Syllabus   **FIN4450 Finance Information System**   **Winter 2014**

William Paterson University
Cotsakos College of Business
Dept. of Economics, Finance, and Global Business

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 Required Materials:

Book: Principles of Finance with Excel, by Simon Benninga **ISBN-10: 0199755477**

Microsoft Office 2007 or 2010.

Not having the required materials does not excuse you from completing assigned work by the due date.

Course Description and Purpose:

- To learn how to use professional financial software and databases.

- To collect and put financial data together, analyze that data, apply critical thinking and problem solving in order to determine the value of the assets and projects.

- To create some financial analysis for any given company.

- To apply and integrate your knowledge of corporate finance and financial markets with technological skills. The integration will require the application of capital budgeting, cost of capital, equity valuation, risk analysis and other general financial concepts

Expected Learning Outcomes:

After taking the course students should be able to:

1. Utilize Excel to create data analysis from the financial statements including an Income Statement and a Balance Sheet. Include named cells and utilize formulas in their spreadsheets. Use a combination of relative, mixed and absolute cell references.

2. To calculate financial concepts like cost of capital, NPV and others using Excel financial functions and be able to generate the excel worksheet. Use a range of assumptions to conduct sensitivity analysis.

3. Understand the role and function of financial software has in financial markets. To be familiar with the financial websites and financial statements.

4. <mark>Use</mark> yahoo.finance, msn.money or other financial websites to obtain historical and current trading data for equity, bonds and other financial markets. To conduct a financial analysis using the financial data and evaluate the company financial situation. Discuss the ethical/legal implications of inflating or distorting financial data in the financial markets.

5. <mark>Use financial website</mark> to obtain the current information about mutual fund. To evaluate the current market fund performance. Understand the current market economic condition with the graphs, historical data series, the trend map from Data stream.

6. Integrate their knowledge regarding capital budgeting, financial statements, ratio analysis, risk management, cost capital, working capital, investments to apply in the assignments with integrated tables/graphs from MS Excel and also the data series obtained from financial databases. Discuss impact of comprehensive financial investment and impact for clients, communities, governments, and society.

Methods of Assessment of Learning Outcomes:

Assignments and exam will be used to assess the learning outcomes of this course. Homework assignments and final exam will all be listed on BB.

Criteria for Grade Determination:

Class Participation and attendance 10%
Homework assignments   50%
Exam   40%
Total   100%

Grading Scale:
97% = A+, 94% = A, 90% = A-
87% = B+, 84% = B, 80% = B-
77% = C+, 74% = C, 70% = C-
67% = D+, 64% = D
below 60% = F

Blackboard:
This course will be managed through Blackboard and University email accounts. Students are responsible for checking the site regularly for announcements and e-mails from the instructors. *Computer problems will not be accepted as an excuse for not finishing assignments on time.* Allow ample time to deal with computer glitches. For all technology documentation, go to http://www.wpunj.edu/itwiki/, and for support http://www.wpunj.edu/helpdesk.

Exam:
One diagnostic exam will be given which review the material covered in this course with the help of computing of financial software. Students will need to plan for additional study time to practice skills learned in the class and be able to apply those skills to problems.

Homework:
All homework assignments must be turned in on time. Homework will be listed on blackboard under course content. Students caught copying others' work (even work from a previous semester) will receive a zero for the assignment and/or an "F" for the course at the instructor's discretion. Check blackboard for assignment due dates, there will be a 40% reduction in points for late work.

Attendance:
It is important that you attend class even this is online. It is expected that you will do the required reading and arrange to cover material which will be listed under weekly schedule. Every student needs to post in the weekly discussion board at least twice per week.

Participation:
Students are expected to read the assigned chapters before posting in the weekly forum. Students are expected to make a consistently positive contribution to the class via discussion forums and Q&A in Student Cyber Café. Students who are disrespectful or who detract from class discussions will be removed from the discussion forum and receive no credit. Q&A IN Student Cyber Café and the forums will be the main method of determining participation.

Communication with the Instructor:
It's best to post your questions in the Student Cyber Café where others can answer and if no one does, I will post for all to see. If urgent, email me, but the café will likely be faster and should be done in addition to the email.

Academic Honesty:
Academic honesty is expected. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, fellow students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Each student is expected to follow the honor code and behave in accordance with the rules of the University as outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*. I really hate cheating!!!

Civility in the Classroom:
Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment conducive to learning even an online learning classroom. Inappropriate behavior in the virtual classroom shall result, *minimally*, in loss of points and potentially in a request to leave class.

Disability:
Accommodations, availability of services/auxiliary aids statement: *"Persons with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the appropriate University channels days in advance of participation so that appropriate arrangements can be made."*

Class syllabi statement: *"Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations."*

Nondiscrimination statement:
WPU is committed to the principle that in no aspects of its programs shall there be differences in the treatment of persons because of race, creed, national origin, age, sex, or disability, and that equal opportunity and access to facilities shall be available to all.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work that is not his or her own. This includes copying from printed materials, websites, or from other people. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will automatically be graded as zero. Plagiarism may also result in failing the entire course. Students who do not thoroughly understand methods of proper documentation should request assistance from the instructor. WPU and this class will use turnitin.com software to prevent or detect problems.

*This syllabus is subject to change

Preliminary Course Outline

Topic1   Syllabus and introduction to excel(chap24,25), time value of money(chap2),
Topic2 Bond valuation chap15 and Capital budgeting(chap4,5)
Topic3 chap9 Statistics and regression and CAPM and risk(chap8, chap11)
Topic4 Cost of capital –discount rate(chap6,chap13)
Topic 5 Stock valuation chap16

HW1: Chap4 case
Hw2: Regression and Beta
HW3 Cost of capital
HW4 Stock