

# International Finance Syllabus

BUSFIN 7250 Spring 2024

## Course Information

- **Course times and location:** Wednesdays 6:15 – 9:30 pm, Each session will be divided into time to group discussion of lecture material and assigned case studies
- **Credit hours:** 1.5
- **Mode of delivery:** In person

## Instructor

- **Name:** Vikram Airi
- **Email:** [airi.3@osu.edu](mailto:airi.3@osu.edu), [vikram.airi@olentangyadvisors.com](mailto:vikram.airi@olentangyadvisors.com)
- **Office hours:** By appointment
- **Preferred means of communication:**
  - My preferred method of communication for questions is **email**.
  - My class-wide communications will be sent through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check your [notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) ([go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications)) to be sure you receive these messages.

## Course Prerequisites

The prerequisite or concurrent registration: MBA 6221 (810) and 6222 (MBA), or BUSFIN 6220 (SMF). Not open to students with credit for BUSFIN 825.

## Course Description

This course provides students with a framework for making corporate financial decisions in an international context. The course will discuss a spectrum of topics in the area of international financial management. Examples include measuring currency exposure; structuring financial and operational hedges for currency risk; structuring a global financing program; capital raising in international equity and bond markets; structuring capital budgeting analyses for foreign direct investment; incorporating strategic aspects in the globalization process; and valuing target firms for cross border acquisitions. The course discussions primarily focus on solving problems facing a corporate financial manager dealing with today's global environment with an emphasis on cross-border valuations.

## Target Audience

The course is targeted primarily to second-year MBA students who are specializing in Finance and to students in the SMB Finance program. Also, second-year MBA students majoring in International Business and other non-Finance majors will find this course an excellent complement to their required course work. PhD students need to have the instructor's permission to enroll.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Understand monetary history and role of central banks in formulating monetary policy
- Measure currency exposure
- Structure financial and operational hedges for currency risk management
- Evaluate global financing options
- Capital raising in international equity and bond markets
- Capital budgeting analyses for foreign direct investment and strategic financial aspects of the globalization process
- Value target firms for cross border acquisitions

## Instructor

Vikram Airi has over 20 years of leadership experience in direct investments, private equity, investment banking and structured finance, in the development, structuring and financing of energy, infrastructure and real estate projects and businesses in emerging and international markets while residing in Singapore, Dubai and Doha.

Vikram continues to leverage his experience of structuring and executing complex financings in international markets to develop viable, profitable models for infrastructure financing and investments with a focus on mobilizing private capital to support public initiatives. He recently advised an Icelandic asset manager in the development and formation of green / geothermal power private equity investment funds for projects in emerging markets.

Vikram has a BA from Brown University and an MBA from Columbia University.

## Pedagogy

The course will be structured as a combination of lectures, discussions, and cases. All classes will be **IN PERSON**. I will post my PowerPoint slides on the course website on Canvas before each class to help you follow the lectures and take notes. Please remember that posted slides are not complete. For completeness, you should attend the lectures.

# Course Materials, Fees and Technologies

## Required Reading

- The required textbook is Cheol S. Eun and Bruce G. Resnick, 2018, *International Financial Management, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*, McGraw-Hill, Boston. Slides and other materials will be distributed via Carmen / Canvas.
- Assigned case studies and articles.

## CarmenCanvas Access

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](https://buckeyepass.osu.edu) (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you do each of the following:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](https://go.osu.edu/add-device) (go.osu.edu/add-device) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- [Install the Duo Mobile application](https://go.osu.edu/install-duo) (go.osu.edu/install-duo) on all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

## Technology Skills Needed for This Course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- [Navigating CarmenCanvas](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent) (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)

### Technology Support

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, questions or requests, contact the IT Service Desk, which offers 24-hour support, seven days a week.

- **Self Service and Chat:** [go.osu.edu/it](https://go.osu.edu/it)
- **Phone:** [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357)
- **Email:** [servicedesk@osu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@osu.edu)

# Grading

## How Your Grade is Calculated

Assignment Category	Points
One (1) Problem Set	10
Individual Class Participation	15
Four (4) Group Case Write-Ups	60
Final – Take Home Case Write-Up	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

See [Course Schedule](#) for due dates.

## Descriptions of Major Course Assignments

Students are strongly encouraged to form study groups to work on the cases that are assigned in the course. A study group may consist of 3 – 5 students. All groups should come fully prepared to present their case solution to the rest of the class. In addition, I require all groups to hand in type-written solutions to four (4) cases as outlined in the attached schedule. Case write-ups should be submitted to the instructor before the beginning of the class when the case discussion is scheduled to take place and should not exceed five (5) pages excluding exhibits. Stylistically cases should follow the norms of office / business memos and should be succinct and to the point. Remember to use charts / diagrams / graphs to present all financial results and data sets whenever possible.

A substantial portion of your grade (15%) will be based on class participation. Class participation will mainly be graded based on your contributions to case discussions, but general participation in the form of questions and comments during lectures is also welcome and will be rewarded. A combination of cold-calling and soft-calling will be used to maximize participation. Each student will be given ample opportunity to contribute to the classroom discussion. I will monitor contributions during each lecture and will cold-call students who need encouragement to speak up in class.

