THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

FINA 3311.002   Principles of Finance

Term: Fall/2025

Instructor: Mike Henderson - Adjunct

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Student (Office) Hours: Location 350.04 Soules CoB by appointment.

Course Dates: Aug 25, 2025 - Dec 13, 2025

Course Times: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30pm to 1:50pm

Classroom: 203

Prerequisite courses: ACCT 2301, and ECON 2301 or ECON 2302

Course Overview and Objective

This course is a basic level introduction to fundamental concepts of finance covering diverse topics, outlining the structure, and functioning of the financial industry. While it assumes no prior knowledge of finance, students should know basic accounting and economic concepts. Students from any business discipline who wish to pursue advanced coursework in finance will benefit from this course. The course includes not only a general overview of the various sub-disciplines of finance, but also a deep understanding of certain basic concepts such as time value of money, risk and return, valuation of equity and debt, and their applications into the real-world decisions including capital budgeting. By the end of this course, students should have a good understanding of the basic techniques needed for making sound financial decisions.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
- Understand time value of money and its applications.
- Interpret financial statements and learn to apply them in financial decisions.
- Understand risk and return, their relationship, and applications.
- Value simple equity and debt securities.
- Make calculated financial decisions in areas of capital budgeting.

What do I expect from you?
- Be prepared for the class.
- Read the assigned chapters *before* the class and come prepared with questions.
- I like to interact. I do not want to sound like a recorded lecture. Therefore, I expect you to actively participate in the class during discussions.
- Be considerate of others.

What I hope to achieve?
- Be prepared with course contents and cover subject matter effectively
- Respond to your questions or doubts in a timely manner and to your satisfaction.
- Make reasonable accommodation in case you face any difficulties in understanding concepts.

- Be fair in the grading process.
- Be a considerate of others.

Required Textbooks and Readings

- **Primary Textbook**: *Essentials of Corporate Finance* by Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan, 2025 release. McGraw-Hill; ISBN 978-1-265-92015-9 (bound edition); 978-1-266-24487-2 (loose-leaf edition)
- A softcopy of the textbook is provided under our library's eTextbook offering. See Canvas for more details regarding accessing or downloading the textbook.
- Additional readings as assigned during the course.

Calculator Policy

I advise you to invest in a good financial calculator; I personally use a HP 10B II. I discourage using smart phone calculators during class. ***Smart phone calculators are strictly prohibited during tests and exams***. Video tutorials are provided on Canvas to help you learn the functions and how to operate BA II Plus. It is your responsibility to go through the videos and become proficient in using the calculator. I will help with all questions in class. During exams, you must completely erase any contents in the memory of your financial calculator *before* you start the exam.

Recommended Resources

Read at least one financial newspaper every day! I will reference articles from the Wall Street Journal. Digital subscriptions are available to students for $4 per month if you choose to follow along. A subscription is not required.

Course Structure

This is an in-person class. I expect all students to attend every class. You have paid me for my time regardless of your attendance. I have worked in the financial industry for over thirty years and have taught at the university level for more than ten years. I have been acquainted with highly successful people and with people that didn't achieve their desired goals. It's been my experience in industry and in academics that "showing up" is a common discipline for those that achieve success.

Canvas

I use Canvas extensively in communicating with students. I will use Canvas to share all lectures slides prior to the class, assign homework or assignments, announce grades, send instructions or other communication to students, and engage in any other activity required for the smooth functioning of the class. I highly recommend keeping Canvas application updated, and allowing notifications, if you have not already switched them on, so that you don't miss any communications from me.

Tips for Success in this Course

1. **Participate.** I encourage interaction among students, and with me during the class or office hours. Interaction brings clarity of thought and ideas. It also exposes you to other perspectives and ideas which you might not have thought about. Participation allows you to clearly communicate your ideas and develop critical thinking, an extremely important skill for your career.
2. **Manage your time.** I understand you have commitments beyond this class. Try working in blocks of time and ensure you have enough room to finish assignments, allowing extra space for any challenges including tech issues that might pop up.
3. **Canvas.** I cannot stress enough about using Canvas to stay on top of class activities. Switch notifications on to ensure that you don't miss any communication from me. Be sure to enable notifications to be sent instantly or daily. (Canvas Notification Guide)
4. **Do not fall behind.** If you feel you are starting to fall behind, check in with me as soon as possible so I can help in a timely manner. I strongly discourage last-minute requests.
5. **Ask for help if needed.** If you are struggling with a course concept, reach out to me and/or your classmates for support.
6. **Success on exams or tests:** Majority of my tests and exams comprise questions that are similar to assignments and in-class problems. Therefore, I advise you to religiously complete your assignments and understand the concepts and

techniques used in solving problems. During lectures, I frequently signal important topics, concepts, or questions that have a strong possibility of appearing on tests. Therefore, I highly encourage you to attend lectures without fail.

Graded Course Requirements Information

Quiz Assignments (10 basic questions)

Before each class meeting, you will be assigned a basic quiz that corresponds with the material covered in the coming session. The intent is to encourage the student to prepare for class by reading the chapter prior to class. **All quiz assignments should be completed on an individual basis. Each quiz will be drawn from a pool of basic questions over the chapter and time will be limited to 15 minutes to encourage preparation prior to taking the quiz. You should know the answers if you read the chapters.**

Homework Assignments (Varies by material)

You will have homework assignments after every class for the purpose reinforcement through application of the concepts discussed. Homework assignments will be due prior to the start of the next class.

Case Study Assignments (8 per semester)

You will be assigned approximately eight case studies during the semester. Case study material will be discussed before assigned, **you are encouraged to work on the case studies in groups**, and you will have a limited window of time to modify your work after class review. The case solutions will not be posted on Canvas.

