concise”
- 2) The Wall Street Journal
- 3) **a financial calculator is required** (Make sure you keep the instruction manual handy for your reference)

11. Participation Policy

The discussion board serves as a "virtual classroom". Imagine you are in a classroom setting once you log in the Blackboard. After having read the book and the Learning Goals in the Power-point presentation, you want to join the discussion with other students in the “classroom.” You can ask related questions for that particular forum.

For every chapter, I will post “Learning Goals” for the chapter on the discussion board. I will also post the “due date” on the discussion board

for the “learning goals.” I will count the number of times you participate the discussion board on the “Learning Goals” by the “due date.” The **MINIMUM REQUIREMENT IS 3 TIMES PER CHAPTER.** Missing the minimum requirement for a chapter will result in a lower grade. Missing the discussion board is equivalent to be absent from a regular class.

I will excuse you for missing discussion board once (one time). You don't need to give me any explanation if you miss only once for discussion board. You will not receive full credit for participation if you miss more than once. In addition, three absences from the discussion board will automatically result in a grade of F unless you send me an email detailing the reason.

On DB, you may post a comment on any topics listed on Learning Goals or any other topics you would think of related to our Learning Goals. **You may create a thread or just follow a thread.** You may follow the topics in the learning goals **or develop your own talking points.** Do not repeat what other people already said for the same topic. Ask different questions. Make different arguments. Let's have fun online.

12. **Homework Policy:**

Every time we finish a chapter, I will post homework assignment for that chapter. I will also post the “due date” for the assignment. I expect you will finish the homework assignments on time by following the “due date”. I will randomly collect your homework assignments. When I do so, you will **follow the instruction to submit your homework on Blackboard. Do not email me your homework.** Late assignments will not be accepted or graded!

Homework solutions will be posted after the due date. You will read the posted solutions and correct your homework if there is any mistake. Remember, correcting your homework is an integral part of learning experience.

To find out the homework assignments, please click “Assignments.” To find out homework solutions, click “Assignments’ and then “Solutions”

Due dates for homework and discussion board can be found by clicking the course menu “Due Dates for HW and DB”

13. **Quiz:**

We will have a number of online quizzes during the session. I will post the information about the quizzes in advance of the quiz dates. Please follow the instruction carefully and make every effort to take the online tests. No make-up quizzes will be available. The first online quiz will be called “Welcome you quiz.” The quiz is designed to check if you have read Syllabus carefully. “Welcome you quiz” will include the materials from Syllabus only.

14. **Academic Integrity Policy**

If a student violates the Academic Integrity Policy (as printed in the section of Academic and Related Regulations, William Paterson University Catalog), a grade F will be assigned.

15. **Important Note**

As many of you know that online classes have many advantages over traditional classes in that online classes are flexible and convenient. However I would like to warn you that an advantage can turn into a disadvantage if the flexibility and convenience are abused. In an online class, no one looks over your shoulder to tell you to go online, to study, and to do homework assignments. Online classes require self-discipline and dedication. You must do a lot of reading and keep up with the assignments on your own. The success of taking an online class depends on you.

To keep up with the course, you will need to log on to the course every day. New course materials and announcements will be posted frequently.

Please use the school email to communicate with me so that we may better protect our students' confidential information.

16. **Quick Links:**

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, click “FAQ’s” on the left menu bar-- These FAQs are designed to provide you with a better understanding of our rules and requirements. Please read this entire FAQ section before sending me an email.

Homework Assignments: click “Assignments”, and then “Homework Assignments”

Homework Solutions: click “Assignments”, and then “Homework Solutions”

Homework Submission: click “Assignments”, and then “Homework Submission”

Due Date for Homework and DB: click “Due Date for HW and DB”

Quiz: click “Assignments”, and then choose related quiz

Project Outline: click “Assignments”, and then Project Outline

Financial Calculator Tutorials: click “Course Materials”, and then choose one of the six different calculators

17. **Grading Policy**

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Discussion Participation	15%
Quiz 1	8%
Quiz 2	8%
Quiz 3	8%

Final	35%
Homework	12%
Project	14%

Final Grade will be curved to an approximate distribution as follows:

A+	97
A	94
A-	90
B+	87
B	84
B-	80
C+	77
C	74
C-	70
D+	67
D	64
D-	60
F	below 60

18. Course Outline

Chapter	Topics	Due Date
	Welcome Quiz	12/22/2014
Chapter 1	The Overview of Financial management	12/23/2014
Chapter 2	Skip	
Chapter 3	Financial Statements, Cash Flow, and Taxes	12/25/2014
	Chapter 3 homework submission	12/26/2014
Chapter 4	Analysis of Financial Statements	12/28/2014
Chapter 5	Time Value of Money	12/30/2014
	Quiz One	12/31/2014
Chapter 6	Skip	
Chapter 7	Bonds and Their Valuation	1/2/2015
Chapter 8	Risk and Rates of Return	1/3/2015
	Chapter 8 homework submission	1/3/2015
Chapter 9	Stocks and Their Valuation	1/4/2015
	Quiz Two	1/5/2015
Chapter 10	Cost of Capital	1/6/2015
Chapter 11	The Basics of Capital Budgeting	1/7/2015
	Quiz Three	1/8/2015
Chapter 12	Cash Flow Estimation and Risk Analysis	1/9/2015
	Chapter 12 homework submission	1/9/2015
Chapter 13	Capital Structure and Leverage	1/10/2015
Chapter 14	Distributions to Shareholders	1/11/2015
	Project Due and Final Test	1/11/2015