## Late Assignments

Late submissions will not be accepted unless pre-approved. Please refer to Carmen for due dates.

## Instructor Feedback and Response Time

Preferred contact method: If you have a question, please contact me first through my Ohio State email address. I will reply to emails within 24 hours on days when class is in session at the university. If the message requires a real time response, please contact me through my private email address. Class announcements: I will send all important class-wide messages through the Announcements tool in



CarmenCanvas. Please check your notification preferences ([go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications)) to ensure you receive these messages.

## Grading Scale

93–100: A  
90–92.9: A-  
87–89.9: B+  
83–86.9: B  
80–82.9: B-  
77–79.9: C+  
73–76.9: C  
70–72.9: C-  
67–69.9: D+  
60–66.9: D  
Below 60: E



# Other Course Policies

## Discussion and Communication Guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online. I will provide specific guidance for discussions on controversial or personal topics.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

## Academic Integrity Policy

See [Descriptions of Major Course Assignments](#) for specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

## Ohio State's Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the university's [Code of Student Conduct](#) ([studentconduct.osu.edu](http://studentconduct.osu.edu)), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the university's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

**If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.** If COAM determines that you have violated the university's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- [Committee on Academic Misconduct](http://go.osu.edu/coam) (go.osu.edu/coam)
- [Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions) (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- [Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules) (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

## Copyright for Instructional Materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

## Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at [equity.osu.edu](http://equity.osu.edu),
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or email [equity@osu.edu](mailto:equity@osu.edu)

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1.

Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

## Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, [on-demand mental health resources](https://go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) (go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) are available. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at [614- 292-5766](tel:614-292-5766). **24-hour emergency help** is available through the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org) (suicidepreventionlifeline.org) or by calling [1-800-273-8255\(TALK\)](tel:1-800-273-8255). [The Ohio State Wellness app](https://go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) (go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) is also a great resource.

## COVID

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are isolating while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, please let me know immediately. Those testing positive for COVID-19 should refer to the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes site](#) for resources. Beyond five days of the required COVID-19 isolation period, I may rely on Student Life Disability Services to establish further reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; or [slds.osu.edu](https://slds.osu.edu).





# Accessibility Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

## Requesting Accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions, please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with [Student Life Disability Services \(SLDS\)](#). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services.

## Disability Services Contact Information

- Phone: [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307)
- Website: [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu)
- Email: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu)
- In person: [Baker Hall 098, 113 W. 12th Avenue](#)

## Accessibility of Course Technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations as early as possible.

- [CarmenCanvas accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility) ([go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)).



<b>Class Schedule</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Due Dates</b>
<b>Jan 10</b>	<p>Week 1: <b>Introduction to International Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Globalization and the Multinational Firm (E&amp;R chapter 1)</li> <li>- International Monetary System (E&amp;R chapter 2)</li> <li>- Balance of Payments (E&amp;R chapter 3)</li> </ul> <p><i>Article: The Dollar Trap</i></p>
<b>Jan 17</b>	<p>Week 2: <b>Foreign Exchange</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Market for Foreign Exchange (E&amp;R chapter 5)</li> <li>- Parity Conditions (E&amp;R chapter 6)</li> <li>- Futures and Options on Foreign Exchange (E&amp;R chapter 7)</li> </ul> <p><i>Case: Kennedy and the Balance of Payments (US, 1985), No write-up</i></p>
<b>Jan 24</b>	<p>Week 3: <b>Foreign Exchange Exposure Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transactions Exposure (E&amp;R chapter 8)</li> <li>- Economic Exposure (E&amp;R chapter 9)</li> <li>- Translation Exposure (E&amp;R chapter 10)</li> </ul> <p><i>Case: Hedging Currency Risks at AIFS (UK – world, 2004)</i></p>
<b>Jan 31</b>	<p>Week 4: <b>World Financial Markets and Institutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Bond Markets (E&amp;R chapter 12)</li> <li>- International Equity Markets (E&amp;R chapter 13)</li> <li>- Interest Rate and Currency Swaps (E&amp;R chapter 14)</li> </ul> <p><i>Case: Valuing a Cross-Border LBO: Bidding on the Yell Group (US – UK, 2003)</i></p>
<b>Feb 7</b>	<p>Week 5: <b>Corporate Strategy and Foreign Investment Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FDI and Cross-Border Acquisitions (E&amp;R chapter 16)</li> <li>- International Capital Structure (E&amp;R chapter 17)</li> </ul> <p><i>Case: Nestlé and Alcon – the Value of a Listing (Switzerland – US – Europe, 2001)</i></p>
<b>Feb 14</b>	<p>Week 6: <b>International Capital Budgeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Capital Budgeting (E&amp;R chapter 18)</li> </ul> <p><i>Case: Globalizing the Cost of Capital and Capital Budgeting at AES (US – world, 2003)</i></p>
<b>Feb 21</b>	Week 7: <b>[TBD]</b>



<b>[TBD]</b>	<b>Final Exam – Take Home Case Write-Up</b> <i>Case: [TBD]</i>
	Cases maybe be substituted at a later time.