

William Paterson University

COTSAKOS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Department of Economics, Finance, and Global Business

Corporate Finance-- FIN 3200 (3 credits)

Winter 2024

January 4-January 24

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|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Professor | Francis Cai, Ph.D. |
| | Office: | Valley Road Building: Room 3028 |
| | Tel: | (973) 7202178 |
| | Email: | caif@wpunj.edu |
| | My email response time: within | 12 and 24 hours |
| 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 2110 (Financial Accounting) and ECON 2020 (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:** Good balance of independent and self-paced reading, homework problem solving, quiz, exam and case study.
8. **Assessment Methods:** Students will demonstrate their understanding of the subject through homework assignments, Discussion Board Participation, quizzes, final exam, and case report.
9. **Textbook:** “Fundamental of Financial Management : Concise”
10th edition, by Eugene F. Brigham, Joel F. Houston,
Thomson South-Western
(If you are able to find an older version of the text, please go ahead to get it if it’s less expensive. There might be some slight changes from one version to the next. But the concepts are the same.)
10. **Recommended**
 - 1) The Wall Street Journal
 - 2) **a financial calculator is required** (Make sure you keep the instruction manual handy for your reference)

11. **Discussion Board 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 count the number of times you participate in the discussion board on the “Learning Goals” by the “due date.” The **MINIMUM REQUIREMENT IS 3 POSTS 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.

For Module 0, you will make one post on Module 0: Discussion -- Introduce Yourself (Module 0 is found in Getting Started). Starting from Module1, you will make **THREE** posts for every module. Students must create a thread in order to view other threads in the forum.

Here is more about the requirement for three posts:

You may use all your three posts to focus on one topic. You may also use your three posts to cover different topics. In short, as for the number of topics, it’s up to you to cover one topic or two topics, or three, or even more than three.

Your reply to someone else is also considered a post.

Your comment on a topic that is not on the list, but you may think is relevant to our course is also considered a post.

You will not receive full credit for participation if you miss required THREE posts. 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.

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”. **You will submit some of your homework assignments.** You will find which chapter homework will be required for submission from the bottom of this syllabus listed on “due date.” The submission time on the due date is 11:00pm. **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.

Due dates for homework and discussion board can be found at the end of this Syllabus

13. Rubrics for Discussion Board and HW Assignments

Table 1 Rubrics for Discussion Board

| Discussion Board Grading Rubric | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------|
| Your Initial Posts | | Grade |
| Your post | Your post shows critical thinking insight and effective and logical analysis | 50% |
| Length of post | 4-8 sentences | 20% |
| Your responses to your classmates | | |
| Your responses | Your responses show Clear and Thoughtful responses with credible evidence to support your comments | 30% |
| Total Points | | 100% |

Table 2 Homework Grading Rubric

| Homework Grading Rubric |
|-------------------------|
|-------------------------|

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Grade | 100/100 | 50/100 | 0 |
| % of Completion | >85% | <85% but >50% | <=50% |
| Accuracy | Few errors | Some errors | Not completed |

All assessments will be submitted via Blackboard. Feedback/grades will be provided within 1-2 Modules after the due date.”

14. **Quiz:**

We will have a number of online quizzes during the session. You may find the quiz schedule in the due date table in the end of this syllabus. Please follow the instruction carefully and make every effort to take the online tests. **No Late or 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.

15. **Course Attendance Policy:**

I will mark you “Present” if you make three posts on Discussion Board for the module and “Absent” if you make less than three posts a module.

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

16. **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.

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

17. **Quick Links:**

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, I will post frequently asked questions and answers in the announcement section on Blackboard. Those announcements starting with “FYI- You may have similar questions” are designed to provide you with a better understanding of our rules and requirements. Please read all those FAQ’s in the announcement section before sending me an email.

Homework Assignments: click the link for “Problem Set” within the Module

Syllabus: click the folder “Module 0: Getting started and Syllabus”

Rules and Requirements: Read the syllabus and watch the video “Introduction” under “About This Course”

Homework Solutions: click “HW Solutions & Project”

Homework Submission: click “Module: HW Submission” within the Module if the submission is required

Quiz: click the link “Quiz on Chapter #” within the Module

Project Outline: click “HW Solutions and Project”

18. Grading Policy

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Discussion Participation | 15% |
| Homework | 10% |
| Quizzes | 30% |
| Final | 35% |
| Project | 10% |

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

| | |
|----|----------|
| 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 |

19. Topics Outline and Due Date Table

Table 3 Topics Outline and Due Date Table

| Module | Chapter | Topics | Due Date |
|---------------|----------------|--|-----------------|
| # | # | Welcome Quiz | |
| 0 | | Introduce yourself in Module 0 | 1/4 |
| 1 | Chapter 1 | The Overview of Financial management | 1/5 |
| 2 | Chapter 3 | Financial Statements, Cash Flow, and Taxes | 1/7 |
| | | HW Submission #1: Chapter 3 HW Submission | 1/7 |
| 3 | Chapter 4 | Analysis of Financial Statements | 1/9 |
| 4 | Chapter 5 | Time Value of Money | 1/11 |
| | | Quiz 1 | 1/11 |
| 5 | Chapter 7 | Bonds and Their Valuation | 1/12 |
| 6 | Chapter 8 | Risk and Rates of Return | 1/13 |
| | | HW Submission #2: Chapter 8 HW Submission | 1/13 |
| 7 | Chapter 9 | Stocks and Their Valuation | 1/15 |
| | | Quiz 2 | 1/15 |
| 8 | Chapter 10 | Cost of Capital | 1/16 |
| 9 | Chapter 11 | The Basics of Capital Budgeting | 1/18 |
| | | Quiz 3 | 1/18 |
| 10 | Chapter 12 | Cash Flow Estimation and Risk Analysis | 1/19 |
| | | HW Submission #3: Chapter 12 HW Submission | 1/19 |
| 11 | Chapter 13 | Capital Structure and Leverage | 1/20 |
| 12 | Chapter 14 | Distributions to Shareholders | 1/21 |
| 13 | | Project Submission and Final Test Starting | 1/22 |