



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

FINC 3337.602, **Finance for Non-Finance Majors**, Spring 2024, CRN: 24390
Department of Accounting & Finance, College of Business
Course Syllabus

Class Meeting Time and Place: Online
Class Duration: 01/16/2024 - 05/07/2024
Instructor: Dr. Shahil Sharma
Office: BLH 241M
Tel: (210) 784-2379
E-Mail: shahil.sharma@tamusa.edu
Course Website: <https://tamusa.blackboard.com/>

In-person & Virtual Office Hours: <https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/7788798907> - Zoom

M	2:00-5:00 pm (online)
R	12:00-3:00 pm
F	1:00-3:00 pm

***And by appointment or talk to me before or after class

*** *Using regular TAMUSA Email instead of Blackboard message will lead to prompt response.*

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

This course provides a foundation for the financial aspects of running a business. It is a required course for all business majors primarily for this reason. It will provide students with conceptual and application-oriented approaches to solving problems in business.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE

1. *Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, 10th Edition*, Richard Brealey, Stewart Myers, and Alan Marcus. McGraw Hill Education.
2. **"Jaguar Day One Program"** has officially ended starting Spring 2021, i.e., university will no longer charge fees to students for book or supplemental materials. Students are solely responsible for the acquisition of any, and all, required course materials. Please make sure you all have access to hardcopy or e-book and supplemental platform (for homework, quizzes, and exams). For FINC 3337 (Finance for Non-Finance Majors) we are using McGraw Hill book, therefore supporting or supplemental platform is **Connect**. The supplementary platform is not optional, it is required for homework and exams.
3. *Electronic Spreadsheet (such as Microsoft Excel or its equivalent Google Sheets, OpenOffice, LibreOffice)*: Access to an electronic spreadsheet is required for the course. All the calculations in the course CAN be done with a calculator that has at least the exponential function (y^x). However, most of the calculations will be much easier with Excel. Excel will be used for all examples shown in class. It is advisable, however, that

you use the spreadsheet only to check your work rather than do it. This will ensure that you understand the process behind the methods used and get credit for working out problems in the class quizzes. I assume that students know how to run Excel's basic functions. For a refresher, <http://www.tvmcalcs.com> gives a tutorial about time value of money (TVM) functions in Excel.

4. The course uses Blackboard® and McGraw Hill Connect for communications, discussions, assignments, and quizzes. Students need to familiarize themselves with the software or ask for help early in the course to avoid confusion while taking quizzes or exams online. The website for the course is <http://tamusa.blackboard.com> and you should be able to login with your Jaguar ID, which is same as the username and password used to log into the computer labs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION: The objective of this course is to introduce you to business finance. Ideally, both your financial intuition and financial problem-solving skills will be developed in this class. You will also be expected to learn the basic facts and measures of business finance. This course will be the foundation from which you will progress to other finance courses and will build the finance skills that are necessary to be successful in all areas of business. From an accounting perspective, financial management involves both the asset and liability sides of the balance sheet. The projects or financial assets in which a company chooses to invest comprise much of the asset side, and the financing (capital) decisions affect the liabilities of the firm. Inherent in these functions is the determination of interest rates used to discount future cash flows, due to the cost of money and the uncertainty of those future cash flows. The specific Student Learning Objectives of this course are the ability to:

- 1) Calculate the value of financial assets such as stocks and bonds using quantitative and qualitative analysis.
- 2) Evaluate the risk and return characteristics of financial assets, to assess strategic capital budgeting.
- 3) Analyze the risk and return characteristics of investment projects using financial theories and methods.
- 4) Explain the complexities of financial decisions that affect company performance and value through an ethical, global, economic, and regulatory context.
- 5) Understand the use of debt and dividend policy of companies using financial theories and methods.
- 6) Analyze the financial planning process of corporations through strategic management.

GOALS: It is intended that students will leave the course with a basic understanding of the theoretical concepts underlying financial management as well as the technical and analytical tools used to answer the primary questions of individual and corporate finance: How much to invest in what projects and how best to raise the money to pay for those investments. While the concepts and tools we will study in this course relate to corporate finance, they have broad applicability in any study requiring the determination of a present value of future financial events or cash flows. The tools we will use include the algebraic formulas that evaluate present and future value and the financial calculators and spreadsheet applications that perform the statistical and time value of money calculations.

EXPECTATIONS: It is expected that students will read the assigned chapters before attending class and will have attempted the assigned homework problems, which will be graded.

