Dillard College of Business Administration

SYLLABUS: Financial Management
FINC 4653
Spring 2012
MW 5:30 pm—6:50 pm, DB 175

Instructor: Dr. Qian Li, CFA, Assistant Professor in Finance
Office: Dillard 227
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FAX: 940-397-4693
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 11:00 am -12:30 pm; 2:50 pm-5:20 pm
Tuesday 2:00pm – 5:00 pm or upon appointment
E-mail: qian.li@mwsu.edu

Required Materials and Accessory

Calculator: Bring a working finance calculator with you to each class. I recommend the Texas Instruments BAII Plus, and in class I will use TI BAII plus to demonstrate calculations. If you use a different type of calculator, it is your responsibility to know how to use the financial functions built in your calculator to get solutions.

Blackboard: We will make extensive use of Blackboard (http://distance.mwsu.edu/webct.asp). Make sure that you have access to this course on Blackboard. From Blackboard you will see this syllabus, lecture slides, important announcement and a message board where you can communicate with other students, etc. However, email contact with the professor will NOT be through Blackboard. Instead, you should send your email to qian.li@mwsu.edu

If you have problem using Blackboard, please refer to the following website about your login information:
http://distance.mwsu.edu/distance/webct_help.asp
For more helps on using this system, please refer to:
http://distance.mwsu.edu/FAQ.asp
or contact MWSU Office of Distant Education (distance.ed@mwsu.edu)

Prerequisite
Junior standing or above or consent of the chair, BUAD 3033 and FINC 3733
It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you meet the prerequisite requirements. Failure to do that may result in withdrawal from the class, even at late point of this semester.
Course Overview

General Learning Goals:

- **Problem solving and decision making abilities through the critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information:** Students will demonstrate problem solving and decision-making ability as they synthesize information from different angles to analyze topics such as firms’ financial conditions and interest rate pattern, and make decisions on circumstances such as capital budgeting. Scores on assignments and exams are based on the appropriateness of student’s numerical analysis.

- **Utilization of available technology for common business applications:** Students will finish several sets of homework that require them to conduct analysis and computation using software such as MS Excel. Grades in these assignments are partially based on the effectiveness of student’s use of Excel.

- **Team building and collaboration to achieve group objectives:** Students will work in teams as they gather information, conduct financial analysis, and solve spreadsheet problems. Grades in assignments are partially based on student’s ability to work in a team.

- **Developing a competency in speaking and writing for common business scenarios.** Each student will make a presentation in class about current business events/news. Students will be graded on the quality of their oral speaking skills and the effectiveness of their presentation.

Course Specific Learning Goals:

This course focuses on the practical and conceptual problems associated with the financial management of the non-financial corporations. Topics covered include financial planning and forecasting, risk and return including the capital asset pricing model (CAPM), valuation of debt and equity, cost of capital, capital budgeting and project evaluation techniques, etc. For each topic, consideration is given as to how each relates to shareholder value maximization. For purpose of enhancing corporate decision-making skills, students will be exposed to both the theoretical underpinnings of each concept as well as their applications to realistic situations facing the firm.

Grading

a. **Exams:** There will be three exams. Each of the three exams is weighted 20% into your overall grade. Format and content of an exam will be announced in class prior to the exam.

There will be no make-up for the exams. **It is the student’s responsibility to know when and where the exams will be held.** If you have an unavoidable conflict you must discuss this with me at least one week before the exam. If an emergency arises notify me immediately; if you cannot reach me directly leave a message. An unexcused absence from an exam will be recorded as zero. If you miss one exam, with a valid reason, the weight of the missed exam will be transferred into the other two exams that you can take (for example, if you miss the first exam, then your other two exams will each be weighted 30%). This option can only be exercised once, meaning that if you miss two exams, you lose at least 20 points in your total grade. **An unexcused absence from the exam will result in a grade of zero.***

***Do not make travel plans during final exam week. The final exam will be given when the university has scheduled it. Early finals will only be offered to seniors graduating with honors.

b. **Group Spreadsheet Assignment:** You will form teams to complete one set of spreadsheet problems from assigned chapters. These problems will give you essential hands-on experience applying many of the concepts in the chapters. They will also give you opportunity to practice...
with Excel modeling and computation, which are essential skills required in today’s job market. The assignment will be weighted 15% into your overall grade.

The assignment and its deadline will be posted on Blackboard. You must submit your work via Blackboard Assignment Drop Box. You must pick your team members and finalize your team by signing up on Blackboard by the end of the first week. Each group must have no more than 3 members and no less than 2 members. Each group only needs to submit one copy of the assignment.

*** I will only accept submission by an eligible group, before the deadline, and via WEBCT. Any violation of above requirement will result in a grade of zero.

c. **Individual Assignment:** Throughout the semester you will be given four take-home assignments that cover the pre-requisite contents for this course, such as time value of money, basic bond and stock valuation, and financial statements. The assignments may contain both short essay questions as well as computational questions. They are designed to help you review those contents, so that you can be prepared for the lectures on relevant chapters. These assignments count for up to 15 pts of your total grade.

