FIN 3720 - Business Finance

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 43249,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Rongyao Zhang

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Assistant Professor
Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D. Finance, Old Dominion University

M.S. Accounting, Old Dominion University

Ph.D. Management Science and Engineering, HUST

Instructor Office Location: Williamson Hall Room 3381
Instructor Office Phone: (330) 941-1784

Course Description

3720. Business Finance. This course focuses on the financial problems associated with the life cycle of a business. Topics include business organizations, financial statement analysis, the time value of money, asset valuation, risk and returns, the cost of capital, capital budgeting, project analysis, dividend policies and investment decisions. The purpose of this course is to provide the basic financial knowledge necessary to enable students to become valuable employees in corporate, governmental, entrepreneurial or non-profit settings. Prereq.: ACCT 2603 (C or better), 2.5 GPA. 3 s.h.
Business Finance introduces students to the fundamental principles and analytical tools used in financial decision-making within the firm. Topics include financial statement analysis, time value of money, valuation of stocks and bonds, risk and return, capital budgeting, cost of capital, capital structure, and working capital management. Emphasis is placed on the application of financial concepts to real business decisions faced by managers and other stakeholders.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Fundamentals of Corporate Finance	Richard Brealey, Stewart Myers, Alan Marcus and Nicholas Racculia	9781266491771

Eleventh Edition; Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Tentative Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
10/19	Chapter 1-2 An Overview of Financial Management	• Investment and financial decision • Forms of business organization • The goal of financial management • The agency problem and control of the corporation • Financial markets and the corporation	10/25

10/26	Chapter 3 Accounting and Finance Chapter 4 Measuring Corporate Performance	• The income statement • The balance sheet • The statement of cash flows • Analysis of financial statements • Ratio analysis • The DuPont Identity • Interpreting financial ratios • Using financial statement information	11/1
11/2	Chapter 5 Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money	• Future value and compounding • Valuing level cash flows: annuities and perpetuities • Effective annual interest rates • Loan types • Loan amortization Mid-Term Exam (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4,5)	11/8 11/8
11/9	Chapter 6 Bond Valuation	• Bonds and bond valuation • Yield to maturity • Bond rates of return • The yield curve • Corporate bonds and the risk of default	11/15
11/16	Chapter 7 Stock Valuation	• Common stock valuation • Some features of common and preferred stocks • The stock markets • Simplifying the dividend discount model • Valuing a business by discounted cash flow Mid-Term Exam (Chapters 6, 7)	11/22 11/22
11/23	Chapter 8 Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria	• Net present value • The Internal rate of return rule • The profitability index • The payback rule • More mutually exclusive projects	11/29
11/30	Chapter 13 The Weighted-Average Cost of Capital	• Calculate the cost of debt • Calculate the cost of equity • Calculate the weighted-average cost of capital Comprehensive final exam	12/6 12/7

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.