

FIN 509 102W

Essentials of Finance

Meeting Information: VIRTVIRTUAL; R 06:00PM - 08:50PM;
25SUMR

Instructor

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Fundamental to Jacksonville University's mission is support for an environment where divergent ideas, theories, and philosophies can be openly exchanged and critically evaluated. Consistent with these principles and the concept of Academic Freedom, this course may involve the discussion of ideas that you find uncomfortable, disagreeable, or even offensive. These ideas are intended to be presented in an objective manner, they are not intended to persuade, and are not an endorsement of what you should personally believe.

Jacksonville University values diversity, equity, and inclusion and strives to create a welcoming community where all stakeholders feel valued and a sense of belonging. We believe in lifelong learning and preparing globally-minded citizens for the real world. We recruit students, faculty, staff, and leaders from all over the globe and we respect differences in ability, age, appearance, athletic and student organization involvement, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, immigration status, language, military/veteran status, nationality, political ideology, race, religion, talent, sex, sexuality, socio-economic status, and other personal identities and experiences.

Jacksonville University is an equal-opportunity institution and prohibits discrimination. We consider each stakeholder to be a key player in Jacksonville University's civic responsibility and commitment to this work.

The non-discrimination policy can also be found on the [Green Pages](#).

Course Description

Designed specifically for graduate program students needing a finance prerequisite for graduate course work, this is an accelerated, 8-week, graduate program foundation course in financial management. This course examines the principles and analytical techniques applicable to financial management of a firm. Topics include the time-value-of money, risk and return, valuation of debt and equity securities, capital budgeting, cost of capital and financial analysis.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students are expected to competently:

- Develop knowledge of foundational elements of corporate financial management including firm financial decisions, theories of capital budgeting, financial decision-making, and value creation/destruction.
- Explore the institutional framework of money and capital markets and the nature of financial claims exchanged therein
- Learn the tools firms use to value their financial assets, and how to use those tools to improve financing and investment decisions.
- Develop a conceptual framework within which the firm's investment and financing decisions may be examined in light of maximizing the value of the firm to shareholders

Class Format

- Lecture will be integrated with student discussions
- Students will be expected to participate in class

Required Texts & Materials

<https://ju.bncollege.com/course-material/course-finder>
Fundamentals of corporate finance
ISBN: 978-1260772395
Authors: Ross, Westerfield, Jordan
Publisher: McGraw Hill
Publication Date: 2021
Edition: 13th

Grading

| Point Total | Letter Grade | % of Total Course Points |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 90 - 100 | A | 95 - 100% |
| 89-90 | A- | 90 - 94% |
| 87-89 | B+ | 87-89% |
| 80-87 | B | 83-86% |
| 79 - 80 | B- | 80 - 82% |
| 77- 79 | C+ | 77 - 79% |
| 70 - 77 | C | 73 - 76% |
| 69 - 70 | C- | 70 - 72% |
| Less than 69 | F | Less than 69% |

The evaluation consists of the following components (100%):

1. Five Weekly Assignments: 20%

There are five weekly assignments in the course. The assignments are designed to help you understand the course materials and prepare for the exams.

In terms of the level of difficulty, the exam questions will be very similar to the homework problems, especially for calculation type of questions. Your answers to each chapter's homework problems should be typed and submitted via the course website in Blackboard by midnight on Sunday, the last day of that week.

Grading on homework assignments will be based on both efforts and quality, (e.g. even if your answers were all wrong you can still get at least half of the credit for attempting all questions). So it's important that you attempt all questions and submit on time.

2. Five quizzes: 30%

There will be five quizzes. Each quiz will last for 120 minutes. You will choose to take the quiz any time during the scheduled weekend. But once started, you must finish the quiz within the specified time period. So before taking each quiz, please check your schedule carefully to make sure you will have an uninterrupted two hour time span to finish the quiz.

3. Final Exam: 40%

The final exam is an open book exam. The final will last for 120 minutes. You can choose to take the tests any time during the scheduled exam week. But once started, you must finish the test within the specified time period. So before taking each test, please check your schedule carefully to make sure you will have an uninterrupted three- or four-hour time span to finish the test.

4. Three Discussions: 10%

There are three discussions in the course. You are required to answer each question and also reply to other students' comments. The comments and replies will be graded based on the relevancy to the questions and clarity.

Attendance Policy

While there is no formal attendance requirement for this course, consistent engagement with course materials, discussions, and scheduled activities is strongly encouraged. Active participation will enhance your understanding of the content and support your academic success. Attendance will not be tracked or factored into your final grade.

