The University of Texas at Tyler
Soules College of Business
Summer I 2025

FINA 3311- Principles of Finance (Sections 060 and 061)	
Instructor Name:	*Dr. Chialing Hsieh* (Pronounce: Charlene Shay)
Office Location:	**Soules College of Business 350.03**
Email Address:	**chsieh@uttyler.edu (Best Contact Method)**
Office Hours:	**This is an online class. Contact will be via e-mail. You can expect a response within 24 hours except for those sent on Saturday and Sunday as well as those sent after 5 pm on Friday, when you can expect a response within 48 hours.**
Classroom Location:	Online
Prerequisite	ACCT 2301, and ECON 2301 or ECON 2302
Canvas Access:	All class materials, course grades, and class announcements will be posted on Canvas.
Required Course Materials:	**Textbook:** *Essentials of Corporate Finance* by Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan, 11th edition, McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 9781264101573 **Financial Calculator** - BA II PLUS by Texas Instruments is recommended.

Course Objective:

This is an intensive survey course in finance so it assumes no prior knowledge of finance. It is designed to introduce students from all business disciplines to finance and also prepare those who are interested for further coursework in finance. Accordingly, the course will begin with a general overview and then go into depth on concepts such as financial securities and markets as well as techniques used in financial decision-making. Topics covered include time value of money, debt and equity valuation, capital structure, cost of capital, raising and returning capital and capital budgeting. At the end of this course, students are expected to have a good understanding of the basic techniques needed for making sound financial decisions.

Upon completion of the course you should be able to:

- Explain why financial markets exist.
- Understand the distinction between debt and equity securities and find their values.
- Be able to move cash flows through time using simple formulas and calculators.
- Describe the historical relationship between risk and return.
- Know how to raise capital and return excess capital to investors.
- Describe the components underlying a firm's cost of capital (technically, it's Weighted average cost of capital) and its uses.
- Compute cash flows for capital budgeting problems and know how to compare them using standard project evaluation criteria.

Course Structure

The course begins with a general overview of finance and how the financial system interacts with the economy. Then, it explores the techniques used by financial managers in deciding how to acquire and invest funds and studies alternative investments for inclusion in a portfolio. Thus, this course is divided into three major segments that correspond with the course objectives; the financial system, corporate finance, and investments. To achieve these goals, students will be required to:

1. Read Powerpoint course slides and textbook chapters, Watch video lectures (if available).
2. Visit course on Canvas regularly.
3. Take every test and quiz.

Course Outline
This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Over the course of the semester, activities and items may be added, removed, or rescheduled in order to provide more information, improve accuracy, enhance learning, or correct errors. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by instructions in class, announcements in Canvas, and/or Canvas email to students.

TOPICS	Quiz/Test Deadline
Syllabus **(Mandatory) Course Information Bonus Quiz**	Wednesday, June 4 at noon
Ch. 1: Introduction to Financial Management	
Ch. 2 Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow	
Ch. 3 Working with Financial Statements	
Test 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3	Saturday, July 5 at noon
Ch. 4 Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money	
Ch. 5 Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	
Ch. 6 Interest Rates and Bond Valuation	
Test 2: Chapters 4, 5, 6	Saturday, July 5 at noon
Ch. 7 Equity Markets and Stock Valuation	
Ch. 8 Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria	
Test 3: Chapters 7, 8	
Ch. 11 Risk and Return	Saturday, July 5 at noon
Ch. 13 Leverage and Capital Structure	
Test 4: Chapters 11, 13	Saturday, July 5 at noon

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

1. **(Mandatory) Course Information Quiz (5 bonus points)**: This is a 20-minute true-false or multiple-choice quiz designed to test your knowledge of the course requirements as explained in the syllabus. As an example, you may be asked how many tests are available and other course policies. The deadline to complete the quiz is **Wednesday, June 4th at noon**.

2. **Four tests:**

Online tests: Once you begin a test, you will be given a certain amount of time, depending on its length, to complete it. You will complete the material in each chapter at your own pace and take the bonus quizzes and tests _**at any time until noon on Saturday, July 5th.**_ You may also take the quizzes/tests in any order although it is recommended you follow the sequence of chapters as outlined in the course calendar in this syllabus. _**Note that the deadline for all quizzes and tests is noon on Saturday, July 5th, 2025, no extension of the deadline to complete quizzes and tests can be given.**_

Note that you are allowed only _**ONE**_ attempt per quiz/test so please make sure you study the course material thoroughly before you begin and can devote sufficient time to complete the test. All material covered in the readings, slides, and video lectures are considered fair game for quizzes and tests. You are advised to begin each chapter by watching the video lectures introducing the topic and then read the PowerPoint slides and assigned chapter(s) in the course text for a more in-depth understanding of the topic. But video lectures and PowerPoint slides are no substitute for reading the text.

