Instructor: Hao-Chen Liu  
Class Time: ONLINE  
Classroom: ONLINE  
E-mail: liuh@cofc.edu

Course goals
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.

Textbook
“Elements of Finance” by Thomas Downs. You may access the textbook in 2 ways.
(2) Hard copy can be purchased at lulu.com (search for Thomas Downs, “Elements of Finance”)

Required Technology
The entire course will be delivered online through OAKS. Therefore, you need to have a computer to access internet and be able to play both audio and video files. Using mobile device to access the course materials is not recommended. If you experience any technology issues, please contact Student Computing Support at 843-953-8000 or studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu.

IMPORTANT: Computer failure/unavailability does not constitute an excuse for not completing assignments by the due date.

Prerequisites
Junior standing; ACCT 203, 204, ECON 200, 201, MATH 104 or 250, DSCI 232 suggested

The SB Learning Goals
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Students demonstrate the ability, via both written and spoken word, to effectively present, critique, and defend ideas in a cogent, persuasive manner.
• QUANTITATIVE FLUENCY: Students demonstrate competency in logical reasoning and data analysis skills.

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

• INTELLECTUAL INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY: Students demonstrate their resourcefulness and originality in addressing extemporaneous problems.

• SYNTHESIS: Students 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.

Course Objectives
The objectives of this course are for you to learn financial concepts and tools so that you may use finance to analyze financial issues and make financial decisions. You will possess the problem solving skills, be aware of important ethical issues in finance, and be able to do the following when you finish this course:

• To know the goal of financial management and the basic decisions made by financial managers
• To analyze financial statements and cash flows
• To use discounted cash flows for stock and bond valuation
• To use alternative methods for making capital budgeting decisions
• To estimate company’s cost of capital

Learning Expectations
This course will be delivered completely online. Even though we do not meet in person, our goal is to have a bounded learning community. In this community, we help out each other by having online interactions through different communication tools (see “Communication” under the “Other issues” section). In the following few weeks, we all live in this community. To achieve the highest level of learning for everyone, we should be good citizens in this community. Good citizens help out each other. Good citizens communicate in good and acceptable manner. Good citizens contribute to the community. Good citizens care and listen to each other. Good citizens can be trusted by each other.

Because we do not meet in person, it is very important that you participate regularly in our virtual community to stay on the top of the course. In each module, there will be lecture videos, reading assignments, practice problems, discussion questions and a module test. Other than the module test, which
you are required to complete independently, all other components can be worked together in this virtual community. There will be different forums on the discussion board on OAKS for you to ask and answer questions. Please feel free to post any course related questions on OAKS. REMEMBER, ALL QUESTIONS ARE GOOD QUESTIONS. Please do not feel frustrated or uneasy to ask questions. Some other students might have the same questions but are afraid to ask. However, if you still feel uncomfortable to post questions in public, feel free to email me or use other communication tools.

Last but not the least, even though this is an online course, you should expect to have the same level of rigorousness as a face-to-face course. This course is not self-paced. Instead, it is very fast paced. New module will be posted on OAKS on regular basis and tests will be given regularly. If this is your first time taking an online course and a summer course, I understand your anxiety of possibly missing anything because there is not assigned meeting time in a regular classroom. Please do not worry. As long as you log in OAKS regularly to check announcements and posts and to complete the checklist items, you should be fine.

Calculator & Rounding Policy

You will need a financial calculator to succeed in this course. I highly recommend the Texas Instruments BAII Plus (TI BAII Plus) (this is different from their BAI). In class, I will use and teach you to use TI BAII Plus.

If you are using a BAII Plus, turn on your calculator and do the following:

set the display to show 4 places to the right of the decimal point

1) Hit the gray <2nd> key; hit the “decimal point” key (it says “format” above the key)
2) Hit the number “4” and push the <ENTER> key

now set the machine to follow standard “Algebraic Operating System” rules so that it does multiplication and division before it does addition and subtraction.

3) after completion of step 2, hit the down arrow key (it says INS above this key) until the display shows “Chn” or “AOS”.
4) If it says “Chn”, then hit the gray <2nd> key and push the <ENTER> key. The display now should show “AOS”.
5) If it says “AOS”, then hit the gray <2nd> key; hit the key right above it called CPT (it says “QUIT” above the key)

The above settings remain even if you turn off the calculator. If your battery dies or is replaced, however, you’ll need to re-do the steps.
Rounding numbers: Realize that because of differences in rounding policies it is extremely likely that any two solutions will be slightly different; say for a problem involving tens of thousands of dollars and several interest rates one student obtains an answer of $324 whereas another gets $319. With any reasonable rounding policy, however, any reasonably correct answer will lie within a 1% or 2% range (the difference between $324 and $319 is 1.02%). Answers on the multiple choice exams usually are a minimum 10% apart. So reasonable rounding policies should not cause one to get a problem wrong. Here is the rounding policy that I use. For rates, carry four-digits to the right of the decimal. For example, I would use 0.0102 in my calculator for problems in which an intermediate step is 1.02%. For dollars, I usually round to the whole dollar when the amounts exceed $100; round to the penny for amounts less than $100.

Grade Determination

Your Overall Performance Score computes with these weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Module Tests (MT)</td>
<td>70% (i.e., 8.75% per test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildcard for best all-around performance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is how wildcard works. Your course grade is determined by eight Module Tests, one Final Exam, and Discussions. Out of these 10 components, I will add 5% to the highest one as the wildcard for your course grade. Therefore, the wildcard increases the importance of your best score.