The assignments and deadlines will be posted on Blackboard. You are required to complete these assignments individually and submit each assignment before its deadline. Failure to submit the assignment before the deadline will result a grade of zero. Collaboration on these assignments will be considered as academic dishonesty. For more information regarding to academic honesty/dishonesty, refer to the section of Academic Integrity in this syllabus.

d. **Mini-presentation:** Starting from the second week, selected students will each perform a 10-minute presentation that features on recent financial/economic news. The presentation can be based on student’s reading from articles on major media sources such as Bloomberg BusinessWeek and/or Wall Street Journal. The presenting student is responsible for summarizing the news, offering background information, and analyzing/commenting on the news. The student is also expected to answer audience’s questions during or after the presentation. Students are required to sign up for the presentation on the course calendar on Blackboard. More details about the requirements and grading standard for the presentation will be posted on Blackboard. The presentation counts for up to 10 pts of the total grade.

e. **Grading Schedules:** In general, the following grading schedules will apply:

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
100 - 90\% & = & A \text{ (superior)} & \text{Exam 1} & = & 20\% \\
89 - 80\% & = & B \text{ (above average)} & \text{Exam 2} & = & 20\% \\
79 - 70\% & = & C \text{ (average)} & \text{Exam 3} & = & 20\% \\
69 - 60\% & = & D \text{ (below average)} & \text{Individual Assignments} & = & 15\% \\
\leq 59\% & = & F \text{ (failing)} & \text{Presentation} & = & 10\% \\
& & & \text{Excel Assignment} & = & \frac{15\%}{100\%}
\end{array}
\]
**Attendance and Classroom Policy**

- **Arrive on time for each class meeting.** Arriving late to class is disruptive to your fellow students. While arriving late is occasionally unavoidable, arriving late for excessive times is not acceptable.

- **Avoid excessive absences.** Experience indicates that attending class regularly improves student performance. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from the class by the professor. ([MSU Undergraduate Catalog 2010-2012, Vol. LXXVIII, No. 1, p. 78](http://student.mwsu.edu/dean)). It is your responsibility to sign the attendance form for each class meeting. Failure to do so will be considered as being absent.

***Starting from the second week of the semester, an attendance form will be distributed during the first 5 minutes of each class. Signing-ups after the first 5 minutes will be marked "late". Two "late"s equal to one absence. A total of 5 absences will result in your grade being lowered by one level, for example, from A to B, or from C to D. A total of 8 absences will result in an "F" in the class.***

- **Prepare for each class.** Read the assigned material, answer end-of-chapter questions and problems, and come to class prepared to ask questions over issues you do not understand, answer questions from the professor, and participate in class discussions when appropriate.

- **Silence your cellphone/pager.** Either turn it off, or switch it to silent mode. Phone rings or beeper beeps disrupt the whole class and will NOT be tolerated.

***During the exams, each interruption caused by a ringing cellphone will result in a 5 pt deduction of the exam grade for the cellphone’s owner.***

- **No private talking with your fellow students in class.** If you want to speak, speak loudly so that the whole class can hear you.

- **No food or beverage is allowed in the classroom.** This is a college policy.

**Academic Integrity**

With regard to academic honesty, students are referred to the “Student Honor Creed” on P.19 of [Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog, 2010-2012, Vol. LXXVIII, No. 1](http://student.mwsu.edu/dean).

“We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one’s own, work or ideas which are not entirely one’s own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.”

Academic dishonesty (cheating, collusion, and plagiarism) is taken seriously and will be investigated. The minimum penalty is an "F" in this course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action, which may result in expulsion from the University. For information regarding Midwestern State University’s policies about academic dishonesty, refer to the current handbook which can be obtained in the Dean of Student’s Office ([http://student.mwsu.edu/dean](http://student.mwsu.edu/dean)).

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

If a student has an established disability as defined in the [Americans with Disabilities Act](http://student.mwsu.edu/dean) and would like to request accommodation, the student should see me as soon as possible (preferably within the first two weeks of the semester). This class follows the guidelines suggested by the Center for Counseling and Disabilities Services for students who qualify for disability services. See Page 21 of [Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog, 2010-2012, Vol. LXXVIII, No. 1](http://student.mwsu.edu/dean) for details.
Syllabus Change Policy
This syllabus and the following class schedule serve as reference for the course, and they are subject to change. Syllabus changes will be communicated in class or via WEBCT.
This schedule is tentative, and is subject to change. Changes will be communicated in class or on WEBCT.

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<th>Reading</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>18-Jan-12</td>
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<td>25-Jan-12</td>
<td>Overview of Financial</td>
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<td>Capital Budgeting: Decision Criteria</td>
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