Exams (4 per semester)

Exams are an important part of your grade. Refer to the course calendar for exam dates. Questions will be multiple choice only. All exams will be closed book. You will be allowed one 8 ½ x 11, (one side only) page for test notes. I will discuss the contents of the exams in advance in the class. Each exam will cover four chapters.

Late Work and Make-Up Exams

You may complete homework or casework assignments one day late for a 20% deduction in credit. No assignments will be accepted later. If you have any significant reason for rescheduling an exam, please contact me as soon as you learn that might have to miss the exam. Make-up exams will be considered based on individual circumstances but generally must be made up within one week at the latest. I reserve the right to use different but similar exam questions with a make-up exam.

Extra Credit

Every year near the end, I'm approached about extra credit. Usually the need is associated with non-completed weekly assignments. Your attendance and your quiz performance is your ticket to extra credit. If you attend 80% of classes and maintain a 75% average or better on your top 12 of 16 quiz attempts, we can discuss extra credit.

CONTENT OUTLINE

FINA 3311.002 Schedule of Class Study Fall 2025							
Date	Chapter	Class		Subject	15 min	50 min	15 min
26-Aug-25	1	Tu	1	Introduction to Finance	Intro	Lecture	Discussion
28-Aug-25	2	Th	2	Finacial Statements Taxes and Cash Flow	Discussion	Lecture	HW
2-Sep-25	3	Tu	3	Working with Financial Statements	Discussion	Lecture	HW
4-Sep-25	3	Th	4	Working with Financial Statements	Discussion	Lecture	Case2/HW
9-Sep-25	4	Tu	5	Introduction to Valuation	Discussion	Lecture	HW
11-Sep-25	4	Th	6	Introduction to Valuation	Discussion	Lecture	Case3/HW
16-Sep-25	1-4	Tu	7	Chapters 1-4 Test	Questions	Test	
18-Sep-25	5	Th	8	Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	Discussion	Lecture	Review
23-Sep-25	5	Tu	9	Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	Discussion	Lecture	HW
25-Sep-25	6	Th	10	Interest Rates and Bond Valuation	Discussion	Lecture	Case5/HW
30-Sep-25	6	Tu	11	Interest Rates and Bond Valuation	Discussion	Lecture	HW
2-Oct-25	8	Th	12	Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria	Discussion	Lecture	HW
7-Oct-25	8	Tu	13	Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria	Discussion	Lecture	HW
9-Oct-25	7	Th	14	Equity Markets and Stock Valuation	Discussion	Lecture	Case8/HW
14-Oct-25	5-8	Tu	15	Chapters 5-8 Test	Questions	Test	
16-Oct-25	9	Th	16	Making Capital Investment Decisions	Discussion	Lecture	Review
21-Oct-25	9	Tu	17	Making Capital Investment Decisions	Discussion	Lecture	HW
23-Oct-25	11	Th	19	Risk and Return	Discussion	Lecture	Case9/HW
28-Oct-25	11	Tu	20	Risk and Return	Discussion	Lecture	HW
30-Oct-25	12	Th	21	Cost of Capital	Discussion	Lecture	HW
4-Nov-25	12	Tu	22	Cost of Capital	Discussion	Lecture	HW
6-Nov-25	10	Th	18	Lessons from Capital Market History	Discussion	Lecture	Case12/HW
11-Nov-25	9-12	Tu	23	Chapters 9-12 Test	Questions	Test	
13-Nov-25	13	Th	24	Leverage and Capital Structure	Discussion	Lecture	Review
18-Nov-25	13	Tu	25	Leverage and Capital Structure	Discussion	Lecture	HW
20-Nov-25	16	Th	26	Short Term Financial Planning	Discussion	Lecture	Case13/HW
27-Nov-25				Holiday			
29-Nov-25				Holiday			
2-Dec-25	16	Tu	27	Short Term Financial Planning	Discussion	Lecture	HW
4-Dec-25	14	Th	28	Dividends and Dividend Policy	Discussion	Lecture	Case16/HW
9-Dec-25	17	Tu	29	Working Capital Management	Discussion	Lecture	Review
11-Dec-25	13-17	Th	30	Chapters 13-17 Test	Questions	Test	

EVALUATION:

A student's grade for the class will be based on performance. Below are the weights for the different components that comprise your grade in class.

Component	Weight
Exams	40%
Homework Assignments	25%
Case Assignments	25%
Quiz Assignments	10%

GRADING SCALE

A standard 10-point scale is utilized to assign grades in class. The following is the scheme used to assign letter grades based on the overall weighted score received by a student from the various activities described above.

Weighted Total Score   *Grade*

Greater than 90%	A
80% to less than 90%	B
70% to less than 80%	C
60% to less than 70%	D
Less than 60%	F

Attendance Policy

I highly value your and my time during the class. Attending classes not only gives you an opportunity to learn other perspectives but also opens your mind to fresh and innovative ideas, and critically evaluate all possible options. I signal important concepts, questions and topics during class that have a high likelihood of showing up on your tests. Therefore, I highly recommend you attend every class!

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this course

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work. I encourage you to use AI tools to revise and edit your work (e.g., identify flaws in reasoning, spot confusing or underdeveloped paragraphs, or correct citations).

University Policies & Student Resources:

University policies and student resources are available on the University website and in Canvas under "Syllabus". These include policies on withdrawal from a class, use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the class, assignments and exams, students with special needs, military affiliated students, academic honesty and misconduct, and special absences. *You are required to keep yourself updated and comply with ALL policies.*

University policies may be found here: University Policy

Student resources may be found here: Student Resources