

BUSINESS FINANCE
BUS 314
Summer 2020

Professor: Eric Mais
Office: C502j
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Office Hours: 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Tues and Thurs
(or by appt.)

PURPOSE (just why should we study finance?)

What specific assets should the firm acquire and what total volume of funds should the enterprise commit? How should the funds required be financed?

These questions were posed over forty years ago by Professor Ezra Solomon of Columbia University in an effort to crystallize the content of corporate finance. These questions will serve as the learning objectives for Business Finance, BUS 314. We will also apply the CFA and CFP code of ethics to current events and several cases in the text.

The purpose of Business Finance 314 is twofold. First, the course is intended as an introduction to the field of business management known as finance. This introduction is designed to afford the student an enlightened perspective as to how finance fits into the general scheme of things in the modern firm -- what finance is and how it is used. The second purpose is to prepare the student desiring an academic emphasis in finance for the remainder of the finance curriculum. Thus the course is simultaneously a survey course for "non-majors" and building block course for "majors".

FORMAT (order in the universe)

The classes will be primarily lecture oriented however a portion of class time shall be spent going over specific finance problems. Powerpoint slides and answers to the end of chapter problems are found on Lulima. You should print the Powerpoint slides (6 slides per page) and bring them to class to take notes on. Having a laptop open during class is wasting your time, unless the class is online.

The Powerpoint slides present the material from the chapter by analyzing the Integrated Case for that specific chapter. You should read the assigned chapters and at least skim the Integrated Case before class to get the most out of the lecture. Students are highly encouraged to ask questions and/or provide comments at any time.

Cengage is the online platform used for this class. You may use your own computer for the online assignments while exam testing will be in the computer lab. All online assignments and exams are on Cengage as well as videos reviews and practice problems. Online activities that count towards your grade are marked with a red dot and say "COUNTS TOWARDS GRADE" and are found in the folder titled "Assignments". All online activities and assignments are organized by chapter. You are allowed up to three tries for most online assignments and your average grade is kept as your score for that assignment. Please note that the window for taking the online assignments for a given chapter closes approximately one week after the class lecture for that chapter. If you miss the online assignment no time extensions will be given. This is to encourage you to not fall behind in class. The closing dates for the online assignments are found on Cengage and at the end of this syllabus.

There are two types of videos reviews, *Concept Clips* that review key finance concepts in short animated clips and *End of Chapter Problem Walk-Throughs* that walk you through solving a problem step by step, front start to finish. It's like having your own personal finance tutor.

Each online chapter also includes *Practice and Test Prep* problems that you can take to provide feedback on your level of competency for that chapter. These activities do not count towards your grade but will aid in your preparation for the exams.

The online portion of the course starts with "Are You Ready? Topic Review" which reviews some basic concepts from previous courses you have taken in accounting, mathematics, and information technology management.

GRADING (it's the learning that matters)

Online Assignments		700 points
Mid-term 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	100 points
Mid-term 2	5, 7, 8, 9	100 points
Final exam	10, 11, 12, 13	100 points

Your grade in the course is based on your performance on the three exams and the online assignments. Each exam counts as 10% of your final grade. Online assignments account for the remaining 70% of your final grade. Do not plan to leave prior to the end of the semester. The final exam will not be given "early". No grades will be given out via email or phone.

You are responsible for learning how to access the Cengage website and remembering your logon ID and password. Any technology problems with the Cengage website are the responsibility of the student. If you have a problem with the website you must contact technical support at Cengage for help. Students should expect to study 5-6 hours per day outside regularly scheduled class times in order to complete the course. Final, overall scores will be curved to a mean of 80%. Letter grades will be assigned as below.

- A 90 - 100%
- B 80 - 99%
- C 70 - 79%
- D 60 - 69%
- F < 60%

Please recognize that the size of this class makes it necessary for the cutoffs to be firm, i.e., there will be no rounding up, regardless of how close you are to the higher grade.

There will be NO makeup exams for unexcused absences. If you have a valid university approved excuse for missing any of the exams, you may take a makeup exam. If you do not have a valid university approved excuse for missing an exam, the exam will count as a zero. In order to be excused from an exam, the student must contact me before the exam.

Since the exams are multiple choice, you will receive no partial credit. This lowers scores considerably from what they would be if partial credit were given. Thus, if you get 50 percent correct, this does not mean that you know only 50 percent of the material--you probably know a lot more. Therefore, we curve the final grade, and only the curved grade is meaningful.