Finance Special Topic /CFA Curriculum Challenge

(FINC 360-02)

Course Syllabus

Fall-2021

Instructor: Weishen Wang, Ph.D., CFA
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E-mail: wangw@cofc.edu
Class Time/Classroom: R 5:30-8:15 PM / TCFE 132
Office Hours: TR 8:40-9:10 AM, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM, or by appointment, or via Zoom

Course Description

The curriculum is built from the CFA Institute Body of Knowledge, taking you deep into investment management by cutting across these 10 key areas.

- Ethical and Professional Standards: Learn about putting investors first in critical and everyday practice.

- Quantitative Methods: From time value of money analysis to correlation analysis and regression, learn robust quantitative methods.

- Economics: Delve into supply and demand, the monetary system, inflation, effects of government regulation, and much more.

- Financial Reporting and Analysis: Learn the details of the financial reporting system (emphasis on international standards, IFRS) and analysis of taxes, debt, global operations, and more.

- Corporate Finance: From corporate governance to capital structure decisions, we cover complex issues in corporate finance.

- Equity Investments: Study the types of equity securities, equity portfolio measurements, and much more.

- Fixed Income: Study fixed income security types, portfolio benchmarks, and other complex topics.

- Derivatives: Learn about forward markets, future markets, option markets, and more.
• Alternative Investments: Examine real estate, private equity, commodities, and more.

• Portfolio Management and Wealth Planning: Examine the essentials of managing different types of portfolios successfully.

SB Learning Goals Addressed

• Goal 2: QUANTITATIVE FLUENCY: help students learn to do difficult math in the world of Finance, be able to conduct quantitative analysis for large investment projects for a firm using spreadsheet or other commercial software.

• Goal 3: GLOBAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY: through learning Ethical and Professional Standards, students learn about putting investors first in critical and everyday practice.

• Goal 4: SYNTHESIS: Help students comprehensively review and strengthen knowledge on multiple sub-areas of finance, be able to apply financial knowledge to real life situations.

➢ The SB learning goals are:

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Students will demonstrate the ability, via both written and spoken word, to effectively present, critique, and defend ideas in a cogent, persuasive manner.

QUANTITATIVE FLUENCY: Students will demonstrate competency in logical reasoning and data analysis skills.

GLOBAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY: Students will be able to identify and define social, ethical, environmental and economic challenges at local, national and international levels. Students will also be able to integrate knowledge and skills in addressing these issues.

INTELLECTUAL INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY: Students will be able to demonstrate their resourcefulness and originality in addressing extemporaneous problems.

SYNTHESIS: Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines incorporating learning from both classroom and non-classroom settings in the completion of complex and comprehensive tasks.

Student Learning Objectives

Students will have a strong understanding of advanced investment analysis and real-world portfolio management skills.
Prerequisites
Instructor approval

Required Text Book will be provided by the department

CFA PROGRAM CURRICULUM 2021 LEVEL I SET
Students also have access to the E-book via our library
Authors: CFA INSTITUTE

Student Responsibility

Students are required to register for the CFA level I exam with the CFA Institute. Enrolling in this class does not guarantee that students will pass the CFA level I exam.

The course is a faculty guided, self-study, graduate-level course. Students are required to study a huge amount of material and some of them are totally new. It is challenging.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend the class. I reserve the right to take attendance all the time. Students’ attendance record is part of his/her class performance.

Students are expected to arrive at the class on time. Students who have three or more absences will be withdrawn from the course for excessive absences. Students arriving late more than six times may also be withdrawn from the course. If a student is withdrawn for excessive absences or being late for class more than six times, a final grade of WF will be assigned.

An absence from class for any reasons (job conflict, illness, appearance in court, transportation problems, travel, athletic event, etc.), even if permitted and/or excused by the instructor, will still count as one of the class absences.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the student’s performance on several components including group work, individual exams, and class performance. Each component has points and weights listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Actual Points Received</th>
<th>Weights</th>
<th>Contribution to overall grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Group Case/Home Work</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Exam 1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Exam 2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Performance (include attendance)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sum of Above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students’ total points earned for the class are determined by the weights above and the points that students actually received on each item. The final course grade will be in a letter based on the following conversion table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total points</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Total points</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-89</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>68-69</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>65-67</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>58-59</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>57 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine 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 both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

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 XXF 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 XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from 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 the 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.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at [http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php](http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php)
Disability Statements

1. Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor during the first two weeks of class or as soon as the student has been approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged.

2. The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services 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.

3. This College abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see an administrator at the Center of Disability Services/SNAP, (843) 953-1431 or me so that such accommodation may be arranged.

For more information, you may visit the disability services website: http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/

Continuity of Learning (for hybrid classes with face-to-face meetings)

Due to social distancing requirements, this class will include a variety of online and technology enhanced components to reinforce continuity of learning for all enrolled students. Before the drop/add deadline, students should decide whether the course plan on the syllabus matches their own circumstances.

During the course of class, in response to the development of COVID-19, the course delivery mode could be switched among face-to-face, online, or hybrid. The students need to make sure that their study will not be interrupted by the change of the delivery mode.

Recording of Classes (via ZOOM)

Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction

If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

Other items

For other matters not specified in this syllabus, we comply with the common policy of the College.
Schedule of Class (subject to adjustments as we proceed.) The focus of the study will be on those topics highlighted.

All handouts are available in OAKs. Please print them out and read before the class.

- Ethical and Professional Standards: Learn about putting investors first in critical and everyday practice.
- Quantitative Methods: From time value of money analysis to correlation analysis and regression, learn robust quantitative methods.
- Economics: Delve into supply and demand, the monetary system, inflation, effects of government regulation, and much more.
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