

FIN 303OL Financial Management

Sections #13001 & #13003

Spring 2015 (1/12/15)

Professor James Dow

This is an ONLINE class: all course assignments and tests are delivered online and there are no class meetings.

Course Description: Prerequisites: ACCT 220, ECON160, SOM 120, SOM 120 may be taken concurrently. BUS 302 is a co/prerequisite for BSBA majors. An analysis of the financial decision making process of a firm from both internal and external points of view. Topics include valuation, working capital management, capital budgeting, financial forecasting, capital structure, and sources of capital and dividend policy in both a domestic and international context.

Contact Information

Email: james.dow@csun.edu (please put FIN303OH at the start of the subject line)

Office: JH 4107

Office Hours (in-person): TR 11:00-12:00, 1:30-2:00

Your first email: Please read the syllabus and then send me an email in the first week that says that you are aware of the class and university's policies on academic honesty and you understand the deadlines that occur on 2/15 and 3/29 and that all assignments must be completed by 5/10, the Sunday before finals week.

Online Resources:

- www.boringfinance.com (assignments)
- wileyplus.com (class material, quizzes and exams)
- moodle.csun.edu (information and news, no assignments or grading)

Required Items: The textbook (*Essentials of Corporate Finance*), the WileyPlus access code, and for those taking the quizzes and exams, a financial calculator. You will need to read one or more days of the print edition of the Wall Street Journal, which you can either purchase from a news vendor or read in the library.

Syllabus Overview

1. Learning topics
2. Textbook and webpages
3. Grading and assignments
4. Class policies and tutoring

1. LEARNING TOPICS

As part of the Nazarian College of Business and Economics student learning outcomes, students in FIN 303 will develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving and understanding the global context of business.

The course is built around 11 core chapters:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	The Financial Manager and the Firm
2	The Financial System and the Level of Interest Rates
3	Financial Statements, Cash Flows, and Taxes
4	Analyzing Financial Statements
5	The Time Value of Money, Discounted Cash Flows, and Valuation
6	Risk and Return
7	Bond Valuation and the Structure of Interest Rates
8	Stock Valuation
9	Fundamentals of Capital Budgeting
11	The Cost of Capital
17	International Financial Management

There are six additional chapters in the textbook. Students who wish to get an A or B in the course will choose additional chapters to study.

2. TEXTBOOK AND WEBPAGES

(A) Textbook+WileyPLUS access code

The textbook is *Essentials of Corporate Finance*, by Parrino, Kidwell, and Bates, First Edition, Wiley. It must be accompanied by a valid access code for the WileyPLUS online learning environment. You can purchase this:

(i) as a physical textbook in the CSUN bookstore. The WileyPLUS code will also give you access to the electronic version of the text.

(ii) or buy the Wileyplus code when you go to register at WileyPLUS.com (go to the class link given in the next section and follow the instructions). This will give you an electronic copy but not a physical copy.

(iii) or buy the Wileyplus code when you go to register at WileyPLUS.com (go to the class link given in the next section and follow the instructions) **and** also order at the same time a physical copy of the textbook. NOTE: As of 1/12/15, the physical textbook sold at the link is incorrect (it offers *Fundamentals* rather than *Essentials*). I expect this to be fixed shortly, but be sure to buy *Essentials of Corporate Finance*.

(B) The WileyPLUS online learning environment

The WileyPLUS website is where you will take quizzes and exams and has a variety of supplemental material. An access code is bundled in each new copy of the textbook at the bookstore or could be purchased separately.

To register, go to the appropriate page listed below. Be sure you register for your section.

Sp15 #13001 <http://edugen.wileyplus.com/edugen/class/cls433126/>

Sp15 #13003 <http://edugen.wileyplus.com/edugen/class/cls433138/>

Click the tab “Read, Study & Practice” for self-guided study. There are a variety of learning aids to assist you including narrated PowerPoint slides and self-study problems. Click on the assignments tab to get a list of quizzes and exams.

(C) Boringfinance.com

The written assignments for this course will be hosted at boringfinance.com. The first thing you need to do is go to the website and register (be sure to keep track of your password). Once you have registered for the website, you need to sign up for your specific section of FIN 303 (#13001 or #13003).