The Overall Performance Score computes with this letter grade distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92.0 ≤ average</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.5 ≤ average &lt; 92.0</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.0 ≤ average &lt; 89.5</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.0 ≤ average &lt; 87.0</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.5 ≤ average &lt; 82.0</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.0 ≤ average &lt; 79.5</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.0 ≤ average &lt; 77.0</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.5 ≤ average &lt; 72.0</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.0 ≤ average &lt; 69.5</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.0 ≤ average &lt; 67.0</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.5 ≤ average &lt; 62.0</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>average &lt; 59.5</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>
Modules, Module Tests, Discussions, and Final Exam Policies:

(1) Modules
   - A new module will be posted on OAKS on every other day at 8 a.m.

(2) Module Tests (MT)
   - A Module Test (MT) will be posted on OAKS at 8 a.m. on the 2nd day after the module is posted.
     Each test will be timed. You will have until 11:30 p.m. on the 2nd day after the module test is posted to complete the test. (See the calendar at the end of the syllabus for more detailed schedule.)
   - Students missing a module test for any reason whatsoever receives a zero on that test. There are no excused absences because we employ a no-fault attendance policy. **No make-up tests** will be given.

(3) Discussions
   - I will post discussion questions on Professor’s Discussion Board (PDB). To receive a credit, you are required to join discussion at least one time for each discussion question posted on PDB by 11:30 p.m. on the last day of a module. The maximum point for each PDB is 10 points. You receive 10 points for showing the completeness and correctness of your answer. Points will be deducted for an incomplete and incorrect answer.

(4) Final Exam
   - At the end of the term, a final exam will be posted on OAKS. You will have until 11:30 p.m. on the 2nd day following the posting day to complete the final exam.
   - Final exam is comprehensive. It will be served for 2 purposes. First, it accounts for 15% of your course grade. Second, it will be used to replace one of your lowest scored module tests if your score is higher in the final exam than any one of the module tests.
   - In case that you missed a module test, it automatically becomes your lowest scored test. Therefore, your final exam will be used to replace the missed module test only. For example, if you missed module test 1 (i.e., 8.75% of your grade), the weight of the final exam will become 23.75% (i.e., 8.75%+15%). You can use your final exam to replace at most 1 missed module test. If you miss more than 1 module test, then you will receive zero for the rest of missed module tests.
Other Issues

(1) Communication: There are at least 2 different ways to communicate in this course.

   a. Email: If it is a student specific question, please email me and I will reply within 24 hours during work days (i.e., Monday to Friday). I respond only to emails sent through student email accounts (i.e., cofc account). On the email subject line, put “FINC-303”. If you do not receive my reply in 24 hours during work days, send it again.

   a. Discussion Boards:

      i. There will be 3 Discussion Forums: General Discussion Board (GDB), Chapter Discussion Board (CDB), and Professor’s Discussion Board (PDB).

      ii. GDB (General Discussion Board): This board is for general questions, such as course requirements, test dates, etc. I encourage you to help answer the questions if you know the answers.

      iii. CDB (Chapter Discussion Board): This board is for chapter specific questions, related to course materials. I encourage you to help answer the questions if you know the answers.

      iv. PDB (Professor’s Discussion Board): This board is for class discussion questions. Within each module, I will post some discussion questions. You are required to join the discussion at least one time by 11:30 p.m. on the last day of a module to receive the grade.

(2) It is your responsibility to check any announcements posted on OAKS.

(3) If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services/SNAP (Students Needing Access Parity), please have SNAP center contact me within first 2 days of the term.

https://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/

List of Topics

   Introduction: Introduction to the study of finance
   Module 1: Financial fundamentals
   Module 2: Financial growth, forecasting, and financing needs
   Module 3: Time value of money
   Module 4: Annuities
   Module 5: Capital budgeting
   Module 6: Bond valuation
   Module 7: Stock valuation
   Module 8: Equilibrium rates of return
Important dates:

1. Last day to drop/add: Tuesday, June 8
2. Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W”: Monday, June 28
3. Independence Day Holiday (no classes): Monday, July 5
4. Last day of class: Tuesday, July 6
5. Final Exam: Wednesday to Thursday, July 7 to 8

FINC 303-02: Summer I, 2021 (daily topics subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<td>June 8</td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>June 10</td>
<td>June 11</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Course Quiz, June 8-9</strong></td>
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<td>June 14</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>June 18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module Test 1, June 11-14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module Test 2, June 15-16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module Test 3, June 17-18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2: Ch3: Growth, Forecasting Finance Needs, Cash flow measurement</td>
<td>Module 3: Ch4: Time value of money</td>
<td>Module 4: Ch5: Annuities</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>June 22</td>
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<td>June 24</td>
<td>June 25</td>
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<td><strong>Module Test 4, June 21-22</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module Test 5, June 23-24</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module Test 6, June 25-28</strong></td>
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<td>Module 4 (con’t)</td>
<td>Module 5: Ch6: Capital Budgeting</td>
<td>Module 6: Ch7: Bond valuation</td>
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<td>June 28</td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>July 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module Test 6, June 25-28</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module Test 7, June 29-30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module Test 8, July 1-2</strong></td>
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<td>Module 7: Ch8: stock valuation</td>
<td>Module 8: Ch.11: Equilibrium rates of return</td>
<td>Study Day</td>
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<td>July 5</td>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>July 8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence Day Holiday (no classes)</td>
<td>Study Day</td>
<td>(UNTIL 11:30 p.m., July 8)</td>
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College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity

“Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, 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 misunderstanding and confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form and signed both by the instructor and the student. It is forwarded to the Office of 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 status indicator 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.

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