FIN300 – BUSINESS FINANCE

(Online Section 2. Class Number 2007.)

Term: Spring 2025 Instructor: Dr. Priscilla Liang
Classroom: Synchronous Online Class Schedule: 6-8:50 p.m. Tuesday
Weekly Zoom Class Link: https://csuci.zoom.us/j/86328410566
Office: MVS Hall 1179 Phone: 805 – 4378926
E-mail: Priscilla.liang@csuci.edu

Office Hours:

- Online office hours are on Tuesdays at https://csuci.zoom.us/j/83944068551(5:00 p.m.- 6 p.m.).
- Face-to-face office hours are on Thursdays (11:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m.) at MVS Hall 1179.

Course Description

FIN 300 is a required introductory finance course for all undergraduate business students. Prerequisites for this class are: (a) BUS 309-Quantitative Foundations for Business, (b) BUS 310-Business Discourse for 21st Century Professional, and (c) MGT 326-Business Ethics.

FIN 300 introduces students to theories and practices of planning, procuring, and controlling the short-term and long-term financial resources of business organizations. Major topics include analysis of financial statements, Time Value of Money, capital budgeting, debt and equity markets, security valuations, cost and structure of capital, dividend policies, and raising capital. Business finance is a critical element of business education. This subject area helps students understand how business finance decisions are made and how they are integrated with other business decisions.

Required Materials

1. Required Textbook: *Essentials of Corporate Finance* by Stephen A. Ross, Randolf W. Westerfield, and Bradford D. Jordan. New York, NY: Irwin McGraw-Hill. ANY edition of the textbook is sufficient for this class.
   - Assigned problems will be from the 9th edition. Copies of these problems will be available on Canvas.

2. A Financial Calculator: Many financial calculators are available on the market. TI BAII is supported by the textbook. Make sure the calculator you have is able to calculate Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR).
    - Many students have already purchased a TI 83/84/85/89 or a more advanced TI model. Those calculators have finance functions and can be used for this class.
3. A camera that will show your face in a Zoom meeting. The purposes of having a camera are two-fold – exam proctoring and class participation. In order to increase active participation and engagement in this class, students are required to turn on their webcams during Zoom class sessions.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain and apply theories and concepts of business finance. You should be able to do the following in detail:
    - Identify the ultimate goal of financial management
    - Analyze and utilize financial statements
    - Calculate the Time Value of Money (TVM)
    - Apply TVM skills to stock and bond valuations
    - Estimate various investment criteria and evaluate capital budget decisions
    - Explain the trade-offs between risk and return, and apply Capital Asset Pricing Theory
    - Calculate and analyze the Weighted Average Cost of Capital
    - Evaluate different dividend policies and conceptualize the clientele effect
    - Identify various methods and channels of raising capital
2. Analyze a real-world business finance project using finance theories and models.
3. Apply business finance knowledge to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills.
4. Work collaboratively in a group environment.

The above Learning Outcomes align with MVS's Program Learning Outcomes for: 1) Critical Thinking, 2) Oral Communication, 3) Written Communication, 4) Conduct (Ethics), 5) Competencies in Discipline and 6) Collaboration.

Online Learning Environment and Expectations

1. In order to succeed in an online class, students should be extremely disciplined and organized. This class requires daily learning engagement. Please plan your daily learning schedule to ensure that you have at least 1-2 hours per day* to devote to this class. Please find a quiet place and set aside a specific time each day to study.
2. This is a synchronous online course. Weekly online attendance is required, and we will have weekly in-class assignments. If you cannot attend the class due to an emergency, please inform me ahead of time or within 24 hours of your absence. Please see the **Course Policies** below.
3. All weekly online review quizzes are required to be turned in no later than **Saturday** at midnight. Please don't wait until the last minute to work on your assignments.
4. If you encounter technical issues when working on your online quizzes or other assignments, please email the University Help desk at helpdesk@csuci.edu (or call 805-437-8552) and copy me on the email. Your email should briefly and succinctly describe the problem. **Note:** To avoid disruptive last-minute technical glitches, please don't wait until the last minute to work on your online assignments.
5. We have Zoom Office hour every Tuesday evening https://csuci.zoom.us/j/83944068551 (5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.). I also have face-to-face office hours if you can meet me on campus. I would appreciate you reviewing the week's course contents and sending me your questions before weekly office hours.
6. Keep in mind that something that would be inappropriate in a traditional classroom setting is also inappropriate in an online classroom.
7. Regarding Zoom Meeting Recording and Sharing: Some portions of our weekly Zoom meetings (both online classes and office hours) will be recorded. Most of these recordings will be my lectures on finance concepts and problem-solving. I will not record student activities. Students who do not want their likeness included in the recorded sessions may elect to turn off their cameras and change their names in the Zoom window during the recording. Recordings will be available for viewing during the Remote Instruction Period subject to the following:
   - Recorded lectures/office hours will be shared with FIN300 Section-2 and Section-3 Spring 2024 via course canvas only.
   - Students may not post or use the recordings in any other setting (e.g., social media) for any purpose. Students who violate this will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including expulsion.
   - Federal and California law, as well as University policies protecting intellectual property rights and use of instructional materials (including any recordings of class sessions), remain in effect during the Remote Instruction Period.