GRADING (ASSESSMENT)

Your grade will be determined from your performance as follows:

- Two in-class exams worth 60% (30% each) – must have laptop/tablet with Excel to class or take the final at TAMUSA testing center or via Examity (online proctoring service)
- Homework problems (include chapter assignments; why is this Important to me; before class assignments; in class quiz, and occasional in class problems) submitted via Connect and Blackboard worth a total of 40%

Homework will help provide the basis for your understanding of the concepts and calculations required in this course. I will post the solutions to selected homework problems on Blackboard (using Connect), along with sample exams to help you prepare for the actual exams. I will be available during office hours to help with homework problems; however, you try to work it out by yourself first.

Exams are closed book and closed notes, except for one **hand-written** sheet of formulas that you may prepare and bring with you. Examinations will include both conceptual questions and financial calculations based on the concepts that we will cover. **The examinations will be a combination of multiple-choice conceptual questions and short problems.**

GRADING SCALE: **A** ($\geq 90\%$), **B** (80% to 89%), **C** (70% to 79%), **D** (60% to 69%), **F** ($\leq 59\%$)

CLASS CONDUCT AND CIVILITY: I will start class on time and will be prepared to present the material scheduled in the tentative class schedule. The class format will be a combination of lectures, in-class problems, and in-class quizzes. Students may leave the room temporarily during the in-class work time if they do not disrupt the activities of the other students in the class. I expect students to be present, punctual, and courteous to me and to the other students in the class. If you know that you will be unavoidably absent or tardy, or will have to leave before class is over, please inform me, preferably before class. I will endeavor to answer any questions relating to the material in class, but if the question is not one that is of general interest or relevant to the material at hand, I may defer until a break or after class. **CELL PHONES MUST BE IN SILENT MODE DURING CLASS. STUDENTS MAY NOT USE CELL PHONE CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS DURING EXAMINATIONS.**

MAKE UP / LATE ASSIGNMENT/EXAM/QUIZ POLICY: As a rule, no make-up or late submissions will be offered/accepted for any missed assignments/exams/quizzes. Late submissions or make-ups may be accepted/administered only in extraordinary circumstances such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation within a few days of the missed assignment/quiz/exam.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: Academic dishonesty includes cheating (giving or receiving assistance on an exam or with graded exercises), academic misconduct (tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test), fabrication (use of invented information or data or falsifying research), and plagiarism (the use of someone else's words, ideas, data, or opinions without giving them proper credit). Disciplinary action regarding student

misconduct will depend on the nature, frequency, and severity of the offense. It may include, but is not limited to, dismissal from and failure of this course.

DROP POLICY: Please visit below TAMUSA webpage for detail on drop policy: <https://www.tamusa.edu/provost/academic-calendar.html>. Please refer to summer 2022: Second Summer Session (5-weeks)

DISCLAIMER: The provisions and information set forth in this schedule are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. I reserve the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule. Changes to the schedule will be made only under extenuating circumstances. All the changes will be announced in class/Blackboard, and you are responsible for the announcements made in class/Blackboard.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

	CHAPTER	TOPIC(S)
Day 1	1	GOALS AND GOVERNANCE OF CORPORATION
Day 1	2	FINANCIAL MARKETS & INSTITUTIONS
Day 2	3	ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
Day 2	4	MEASURING CORPORATE PERFORMANCE
Day 3	5	THE TIME VALUE OF MONEY
Day 4	6	VALUING BONDS
Day 4	7	VALUING STOCKS
Day 5	8	NET PRESENT VALUE AND OTHER INVESTMENT CRITERIA
Day 6	Mid-term Exam	
Day 7	11	INTRODUCTION TO RISK, RETURN, AND THE OPPORTUNITY COST OF CAPITAL
Day 7	12	RISK, RETURN, AND CAPITAL BUDGETING
Day 8	13	THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF CAPITAL AND COMPANY VALUATION

Day 8	14	INTRODUCTION TO CORPORATE FINANCING
Day 9	15	HOW CORPORATIONS RAISE VENTURE CAPITAL AND ISSUE SECURITIES
Day 10	Final Exam	

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. The 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.

UNIVERSITY EMAIL POLICY AND COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have a Jaguar email account ready and working. Please contact TAMUSA ITS if you need technical assistance or technological help with TAMUSA email, blackboard, or jagwire account.

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.

STUDENT MISCONDUCT: Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct.

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. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible 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 you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student term papers, and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

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 reasonable accommodation for their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodation, please contact Counseling and Disability Support Services for the coordination of services. C & DSS is located on the 1st floor of the Main Campus Building in room 127. Visit website at <http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/SEAS/StudentEngagement.html> for more information or you may email Counseling and DSS at dsupport@tamusa.tamus.edu.

Key Dates for Current Semester: Please refer to complete TAMUSA academic calendar for important dates: <https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-calendar/>