

Semester: Autumn 2025 **Class Day/Time:** Mon/Wed 1-3pm then 8-10am **Room:** GE 365

Instructor: Chad Zipfel **Office:** Fisher Hall 312 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chad-zipfel-ba5759103/>

Office Hours: directly after class or by appointment, please email me directly at Zipfel.4@osu.edu.

Course Description: This course provides a market-oriented framework for analyzing the major types of financial decisions made by corporations. This includes an introduction to financial markets, time value of money techniques, capital budgeting principles and problems, asset valuation, the fundamentals of portfolio theory and asset pricing, capital structure, and other tactical and strategic financial decisions.

Pre-Requirements: current FTMBA student

Course Format: In-class lecture; online problem sets in MindTap; video modules and other course materials on Carmen

Required Texts/Materials:

Title: Brigham and Ehrhardt, Financial Management: Theory and Practice, 17th edition, plus MindTap access. Depending your finance acumen, it is your choice to opt out of Carmenbooks and not receive the eText + MindTap (\$96).

Coursepack: <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/1342935>

Grading Criteria (see due dates in course schedule at end of syllabus):

	<u>Graded Item</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Points</u>
Optional Collaboration	HW Ch 4	3%	5
	HW Ch 5	3%	5
	HW Ch 7	3%	5
	HW Ch 9	3%	5
	HW Ch 10	3%	5
Group	2 Case Studies	11%	20
Group	Simulation Competition	14%	25
Group	Current Event Presentation	14%	25
Solo	Midterm	19%	35
Solo	Final Exam	14%	25
Solo	Speaker and Class Reflection	3%	5
Solo	Class Engagement / Integration Sessions	14%	25

Graded Component Details

Homework (HW): The homework will be found under “Assignments” on Carmen with direct links from the module on the homepage. The purpose of the homework is to keep you up to date with the class material. You may talk about the problems with others in the class, and work on them together. Of course, the only way you can be sure you understand the class material is to do the problems yourself.

For optional support, you also can work the Applia end-of-chapter problems and Excel practice in MindTap. Please use these as you see fit.

Team Simulation Competition: Near the end of semester, you will put your skills to work as you compete against each other in a simulation that has you making financials decisions over a 10-year period. Part of your grade will be determined by your stock value at the end of the simulation, while the other portion will be dependent on your strategy and rationale (using concepts taught in class) demonstrated in your team recap assignment. More details and rubric to be shared in class.

Current Event Presentations: Working in teams, you will choose a current event related to a topic in Finance and gain approval from me ahead of time. You will research the topic and “teach the class” on why it is important, your own point of view, and assess it’s impact. You will have to deliver your presentation within 12 minutes and then provide 5 minutes for Q&A. See rubric for more details.

Assessments: There will be two assessments. The final assessment is not cumulative. However, basic concepts like the time value of money will carry through the entire course. All assessments will be via lockdown browser with 1 8x11 sheet of notes. You will have access to Excel. You may also use a financial calculator.

You are on your honor not to use an electronic device for any extra assistance. You may not communicate with any person except the instructor during the exams.

Participation: The remaining ~15% of the grade will be based on your contributions to our class and Integration sessions.

Grading Scale:

Letter (Points)	A (4.0)	A- (3.7)	B+ (3.3)	B (3.0)	B- (2.7)	C+ (2.3)	C (2.0)	C- (1.7)
Percentage of students	Top 20%	Next 25%	Next 30%	Remaining 25%				

Note: This is the intended grading curve. The actual curve may differ based on class performance and the shape of the point distribution. My course average GPA tends to be around 3.40, and any grade on the spectrum of A-E is possible in this course.

Academic Conduct:

If a student is suspected of, or reported to have committed, academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated to report my suspicions to COAM. If you have questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me. See OSU Prohibited Conduct – [Section 3335-23-04\(A\)](#)

Seating Arrangements:

It will be easier for me to learn names if you sit in the same seat. ***Please bring and display your nameplate during each class session.***

Additional Policies

Testing Policy:

There are no make-ups for the homework. Get it done ahead of time to prevent unforeseen issues. For exams, only make-up if documented medical illness or other emergency.

Attendance / Participation Expectations:

You need to attend the first class meeting, or risk being disenrolled, per University policy. Aside from this, I will track your engagement and participation throughout the semester. If I don't know you and/or never hear from you in class, don't expect full points in this area.

Technology Policy: I recommend using Excel in this course, so I expect you to use devices in class. You are all adults, so I will assume that if you are using your device for non-classroom reasons that you will not distract others.

Course-specific Copyright Policy: Material provided by me may not be re-posted anywhere without my explicit permission. See University Copyright Policy.

How to Succeed in This Course:

There are three main things that make finance challenging:

1. It is quantitative. The more comfortable you are with math, the better.
2. It has a language of its own, and much of it is vague and confusing, often with multiple terms for the same concept.
3. It builds off of accounting and economics. It is very helpful to have already taken these courses in the past (best), or be taking them concurrently (second best).

Students in this course have a variety of backgrounds. Students with strong math skills and experience with finance courses in the past generally do well. Students who have not done math-based work in a long time and who have not taken finance are more likely to struggle. But effort is the great equalizer. Students in the former group who slack off will likely not end up in the A range, while students in the latter group who work diligently often do end up in the A range. To maximize your chances of success, here is what I recommend for each class week:

A. Read the textbook chapter(s). The textbook gives the most complete coverage of the material. Don't expect to understand all of it with the first read. Take in what you can, and make note of what confused you so that you know what to ask about in class. Work through the examples and some of the easier end-of-chapter problems (available in your text, or on MindTap), to apply what you have read.

B. Attend class. I will assume that you have already introduced yourself to the material so that we can spend a bit less time on the basics and more time on examples and problem-solving. You will get out of class what you put into it! There are no "bad" questions.

C. Work more problems. This would include the harder end-of-chapter problems, review questions on MindTap, and the homework assignment if there is one for that week.

Students with a stronger background in math or finance might not need to focus as closely on A and could focus their time more on B only. Students who have weaker backgrounds in math and no background in finance will need to put in the time before class in order to be the most productive while in class.

Course Calendar (see next page)

BusFin 6223 AU 25 Class Schedule (Tues/Thur)

Week of	Mon	Wed	Cengage HW	Due Date	Points
29-Sep-25		Oct 1 @ 1pm: Course Intro Ch 1 Kickoff- via video modules			
6-Oct-25	Ch 4: TVM	Ch 5: Interest Rates and Bonds	Ch 4/5 20 questions	Oct 12th	10
13-Oct-25	Case Working Session: A Home Investment Decision Dilemma	Finish Case Current Event Presentations (3)			10
20-Oct-25	Ch 6: Risk & Return	Ch 7: Valuation	Ch 7 9 questions	Oct 26th	5
27-Oct-25	Ch 10 & 11: Capital Budgeting NPV/IRR	Catch Up Review Q&A for Midterm			10
3-Nov-25	switch to 8am!! Midterm in Class	Ch 9: Cost of Capital			25
10-Nov-25	Ch 9: Cont (Debt/Equity) Current Event Presentations (3)	Case Working Session: Warren Buffett Valuations	Ch 9 10 questions	Nov 16th	15
17-Nov-25	Finish Case and Debrief	Simulation in Class Rd 1: Compete in Teams	Ch 10 10 questions	Nov 23rd	5
24-Nov-25	Finish and Debrief Simulation	no class: Thanksgiving		Dec 2nd	25
1-Dec-25	Pat Beebe CFO Columbus Brewing Co.	Current Event Presentations (3) SEI in class			5
8-Dec-25	Final Exam 8am In Class				35