3. **Bonus Quizzes:** These activities are intended to supplement and reinforce course material. It is recommended that you take the bonus quizzes first to practice for the chapter problems before taking the test covering the chapter.

Caution: Finance majors need a grade of A, B or C in FINA 3311 in order to take subsequent finance courses so D is not a passing grade. The same is true for non-finance majors because FINA 3311 is a business core requirement.

**Exam and assignments policy:**
Exams and quizzes should be taken as schedule; assignments should be submitted by the due date.
**No makeup examinations, quizzes, or assignments will be allowed** except for documented emergencies (official evidence documents are required). The student should make every effort to contact the instructor prior to the exam. All requests for make-up or accommodation made _**after**_ the due date for an assignment or deadline for a test will be _**rejected without any further consideration**_.

**WARNING**: Attempts to change your grade at the end of the semester by asking the instructor to "round up" or by asking for further extra credit _**will be ignored**_.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Course Information Quiz	Bonus 5 points	
4 Tests	4 Tests with 100 points each	400
3 Bonus Quizzes	Total 20 bonus points	
Total possible points:		**400**

Grade Determination:
A = 90% or better
B = 80 – 89.99 %
C = 70 – 79.99 %
D = 60 – 69.99 %
F = less than 60%

To determine your course grade percentage, take the total number of points that you earned (including four Tests and bonus assignments), and divide that number by the number of total possible points, i.e. <u>400</u>. The percentage obtained will be converted into a letter grade according to the grading scale shown above.

Canvas has a grade calculation feature that produces percentages which differs from what is shown above. In particular, extra credit assignments are factored in consideration of total possible points. The instructor has no control over how this feature does the grade calculations, *so you generally CANNOT rely on the grade shown in Canvas but must use the procedure described above to estimate your grade.*

Canvas Access and Online Test Policy
All class materials, course grades, and class announcements will be posted by Canvas. *To access our course, visit uttyler.edu/canvas. You are encouraged to participate in Canvas 101, a practice course designed specifically for UT Tyler students to learn and refine Canvas skills. You can practice submitting assignments, participating in quizzes, customize your profile and notifications, plus get collaboration and Canvas tips.*

Important points when using Canvas:

1. *Login using UT Tyler credentials. Contact itsupport@uttyler.edu for login assistance.*
2. *Use the HELP button at the bottom left corner of Canvas if you need assistance 24/7.*
3. *Reference your Student Canvas Guide for additional resources.*

If you have issues with Canvas access that may hinder your completion of course assignments or quizzes, you must contact UT Tyler's IT Support staff immediately (even on weekends) and get a ticket number. You must also inform the instructor of the issue BEFORE the due date for the assignment or quiz. Claims of Canvas access problems without a ticket number or ones reported to the instructor after the passing of the deadline will be dismissed without any further consideration. Deadlines may be extended only in case of Canvas system-wide issues reported by the university. All

other Canvas-related issues are regarded as personal-level access issues and you must get them resolved without letting them interfere with your coursework. Personal-level access issues are not valid reasons to ask for deadline extension.

Ensure a stable internet connection before starting the test. Have a backup plan ready, such as access to a secondary internet source (e.g., a mobile hotspot). If Wi-Fi or technical issues occur during the test: If the platform allows, attempt to re-enter the test immediately. Take a screenshot or photo of the error message or issue, ensuring that a timestamp is included. Notify the instructor via email or the course communication platform within 30 minutes of the issue. Provide documentation, such as screenshots or internet outage reports, as these are required for consideration. The instructor reserves the right to evaluate the validity of reported issues and determine the appropriate course of action. Tests disrupted due to technical issues may be administered in a different format (e.g., in-person exam or alternate questions).

University Policies & Student Resources:

University policies and student resources are available on the University website and in Canvas under "Syllabus" on the course homepage.

About 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.

For this course, AI is not permitted in this course at all. To best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for an assignment or classroom assignment.