When completing assignments, enter your essay into the text box and click on submit when you are done (it may be convenient to write your essay in a word processor and cut and paste into the text box).

In a few days, you will receive an email saying that you either passed or failed the essay. If you have failed, you will have one chance to rewrite the essay and resubmit it. Typically, you will receive an email explaining why you failed. If you have any question about what you need to fix, please ask.

(D) moodle.csun.edu

The class moodle site will have the syllabus and a few informational links. It is *not* used for assignments or quizzes. Occasionally a news item may be posted. If so, students will be notified of this by email.

(E) Financial Calculator

For taking quizzes and exams you will need a financial calculator (it must be capable of solving for PV, FV, PMT, i or i/yr , N , NPV, IRR, square root, e^x , and y^x). Common financial calculators include the **TI BAII PLUS** and the **HP 10bII+**. They run around \$30 depending on where you buy them. It is **YOUR** responsibility to learn how to use your calculator. Plan to buy it early on so that you have sufficient time to learn how to use the calculator. To learn how to use the calculator, read the *owner's manual* and follow the tutorials linked at the class moodle page. The tutors can also help you with your calculator.

4. GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are graded pass/fail. Your course grade will be determined by the number of assignments you pass along with whether the assignments are turned in on time. Assignments come in three types: (1) short essays (500 words or more), (2) multiple choice quizzes taken online, and (3) a multiple choice exam taken online.

Grade	Requirements
D*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 11 <i>core chapter</i> reflection essays◦ 7 WSJ, personal finance or ethics essays (any combination that adds up to 7)
C-*	Satisfy requirements for a D, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Meet deadlines for essays[#]
C	Satisfy requirements for a C-, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Pass 8 chapter quizzes (80% is passing)
B	Satisfy requirements for a C, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Pass 11 chapter quizzes total (80% is passing)◦ Meet deadlines for quizzes^{\$}◦ 22 essays total◦ Pass one of the TVM exams with grade of 12 or better
A	Satisfy requirements for a B, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Pass 14 chapter quizzes total (80% is passing)◦ 30 essays total

* IMPORTANT: A grade of C or better in FIN 303 is necessary to take required Finance courses in the Finance, Insurance and Financial Services and Real Estate majors. A C- does not qualify.

IMPORTANT: To get a grade better than a D, you need to turn in the chapter reflection essays by the dates given in the syllabus. THE FIRST ESSAY IS DUE BY THE END OF THE FOURTH WEEK (2/15). If you have problems with turning in an essay, contact the instructor or one of the graduate assistants - we will work with you to resolve computer problems - however, do not wait until Sunday night before the deadline to ask for help as that will be too late. Medical reasons for not completing an assignment on time will require documentation. Chapter reflection essays 2-5 must be completed by 3/29.

\$ IMPORTANT: To get a grade better than a C, you need to pass two chapter quizzes by 3/29.

Reflection Essays

Students must write reflection essays on each of the 11 core chapters. The essays should contain a summary of the chapter and then should show how the information could be applied in meeting your life or career goals (If you can't think of how it would relate to your personal life, you can tie the material to a real life example not from the chapter).

- It is important to use your own words. Do NOT copy the textbook when providing a summary of the chapter.
- These essays should not cover articles used in the WSJ essays (see below).
- 500 words minimum – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit.
- A sample essay is available on the class moodle site.

Wall Street Journal Essays

Find an article in the print edition of the Wall Street Journal that relates to the topics of the particular chapter. Summarize the article and explain specifically how it relates to the particular chapter of the textbook. It is not sufficient to simply summarize the article; comparing it with the chapter is the most important part of a passing essay. At the start of your essay, you should indicate the title and date of the article (for example: "How I learned to love finance", Wall Street Journal, February 30, 2016). (500 words minimum each – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit)

Personal Finance Essays

#1 Find an article from the Wall Street Journal providing personal financial advice and a separate article online (not from the Wall Street Journal) on the same topic. Compare their advice. (500 words minimum – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit)

#2 Find applications for three different credit cards. Compare the features of the cards (APR, rewards annual fee, late fee, transactions fees, grace period, etc.). Explain which card would be better for you. (500 words minimum – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit)

#3 Visit the link on the bottom of page 37 (PNC bank). If you started a small business, what services does this bank offer? (500 words minimum – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit)

#4 Read a book on personal finance and provide a review. (500 words minimum – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit)

Ethics Essays

Ethics essays are graded on clarity and a demonstration that you have thought seriously about the issue.

