



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Finance 3337 902 Principles of Corporate Finance, Fall 2025, CRN: 12490
Department of Accounting and Finance, College of Business

Course Syllabus

Class Meeting Time and Place: W 5:30 am-6:45 pm Business Library Hall 152A

Class Duration: 08/25/2025-12/12/2025

Instructor: Dr. Keming Li
Office: BLH 441 J
Tel: 210-784-2326
E-Mail: kli@tamusa.edu

Course Website: <https://tamusa.blackboard.com/>

Office Hours: M 6:45 pm - 10:45 pm
W 6:45 pm - 10:45 pm

Catalog Course Description: “Finance” is a broad discipline. From an individual’s perspective, finance encompasses financial institutions and investments. This course provides introduction to different areas in finance. It also encourages all students to do additional work in the field.

Course Objectives: The objective of the course is to introduce you to the three areas of the finance discipline, including financial institutions, investments, and business finance. It provides you with breadth (but not depth) of knowledge of finance and is a foundation on which you may build.

Student Learning Outcomes: The specific student learning objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Understand different financial institutions and their functions;
- 2) Evaluate the risk and return characteristics of financial assets and investment projects to make capital budgeting decisions;
- 3) Evaluate the capital structure and payout policies of companies;

AACSB Assessment:

The College of Business is in the process of applying for AACSB accreditation. As part of that process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery of the above course outcomes.

Required Materials:

- **Text:** *Herbert B. Mayo. Basic Finance: An Introduction to Financial Institutions, Investments, and Management, 12th edition. 2019. Cengage Learning. Custom E-book. The e-book is available in Blackboard through Mindtap.*

- **Calculator:** A financial calculator with the following function keys (N, I, PV, PMT, FV, IRR, and CF) is required for the course. For example Texas Instruments (TI) BA II Plus (or Equivalent).
- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. User ID is the K Number (K00001234). Password is the Date of Birth (MMDDYY). You will have copies of power point slides and other supplementary materials available in the content section of Blackboard.
- **MindTap:** Online homework will be administered through MindTap. To use MindTap, just go to Course Content in the Blackboard and there is a link. It will lead you to the MindTap account.

Other Recommended / Reading Materials: Students should keep current with various business news through such publications as the Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and various news programs. The latter would include Fox Business News, Bloomberg TV, and the nightly business report on NPR.

Course Requirements every student must fulfill in order to succeed in course:

Demonstrate an understanding of the framework used to link the economic characteristics and strategies of a firm, its financial statements, and assess a firm's current and forecasted profitability and risks. Explain the relationship between risk and returns.

1. Students should check the Course Calendar, Announcements, and Messages (e-mail) systems in Blackboard on a regular basis.
2. Students should keep current with all course assignments, quizzes, and examinations.
3. If the course uses remote proctoring for exams, students must schedule their exam early in the semester.
4. Students should ask questions and communicate with the instructor either in class, online, off-line or during office hours.
5. For all classwork, exams, quizzes etc., if a student is completing it off-campus, then they are responsible for availability of internet connectivity. Extensions will not be granted for lack of availability of internet connections.
6. Students should remember that hybrid and Hyflex courses assume greater responsibility and independent learning skills by the student for their own learning outcomes.
7. For Hyflex courses, students should keep current on class recordings, if not attending the live class (either in person or online).
8. For Hyflex courses, students are not required to come to class, even for proctored examinations.
 - a. The instructor can require students to physically sit for an examination in a proctored environment at the facilities of university testing services – setup of exam is responsibility of the student.
 - b. The instructor can require students to take examinations using proctoring software as indicated in the Proctored Exams section.
 - c. The instructor decides which type of examination works best for the class and the student must comply with their instructions – as long as they are not required to take an in-class examination, or are required to take the examination at one specific time that applies to all students. In other words, the instructor will offer the student some flexibility on test location and the time to sit for the examination. Instructors should allow 72 hours for students to complete any examination.

Grading Policy: The final course grade will be based on your performance on the exams, assignments and class participation using the following weights:

Assignments	25%
Two Mid-term Exam	25% per exam
Final Exam (as per University Schedule)	25%

Total

100%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% \Rightarrow A; 80 – 89% \Rightarrow B; 70 – 79% \Rightarrow C; 60 – 69% \Rightarrow D; Below 60% \Rightarrow F.

Examinations and Quizzes: There will be a mandatory mid-term exams and a mandatory final exam (as per university schedule). Being absent for an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam and may result in a fail grade in the course. The exams/quizzes will consist of conceptual multiple-choice questions, problem solving questions, and short essay questions. The exam/quiz materials will come from lecture notes, the text, and class discussions. Questions will emphasize understanding and applications of concepts and topics covered in class.

Proctored Exams: In order to ensure course integrity, students enrolled in this course may use a Remote test-Proctoring software for the administration of exams, if allowed and is set up by the instructor.