**A 3-unit course generally requires students to study approximately 9 hours per week for a regular 16-week semester.*

Course Assignments and Evaluation Weights

- Reading Quizzes **(**13% total weighting):
  - Reading quizzes will provide a quick assessment of whether a student completes assigned reading and listening as required. Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of our weekly classes. **Please don't be late for class.**

- Pop Quizzes **(**13% total weighting)
  - Pop quizzes will be given in class after the instructor demonstrates problem-solving. Pop quizzes will be similar to the weekly practice problems assigned.

- Review Quizzes **(**13% total weighting)
  - After our weekly class meetings, students will review course materials (i.e., re-read certain sections of a chapter, listen to recorded class lectures, and review homework and class notes) and complete a weekly online review quiz to reinforce learning. Students may take each review quiz multiple times to achieve the best learning outcome desired.

- Group Course Project Analysis **(**11% total weighting):
  - Students will conduct financial analyses of real companies in a group setting. The course project is designed to apply knowledge and skills to the business finance decision-making process and develop critical thinking skills.

- Examinations **(**50% total weighting. Midterm exam 20%. Final exam 30%.)
  - Students will complete midterm and final exams during week 8 and week 16. The final exam is cumulative and will cover all the course materials assigned.
  - The exams will be open book and open notes and will be based on assigned readings, lectures, quizzes, assignments, and problem sets.

Grading Policy

A student's final grade for the course will be curved against the class mean. Plus/minus grades will be given. The probability distribution is assumed to be normally distributed.

Course Policies

1. **No late assignment will be accepted under any circumstances.** However, if a student encounters an emergency situation such as illness, injury, or a family death, the student must inform me and provide documented proof (for example, a doctor's note) within 24 hours of the occurrence of the incident. In this situation only, the missing assignment will not count towards the student's final grade.
2. **No makeup examination** will be given unless a student encounters an emergency situation such as illness, injury, or a family death (Documented proof must be provided). In this situation only, if a student misses the midterm exam, the student has a choice to take a **cumulative make-up** exam during the final examination week.
3. Cheating and Plagiarism: This course will adhere to CSUCI's academic dishonesty policy. "CI values academic integrity and will not tolerate acts of academic dishonesty. If a student commits an act of academic dishonesty in a course, the faculty member shall handle the incident based on applicable campus procedures. " A student who engages in academic dishonesty will automatically **fail** the class.
4. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Cal State Channel Islands is committed to equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The purpose of Disability Accommodations and Support Services is to assist students with disabilities to realize their academic and personal potential. Students with disabilities needing accommodation are required to contact the Disability Program office at (805) 437-3331. All requests for accommodations require appropriate advance notice by the student to avoid a delay in services. Please inform me of any approved accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

Communication Policies

1. Please contact me by emailing me at priscilla.liang@csuci.edu. You should check the course Canvas site and your CI email regularly for announcements and updates while the class is in session. Respond to instructor and classmate inquiries within 48 hours (or sooner if possible), excluding weekends and holidays.
2. All email communications should have the subject heading *FIN300 Online—Spring 2025*, followed by a brief summary of your issue or concern. I will do my best to respond to emails within 48 hours (or sooner if possible), weekends and university holidays excluded.

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Topics & Chapters
1	Course Administration
	Chapter 1: Introduction to Financial Management (Brief Introduction)
2/3	Chapter 2: Financial Statements and Cash Flow Chapter 3.3/3.4: Du Pont Identity; IGR and SGR
4/5	Chapter 4: Introduction to Valuation: The Time Value of Money
	Chapter 5: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation
6	Chapter 6: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation
7	Chapter 7: Equity Markets and Stock Valuation
8	Midterm Exam
	Group Projects (Report progress, Q&A)
9	Chapter 8: Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria
10/11	Chapter 10: Some Lessons from Capital Market History (Brief Introduction)
	Chapter 11: Risk and Return
12/13	Chapter 12: Cost of Capital
14	Chapter 14: Dividends and Dividend Policy
15	Chapter 15: Raising Capital; Business Finance Concepts Review
16	Final Exam

Disclaimer

Information contained in this syllabus, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Topics listed under the tentative course schedule may be adjusted during the semester depending on the pace and needs of the class.