#1 Read the ethics case on pages 124-125 of the textbook. Answer discussion questions 1-3. (500 words minimum – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit)

#2 Read the ethics case on pages 181-182 of the textbook. Answer discussion questions 1-3. (500 words minimum – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit)

#3 Read the ethics case on pages 250-252 of the textbook. Answer discussion questions 1-6. (500 words minimum – graded pass/fail. If failed, you will have one chance to revise the essay and resubmit)

WileyPLUS Quizzes

- One quiz per chapter, 17 possible quizzes.
- Each quiz has 15-20 questions.
- No time limit on quizzes.
- Two attempts per question.
- Passing is 80%, so take your time, use the book.

TVM Exam (WileyPLUS)

- 15 questions
- Time limit: 45 minutes.
- Covers calculation parts of chapters 5 and 9
 - PV and FV calculations (even cash flows, single amounts and annuities including solving for n and i)
 - NPV, IRR (even cash flows) and payback period
- One attempt only for each question; no repeats.
- There are two exams. You need to get 12 or better on *one* of the exams. If you pass the first one, you do not need to take the second.

Assignments Checklist

Chapter	Listen to Powerpoint	Read Chapter	Write Reflection Essay	Write WSJ Essay	Take Quiz
1	_____	_____	_____ !!	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____ !!
3	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____ !!	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
17	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
12	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
13	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
14	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Personal Finance Essays

Ethics Essays

TVM Exam _____

#1	_____	#1	_____
#2	_____	#2	_____
#3	_____	#3	_____
#4	_____		

!! IMPORTANT DEADLINES: Reflection essay 1 must be completed by 2/15 and reflection essays 2-5 must be completed by 3/29 in order to receive a grade better than a D. Quizzes 1 and 2 must be completed by 3/29 to get a grade better than a C. All assignments must be completed by 5/10.

4. CLASS POLICIES AND TUTORING

Free Tutoring

(1) Business honors students provide free tutoring to students enrolled in NCOBAE lower division and upper division required classes. Students can sign up for tutoring appointments by visiting the Business Honors Association website at www.csun.edu/bha.

(2) Tutoring provided by Finance Department:

- Tutoring schedule will be posted on Moodle.
- You may call 818.677.4622 to reserve a 30-minute session or you may walk in during the tutoring hours. Walk-ins will be served on a first-come first-served basis. You may receive a maximum of 30-minute tutoring help per day unless there are no other students waiting.
- Policy: To be qualified for the free tutoring services, you need to "be prepared". Being prepared means: (a) you have read the textbook and tried to solve the questions yourself at least once already, (b) you bring your textbook, your notes, the assignments and your calculator with you, and (c) you are courteous and respectful to others. Our tutors have the rights to decline your request for help unless you meet the above qualifications for this free tutoring service.

Class Incomplete Policy

It is unlikely that incompletes will be given; please review the following University Policy carefully: <http://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/request-for-grade-of-incomplete.pdf>. Running out of time to complete the course is not a sufficient reason to be granted an incomplete. To receive an incomplete you also must have successfully completed enough of the assignments to get a C or better in the class.

Academic Honesty

The CSUN policy on academic dishonesty (<http://www.csun.edu/catalog/policies/academic-dishonesty/>) will be enforced. Anybody found violating the academic dishonesty policy with respect to any aspect of this class will fail not just the assignment/test but also the entire course and will be reported to University authorities. Any plagiarism or turning in an assignment/test that is not your own work is not permitted at any time.

Use your own words *and your own ideas*. Taking the structure of someone else's essay and then rewriting each sentence in your own words is plagiarism and is not allowed.