BUSINESS FINANCE I
FIN 331, Fall 2006

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Goals and Objectives: This course is an introduction to business finance. It emphasizes the financing and investment decisions of the financial manager. Included are topics such as time value of money, asset valuation, risk analysis, financial statement analysis, and capital budgeting.

Course Materials:
The required textbook for this course is Essentials of Corporate Finance, Ross, Westerfield and Jordan © 2007 by McGraw-Hill.

Strongly recommended: The Texas Instruments BAII Plus financial calculator. A financial calculator is not required for this course--the time value of money formulas will be provided on all tests. However, problem solving is much easier with a financial calculator.

If you have another financial calculator that you are comfortable with, you may use it; however, I will only discuss the use of the TI BAII Plus for in-class examples.

Prerequisites:
Accounting 201 and 202 should have been passed prior to enrolling in this course. Also, Economics 202, Economics 203, and Business 230 with a minimum grade of C.

Classroom:
Lectures are designed to clarify and supplement text material. Unless otherwise instructed, you will be held responsible for all reading assignments (even if they are not covered in the lecture) plus all supplementary material.

This is a problem-oriented course. I will use many numerical examples in class to illustrate the concepts. You are expected to read the relevant material and attempt the end-of-chapter problems before each class. Additional problems as well as concept questions can be found on the text’s self-study CD-ROM. It is very important that you work the relevant problems on a timely basis. Do not put off solving problems until just before the examinations --- it will be too late for you to truly understand the material.

Grading:
Grades will be based on four mid-semester exams, homework/quiz scores, and a cumulative final exam. The grade will calculated as follows:

Exams: 90% (the best 4-out-of-5 exam grades will count 22.5% each)
Homework/quizzes: 10%
Homework counts for 10% of your final grade. The homework is the suggested problems listed on the syllabus and is due the day the chapter is covered. That is, for Chapter 2, the homework is due Thursday, August 24th. I DO NOT accept late homework. Homework is graded on a Pass/Fail system.

The quality of classroom discussion depends heavily upon the degree of student preparation. Students who have not read the text AND attempted to work homework problems before coming to class will find this course to be more difficult.

I will count the best 4 of the 5 exams. These 4 exams will count 90% of the final grade. All exams will be closed book/closed notes. Exams may have a mixture of multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, and problem solving questions. You will be provided with a formula sheet for each exam. The formula sheet will be posted on the course website before each exam for you to review if you wish. Further, course grades are based on a modified ten-point scale, i.e, an A is assigned for a course average of 90-100, a B is assigned for a course average of 80-89, a C is assigned for a course average of 70-79, a D is assigned for a course average of 60-69, and a F is assigned for a course average of below 60. Any reduction or modification in the minimum average to receive a particular grade will be made consistently across all students (e.g. a student with an 89.3 will not be awarded an A grade and one with an 89.6 a B). Determination of the final breakpoint (if lower than 90 for an A) will be made on the basis of difficulty of tests, distribution of final averages, and natural gaps in the distribution of final averages. The same is also true for B, C and D grades.

There will be no make-up exams. It is your responsibility to attend all exams at the scheduled time. The exam portion of your grade is calculated on a best 4-out-of-5 basis. If an exam is missed – whether due to an emergency, tragedy, or simply because you are unprepared – then the remaining four test scores will be used to compute your exam portion of the class grade. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Using the best 4-out-of-5 test scores is equivalent to having a drop grade. You get ONLY ONE drop grade. Please exercise this option wisely.

School of Business Administration - Statement of Academic Integrity:
The School of Business Administration upholds honor and academic integrity in all of its teaching, research, and service activities. All business faculty, staff, and students are charged with the responsibility to behave with personal and professional integrity and to refrain from dishonorable conduct.

Any student caught cheating will be assigned an F in the course. In most cases a statement will also be made to that effect in the student’s record.

Notes:
It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). SDC will then contact the instructor through the student by means of an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form. Please complete the notification procedure within the first two weeks of the course. Please advise me in advance of any needs you may have as I CANNOT accommodate them at the last minute.

Due to privacy issues, I do not e-mail grades and I do not give out grades over the telephone.
You are encouraged to seek answers to your questions as they arise. The material discussed in class gets progressively more complex. Consequently, you will soon feel lost if you do not get clarification quickly. Please do not wait until the end of the semester or the day before a test to ask for help—there’s not much we can do at that time.

**Cell phone usage**

Please turn off your cell phone when in the classroom. All cell phones must be turned off and stored during exams as you will not be allowed to use the calculator on your cell phone during exams. Please see me prior to class if there is an impending emergency that waiting until the end of class will materially alter.

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**Tentative Class Schedule for FIN 331**

**Fall 2006**

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