

Financial Theory & Practice FINN 3226-001

Monday/Wednesday – 2:00-3:15 PM

Rowe 161 – Spring 2017

Professor: Judson W. Russell, Ph.D., CFA
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Office hours: Monday/Wednesday: 10:00AM – 12:00PM
I encourage you to meet with me, by appointment, to discuss the course.

Textbooks: *Intermediate Financial Management*, Eugene Brigham and Philip Daves, 12th edition, Cengage. ISBN: 9781285850030

Course Description

The course deals with modern finance theory and its applications to corporate finance. The course will cover equilibrium asset pricing models, efficient markets hypothesis, risk analysis and real options theory in corporate decision-making. The topics of informational asymmetry, optimal corporate structure and dividend policies will also be investigated in detail. Agency conflicts and their impact on corporate performance, financial restructuring and leasing policies will conclude the set of issues to be analyzed.

Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are to ensure that all students have a mastery of the elements of corporate finance and are able to utilize the discussed theories and models to evaluate stocks, bonds, leases and to assess risk in the corporation. Students will be expected to measure cost of capital, make optimal capital budgeting decisions and to determine the best dividend policies and capital structures. They will also be expected to be able to assess agency costs and formulate plans for restructuring, if capital structures are incompatible with the objectives and resources of the firm.

You will be graded **solely** on in-class exams. You will be awarded a grade based on your performance on exams.

I follow a scale of:

90-100	A	60-69	D
80-89	B	50-59	F
70-79	C		

Regular Exams (3 @ 100 points each)	300 points
Final Exam (100 points)	100 points
Total	400 points

Absences from Examinations.

There will be no makeup or early examinations of any sort. The Final Examination must be taken at the scheduled date and time. If you cannot take the Final Examination for medical reasons, you will be awarded an "I" and can complete the course requirements

the following semester. If you miss one midterm examination, your final examination will have a 200 point weight. If you miss two midterm examinations you will be assigned an “F” for this course.

Assignments and Lectures

The principal method of instruction will be primarily by means of lectures. Students will be expected to actively participate in classroom discussions and the solving of problems. You should be prepared for class by reading the assigned chapters, before the class meets. Solving problems, reading the textbook and participating in classroom discussions are ways in which you can work to improve your understanding of the course material.

Students are expected to have a single, good non-programmable financial calculator to assist them in solving assigned problems. Make sure that you know how to use your calculator as calculator use is your responsibility. Since corporate finance is a dynamic and constantly changing area students are expected to keep abreast of current events in financial markets. This can be achieved by reading the Wall Street Journal, Business Week or Economist, which are all good sources for current information.

Academic Integrity

Students are advised to apprise themselves of, and adhere to the rules specified in the UNC-Charlotte code of student integrity regulations, which will be strictly enforced in this class.

Diversity Statement

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

Typical Class Schedule

Headline Events, Administrative Issues – 10 minutes
Re-cap previous lecture and problem review – 10 minutes
Lecture – 45 minutes
Problem assignment and dismiss – 10 minutes

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE & TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Exam 1 – Monday, February 6, 2:00-3:15 PM

Overview of Financial Management	Chapter 1
Analysis of Financial Statements	Chapter 8
Financial Planning and Forecasting	Chapter 9

Exam 2 – Monday, March 13, 2:00-3:15 PM

Determining the Cost of Capital	Chapter 10
Corporate Valuation & Value-Based Management	Chapter 11
Capital Budgeting: Decision Criteria	Chapter 12
Capital Budgeting: Estimating Cash Flows & Analyzing Risk	Chapter 13

Exam 3 – Monday, April 10, 2:00-3:15 PM

Capital Structure Decisions: Part 1	Chapter 15
Capital Structure Decisions: Part 2	Chapter 16

Final Exam – Monday, May 8, 2:00-4:30 PM

Comprehensive (Chapters 1, 8-13, 15-16)	
Distributions to Shareholders: Dividends & Repurchases	Chapter 17
Derivatives and Risk Management	Chapter 24

(Chapters included on each exam as shown are approximate.)

Important Dates:

University Closed January 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Spring Break is March 6-10

Last day to withdraw from class with W is March 20

Reading Day is May 2

Final Exam is May 8