

Moravian College
Department of Economics and Business
ECON/MGMT 231 A&B: Managerial Finance
Spring 2010 (T R 8:55-10:05 & 2:35-3:45)

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Office Hours: T R 10:30-noon, and by appointment

Prerequisites: ECON 152, ECON 156, and ECON 157

Text: Stephen Ross, Randolph Westerfield, and Bradford Jordan, *Essentials of Corporate Finance*, McGraw-Hill, 2008, 6th edition. Please bring it to class every day!

Objectives: This writing-intensive course introduces students to all major long-term decisions facing a financial manager. You will

- Master time-value-of-money computations
- Use discounting to price bonds and stocks
- Evaluate the profitability of real projects and thus *capital budgeting* policy
- Determine the cost of capital and an appropriate *capital structure* policy
- Discuss *dividend* policy

Requirements:

Homework is due every time we finish a chapter or read an article. Doing homework is the best way to learn the material—and some homework problems are on the exams! Every typed and completed homework counts for 0.5% of your grade, up to 6%; it is not graded. I post answers to all HW, and I review selected HW problems in class.

- On every HW, write the names of all people that assisted you or whom you helped.
- Turn in all HW before class time on the day it is due. I do not accept late HW.
- Do the HW, or your final grade will be two fractions of a grade lower.

Find a medium length economic **article** in a newspaper or magazine (from 2009/10) and print or Xerox it. If the article is too short or too simple, you will not earn full credit. An excellent source is *The Economist* at www.economist.com. Other good sources are the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. The articles are due in class the Tuesday after each exam and must be related to the material that was covered on the exam. If you are absent on these days, have a friend hand it in for you; the late penalty is 50% per day. Each article is worth 1% of your grade.

For another 1% of your grade, **type** the chapter of your text and the topic in the chapter to which the article relates. In one sentence, state the main claim (thesis) of the article; in two paragraphs, explain the article using what we have learned. Do not summarize it! An example will be posted on *Blackboard*.

The four-part **project** will be posted on *Blackboard* (in Assignments) and is worth 20% of your grade. The due dates appear in the course schedule below.

Exams: There are three exams during the semester; I provide all necessary formulas on a handout. Each exam has short and long questions, both of which require either calculations or verbal responses. I also offer an optional final exam, which you can use to replace your lowest exam grade. There are **no make-up exams**. If you miss one of the three exams, you must take the final exam. You are not allowed to use **phones** or **leave** the room during an exam. Doing so results in zero points on the exam.

Tentative exam **dates:**

- Exam 1: February 11 (Thursday)
- Exam 2: March 18 (Thursday)
- Exam 3: April 22 (Thursday)
- Final Exam: May 4 (Tuesday for Sec. A) or May 7 (Friday for Sec. B)

You must **keep** all materials (HW, assignments, and exams) that I have checked until you receive your final grade.

Expectations:

Some of you may find finance challenging, but all of you can earn a good grade. For every hour of class time, you are expected to study an additional two hours. You must read the book, do the homework regularly, and study the homework assignments before each exam. I offer in-class reviews, and I encourage you to see me during office hours, both alone and in groups. To ease your HW and exam preparation, I post lectures and assignments on *Blackboard*. Please check the site before each class!

Grading:

Articles.....	6%
Homework.....	6%
Project.....	20%
Three exams.....	68%

Grading Scale:

100+	A+	93 - 100: A	90 - 92.99: A-
87 - 89.99:	B+	83 - 86.99: B	80 - 82.99: B-
77 - 79.99:	C+	73 - 76.99: C	70 - 72.99: C-
67 - 69.99:	D+	63 - 66.99: D	60 - 62.99: D- 00 - 59.99: F

I **curve** the exams, by approximately 5 points, unless half the class earns As and Bs. A+ is received only as a result of extra credit, not the curve.

Attendance Policy:

I urge you to come to class regularly! Attendance does not enter your grade directly, but it matters indirectly. You will get a better sense of what is important. Listening to lectures and reading the text reinforce one another. Moreover, attendance allows you to participate and to learn from your classmates.

Academic Honesty Policy:

I encourage you to study in groups and to discuss all homework, but you must write your own answers **and** the names of all students in the study group on your homework. If you copy from the web, existing handouts, or other students, or if you let another student copy from you, you will receive **zero** for the whole HW assignment or exam. Note that the punishment is the same for both parties. In case of HW, I offer this advice: If a student asks you for a copy of your HW, do not give it to him/her. Be nice and agree to offer verbal help.

Beware of **plagiarism!** If you are:

- Lifting phrases (**three** words or more) from a printed medium or the web, use quotations marks and cite the source properly. For example, “[c]orporate finance is an area of finance dealing with the financial decisions corporations make and the tools and analysis used to make these decisions. The primary goal of corporate finance is to maximize corporate value while reducing the firm's financial risks.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_finance
- Lifting words from the **textbook** (including definitions), use quotation marks and provide the page number. You do not need a full citation in this case.
- Providing **figures**, you must cite a source. For example: OPEC decided to lower production by 1.5 million barrels a day (The Economist, 11-06-08).
- Changing **a few words** in the original and reporting it as your own work, stop! You are plagiarizing.

If you do not follow the above rules, you will get **zero** for the HW or assignment.

Schedule:

Week of:	Topics	Text
Jan. 18	Introduction to Financial Management Sushi Economy, Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Handout
		http://books.google.com/books?id=Xm5H_tRsgWcC&pg=PA9&lpg=PA9&dq=sushi+economy+MacAlpine+Okazaki+Griffin&source=bl&ots=CtaeMx9qrW&sig=F7chPA5gScpOsK6asyRppvPvJmY&hl=en&ei=c9NUS_T0KcnfIAel2YDjCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CAcQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=&f=false
	Financial Statements & Taxes	Chapter 2
Jan. 25	Working with Financial Statements	Chapter 3

	Time Value of Money	Chapter 4
Feb. 1	Discounted Cash Flow Valuation Project I (2-4-10)	Chapter 5
Feb. 8	Review Exam 1 (2-11-10)	Chapters 1-5 Chapters 1-5
Feb. 15	Article 1 (2-16-10) Interest Rates and Bond Valuation	Chapter 6
Feb. 22	Equity Markets and Stock Valuation Investment Criteria	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
March 1	Investment Decisions Project II (3-4-10)	Chapter 9
March 8	Spring Break	
March 15	Review Exam 2 (3-18-10)	Chapters 6-9 Chapters 6-9
March 22	Article 2 (3-23-10) Capital Market History	Chapter 10
March 29	Risk and Return	Chapter 11
April 5	The Cost of Capital Project III (4-8-10)	Chapter 12
April 12	Leverage and Capital Structure "Making a Success of Failure" Dividend Policy	Chapter 13 <i>Economist</i> , 1-9-10 Chapter 14
April 19	Review Exam 3 (4-22-10)	Chapters 10-14 Chapters 10-14
April 26	Project IV and Article 3 (4-27-10) Review	Chapters 5, 8, 12, and 13
May 4	Final Exam (8:30 AM-Section A)	Chapters 5, 8, 12, and 13
May 7	Final Exam (6:30 PM-Section B)	Chapters 5, 8, 12, and 13

You are responsible for following all rules stated on this syllabus

The syllabus is subject to change