Finance 303 - Section 4  
Business Finance  
Spring 2020  

Instructor  
Dr. Mark J. Buono  

Class  
2:00 - 3:15  MW, Beatty 214  

Office  
TBD  

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201-637-4477  

E-mail  
Buonomj@cofc.edu  

Office Hours  
MW 12:00 - 2:00 and by appointment  

DESCRIPTION  
This course presents the fundamental concepts of corporate finance. Special attention will be given to 
the financial administrator’s role in the area of working capital, capital budgeting, and financing 
decisions, including international investment and financial considerations.  

PREREQUISITES  
Junior Standing: ACCT 203, 204, ECON 200, 201, MATH 104 or 250; (DSCI 232 is suggested)  

OBJECTIVES  
Course Objectives  
The overall learning objective in this course is for you to develop a framework for financial analysis 
that will enable you to make sound career and personal financial decisions, and prepare you for 
further studies in business.  

Theoretical/Analytical knowledge will be developed in the areas of:  
• Working capital management  
• Value of the firm’s assets  
• Capital budgeting  
• Risk and return  
• Financial leverage and the cost of capital  

Practical competencies will be developed in:  
• Financial statement analysis techniques  
• Time value of money calculations  
• Capital budgeting analysis techniques  
• Financial planning/forecasting techniques  
• Stock and bond valuation techniques  
• Cost of capital calculations
SB Objectives
Consistent with the goals of the School of Business, this course includes instruction in:

*Quantitative Fluency:* this course requires extensive application of mathematical theory and practice. Students will be required to use standard algebraic calculations to solve realistic financial questions. Students will recognize that a level of quantitative proficiency is necessary to successfully run the financial operations of a firm.

*Global and Civic Responsibility:* Students will be asked to solve problems related to ethical dilemmas, encapsulated in financial problems. They will be asked to view issues through different lenses and gain an appreciation for the complexities involved in addressing financial situations in a global economy.

*Intellectual Innovation and Creativity:* Careful attention will be devoted to placing students in a position where they must utilize resourcefulness and creativity in solving problems related to the global finance world. Questions will be asked in ways that require the students to use the materials learned in a variety of ways, rather than simply requiring repetition of known processes.

*Synthesis:* This course requires knowledge from the associated disciplines of accounting, economics, and statistics. As such, students are expected to apply a level of proficiency in those subject areas in their understanding of financial principals and applications.

COURSE MATERIALS
The text is *Essentials of Corporate Finance* by Ross, Westerfield and Jordan, 9/e

*Calculator*
A basic scientific calculator is required. A financial calculator with functions such as present value and internal rate of return is optional, but recommended. If you buy a new one, I recommend TI BA II Plus. It is inexpensive and is considered very easy to use.

COURSE POLICIES

*Attendance Policy*
It is expected that each student attend and participate in all class periods., with the exception of College-supported excused absences. Attendance will be taken randomly at the instructor’s discretion and the instructor reserves the right to include this information in determining the student’s participation in the course and the corresponding grade impact (see “Assignments”).

*Honor Code*
Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determined the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s fine.
Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) for the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration – working together without permission – is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz, and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of an assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/

**Students with Disabilities**
The College will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

*Exams*
There will be two non-cumulative midterm exams and a non-cumulative final worth 100 points each. Exams are given during the regular class period on the dates given in the schedule below. Please note that no make-up or early exams will be administered.

*Homework*
Homework will be assigned at the end of every chapter. The assignments will not be taken up for grading, but it is highly recommended that you complete them as they will provide a good indication of what to expect on tests.

*Quizzes*
There will be approximately 8 quizzes. Collectively, the quizzes will be worth 80 points. They will be announced in advance and will closely approximate the homework.

*Class Participation*
There will be 20 points available for class participation. This is purely subjective and is based on the instructor’s knowledge of your attendance and participation in the course.
GRADING

Exams (3 * 100 pts)       300
Quizzes (8 * 10 pts)       80
Class Participation         20
Total                        400

Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 90%-100%
B: 80%-89%
C: 70%-79%
D: 60%-69%
F: Below 60%
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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CHAPTER (S)</th>
<th>TOPICS COVERED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Introduction/CH 1 Syllabus Review and Connect Introduction</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>CH 1 Introduction to Financial Management</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>CH 1-2 Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>CH 2 Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>CH 3 Working with Financial Statements</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
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<td>CH 4 The Time Value of Money</td>
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<td>CH 4 The Time Value of Money</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>CH 5 Discounted Cash Flow Valuation</td>
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<td>CH 5 Discounted Cash Flow Valuation</td>
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<td>CH 8 Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria</td>
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<td>CH 8 Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>CH 9 Making Capital Investment Decisions CH 6-9</td>
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<td>Test #2 CH 9 CH 6-9</td>
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<td>CH 10 Some Lessons from Capital Market History</td>
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<td>CH 13 Leverage and Capital Structure</td>
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<td>Final Exam 8-11am CH 10-13</td>
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**DISCLAIMER:** Although the Professor intends to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, there may be times when deviations from the material presented herein are necessary. Such examples might include (but are not limited to) natural disasters or major changes in the foundations of financial theory (or the Professor’s whims).
Additional Information

**OAKS**
Please get into the habit of checking OAKS regularly as I will include announcements of upcoming events and information on the term tests and final.

I have downloaded all of the PowerPoint slides onto OAKS and learning videos from Investopedia.com are also available which will help with your understanding of the material.

There is also a basic algebra refresher video which will be helpful in solving some of the problems on Connect.

**EMAIL Policy**
I always answer emails. If you do not receive an answer within 24 hours during weekdays I did not receive your email. I rarely check email after 8 pm during the week and only check email sporadically during weekends. Please plan accordingly.

**TI BAII-Plus Calculator Formatting Instructions**

Turn the calculator on and complete the following steps:

1. **Set the floating display to show 9 places to the right of the decimal point.**
   - Press the gray key “2ND” then press the decimal point “.” Key. (It says “format” above the key.)
   - Press the number “9” key and then press the “Enter” key at the top of the calculator keys.
   - Set the calculator to follow standard “Algebraic Operation System” rules so that multiplication and division are completed before addition and subtraction.

2. **Scroll down using the arrow keys at the top of the calculator keys until you see “CHN” or “AOS”.**
   - If you see “CHN”, press grey “2ND” key then press the “Enter” key. The display should now say “AOS”.
   - If you see “AOS”, press the grey “2ND” key then press the “CPT” key above it.

3. **Press the grey “2ND” key and the “I/Y” key. Press the number “1” key then press the “Enter” key.**

If you find your answers are off when completing the homework, double check the above settings. These settings should remain even if your calculator has been turned off. However, if your battery dies and is replaced, you will need to complete the steps again. Online tutorials are available at: [http://www.atomiclearning.com/ti_ba2](http://www.atomiclearning.com/ti_ba2)