The College of Business has partnered with ProctorU for the Remote test-Proctoring service. It is completely free for students to use; there is no additional fee to students for using this service. Students are required to make their own appointment to take exams within the timeframe established by your professor. If you make an appointment for an exam and fail to appear, subsequent testing attempts for that exam will incur a fee to the student of about \$30 (prices are dependent on the length of the exam). Information about required computer equipment needed for this service can be found on the ProctorU website. At a minimum, students need a computer, webcam, a microphone, and an internet connection with at least 3 MPS upload and download speed. Information and FAQs about how to register and take your exam with ProctorU is available on their website at ProctorU.com. You can also test your computer systems readiness at that site.

Assignments/ Research papers: There will be assignments during the course. Individual assignment statements and due dates will be posted through Mindtap.

Make up and Late Assignment/exam/quiz policy: As a general rule, make-ups or late submissions will NOT be offered or accepted for any missed assignments/exams. Late submissions or make-ups may be accepted/administered only in extra-ordinary circumstances such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation either before or within a few days of the missed assignment/quiz/exam.

Class conduct and civility code: Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. Attendance may be taken at the beginning or the end of the class.
2. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
3. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes. Keep copies of all computer files and e-mails.
4. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.

5. Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose not related to class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned off and headphones removed.
6. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor, before the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
7. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages and voice messages within 24 hours during week days (Monday-Friday).
8. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date.

Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Class attendance and Participation: A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work, and frequent or persistent absences may result in a failing grade. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. The course covers a lot of material and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Class participation is highly encouraged as it makes the class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions and problem solving. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned.

The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

Tentative Class Schedule:

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Chapter and Topic</i>	<i>Due</i>
1	August 27	Syllabus & Chapter 1 - An Introduction to Basic Finance	
2	September 3	Chapter 2 – The Role of Financial Markets and Financial Intermediaries	
3	September 10	Chapter 3 – Investment Banking Chapter 4 – Securities Markets	
4	September 17	Chapter 7 – Time Value of Money	
5	September 24	Chapter 7 – Time Value of Money	Chapter 4 Assignment
6	October 1	Chapter 8 – Risk and Its Measurement	Chapter 7 Assignment
7	October 8	Mid-term Exam 1	Chapter 8 Assignment
8	October 15	Chapter 9 – Analysis of Financial Statements	
9	October 22	Chapter 10 – The Features of Stock Chapter 11 – Stock Valuation	Chapter 9 Assignment
10	October 29	Chapter 12 – The Features of Long-Term Debt Chapter 13 – Bond Pricing and Yields	Chapter 10 Assignment Chapter 11 Assignment
11	November 5	Mid-term Exam 2	Chapter 13 Assignment
12	November 12	Chapter 16 – Investment Returns Chapter 18 – Forms of Business and Corporate Taxation	

13	November 19	Chapter 17 – Investment Companies	Chapter 16 Assignment Chapter 18 Assignment
14	November 26	No Class	
15	December 3	Chapter 20 Leverage Chapter 21 – Cost of Capital	Chapter 17 Assignment
17	December 6-12	Final Exam – As per University Schedule	Chapter 20 Assignment Chapter 21 Assignment

Drop Policy

You may drop the course with an automatic grade of W on or before the date listed in the academic calendar at www.tamusa.edu. The last date to drop a course, or withdraw from the University is also indicated in the academic calendar on the university website (www.tamusa.edu). If you wish to drop the class, you must submit the necessary paperwork to the proper authority. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which includes class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving Federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have his/her aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of his/her federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center can be contacted by email at: Student.Success@tamusa.edu or by phone at (210) 784-1307, or by visiting its web page from www.tamusa.edu.

Jaguar Tutoring Center

The Tutoring Center at Texas A&M University–San Antonio provides academic assistance to students in TAMU-SA's schools of Business, Education, and Arts and Sciences. Literacy tutors help students develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their papers. Business tutors provide individual assistance in statistics, accounting, and math. The goal of TAMU-SA tutors is to empower students to succeed academically. The tutoring center can be contacted by email at: Tutoring@tamusa.edu or by phone at: (210) 784-1332, or by visiting its web page from www.tamusa.edu.

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

Academic Misconduct Policy

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. Students are expected to do their own course work. Simple cases of first offense cheating or plagiarism by an individual student may be handled by the instructor after consultation with the department chair. The student is usually confronted with the evidence in private and advised of the penalty to be assessed. The evidence will be retained for at least one full year. For more serious cases, such as those involving repeated offenses, conspiracy with other students or the theft and selling of examination questions, a report should be made by the instructor via the department chair and college dean to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Academic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the instructor **SHALL** report any form of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Both parties (provider and copier) will be held responsible for the misconduct. Please review the Student Handbook for a complete description of the process. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from a grade of F on the particular paper or in the course to expulsion from the University.

Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please she/he should contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Posting of any class work or discussion on publicly accessible forums or on social media is not permissible.

Key Dates

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/current-year/fall-2025.html>