Make-Up Exams/Assignments

Students who miss an assignment or exam for a valid reason must present documentation (from a medical doctor, a coach, a representative from student life, or other university official) to make it up. Students should notify the instructor before the exam to indicate that they will be missing the exam.

Using Electronic Devices

The use of laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, or any other electronic devices during face-to-face class sessions is generally not allowed unless there are specific class assignments that require them. Comprehension, attention, and note taking all tend to improve when students are not using electronic devices.

Extra Credit

In addition to the extra credit opportunities listed below on the schedule, the instructor may offer other extra credit opportunities, but students may earn no more than 5 extra credit points.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments (subject to change)

| Week or Module | Topic and Activities | Assignments & Key Due Dates |
|----------------|--|---|
| Week 1 | Time Value of Money Read Introduction and Chapter 5 | |
| Week 2 | Discounted Cash Flow Valuation Read Chapter 6 | Discussion Board Homework of Chapters 5 and 6 Quiz #1 |
| Week 3 | Interest Rates and Bond Valuation Read Chapter 7 | Homework of Chapter 7 Quiz #2 |
| Week 4 | Stock Valuation Read Chapter 8 | Discussion Board Homework of Chapter 8 Quiz #3 |
| Week 5 | Net Present Value and Capital Investment Decisions Read Chapters 9 and 10 | Homework of Chapters 9, 10 Quiz #4 |
| Week 6 | Return, Risk, and the Security Market Line Read Chapter 13 | Discussion Board Homework of Chapters 13 Quiz #5 |
| Week 7 | Course Wrap | Final Exam |

Academic Honesty

“Members of the Jacksonville University community are expected to foster and uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity, which are foundations for the intellectual endeavors we engage in.

To underscore the importance of truth, honesty, and accountability, students and instructors should adhere to the following standard:

“On my honor as a student of Jacksonville University, I promise to uphold the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all my dealings with faculty, staff, and students.”

Academic misconduct occurs when a student engages in an action that is deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest regarding any type of academic assignment that is intended to or results in an unfair academic advantage. In this context, the term “assignment” refers to any type of graded or ungraded work that is submitted for evaluation for any course. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, collusion, falsification, misrepresentation, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, copying another student’s work, using or providing unauthorized notes or materials, turning in work not produced by the individual, attempting to get credit for a single instance of work submitted for more than one course, and plagiarism. Furthermore, providing deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest information during discussions of an academic matter with faculty are also examples of academic misconduct.” (Jacksonville University Academic Integrity Policy <https://www.ju.edu/academicintegrity/academic-integrity-misconduct-policy.php>)

Throughout this course we will be reading and reporting about the work of others. All information that is not original to the student must be appropriately attributed in both presentations and written work. All students are expected to do their own work and give appropriate credit for all sources used in the process of preparing papers, presentations, and homework assignments. Group assignments will be graded based on the product of the work, although some adjustment may be made for participation. [If you have a question about whether or not collaboration is allowed, or how to cite a reference, please ask. It is always better to check than to be accused of an unintended violation of the academic honesty policy.] Violations of the academic honesty policy will be dealt with in accordance to university policies [Refer to current Academic Catalog “Academic Integrity and Misconduct”].

Course Level Penalties

Course Level Penalties: A first offense may result in a failing grade for the assignment. Second offenses may result in failure in the course. Significantly egregious violations may result in expulsion from the university. When in doubt give credit for all information that did not come directly out of your head!

Statement Regarding Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Jacksonville University recognizes the power and potential in Artificial Intelligence to assist in many areas of scholarship represented at the institution. AI, like ChatGPT and others, has the potential to be misused. In general, the Academic Integrity Policy stated in this document and elsewhere in Jacksonville University publications and websites does not encourage AI use in an academic setting. AI produced materials submitted for graded assignments are falsely representing the work as generated solely by the student. The specific use of AI is left up to the individual instructor and should be articulated on course syllabi and in the instructions for individual assignments. If instructors do not give explicit permission to use AI students should assume that its use will constitute a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy of Jacksonville University.

Disability Statement

Students with a documented disability requesting classroom accommodations or modifications, either permanent or temporary, resulting from the disability are encouraged to register with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office. This office will assist in recommending accommodations that eliminate barriers in academic coursework and/or guide you through the different supportive mechanisms that we have to offer. This office is located on the third floor of the Davis Student Commons, room 336. The office can also be contacted through their website (<https://www.ju.edu/disabilityservices/index.php>).

Note: Students are encouraged to register with the DSS office at the beginning of the term and/or prior (if/when possible), as accommodations are not provided retroactively.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Information on Jacksonville University’s FERPA policy is available at: <https://www.ju.edu/about/ferpa-information.php>

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