

***FINANCE HONORS SEMINAR***  
***BUSADM 4890H***  
***SPRING 2026***

**INSTRUCTOR:** Prof. Birsel Pirim

**OFFICE:** 242 Fisher Hall

**E-MAIL:** [pirim.1@osu.edu](mailto:pirim.1@osu.edu) (*Please allow 24 hours to respond*)

**WEB PAGE:** Carmen

Mondays 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**OFFICE HOURS:** or by appointment, please email with a subject “BUSAMD 4890H

**CLASS TIME/**

**LOCATION:**

Mondays 2:20 pm - 3:40pm Gerlach Hall #285.

**Course Description:**

This course is a capstone project that involves leadership and service experience. The primary objective of this project is to introduce you to the world of non-profit organizations, which play a vital role in our society and cover a range of institutions and organizations. Throughout the semester, you will partner with two non-profit organizations - Junior Achievement of Central OH and United Way of Central OH- to learn from them and provide recommendations to solve the challenges they are facing. The seminar content mainly focuses on non-profits, the challenges they face, serving on boards, and ends with a panel on how to prepare for your first job and succeed in it after graduation.

Please refer to the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for the key modules. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Reflect on the importance of non-profit organizations in our economy
- Find, read, and summarize primary finance literature
- Think critically about current issues in finance
- Communicate information in several areas in finance through both oral and written forms
- Strengthen writing and oral presentation skills in a manner consistent with future employer expectations
- Evaluate positions in debates and use evidence-based arguments to defend their own positions
- Develop leadership skills.

**Course Structure:**

**Mode of delivery:** “The mode of instruction for each class is determined by the university and is subject to change at the discretion of the university in reliance on the guidance received from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio Department of Health and local health authorities. Unless altered by the university, all classes must be taught in the listed mode of instruction. Instructors are not expected to present sections in multiple teaching modes. Students who are uncomfortable taking courses in-person should consult with their advisor about distance learning options. “Hence, our class will be in-person exception to the office hours.

**Office hours will be VIRTUAL or in person and by appointment: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm (ET)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/4637699590>

Meeting ID: 463 769 9590

Password: 1234

## **Course Materials**

*Wall Street Journal*: \$24 for 1-year subscription. <http://r.wsj.net/nD9L8>

Financial Times: <http://www.ft.com/home/us>

Bloomberg: [www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)

Yahoo! Finance: <http://finance.yahoo.com/>

Freakonomics: <http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/>

Real Time Economics (WSJ): <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/>

Calculated Risk: <http://www.calculatedriskblog.com/>

## **Course Website**

The course website is located on Carmen. A student must be registered for the course to access the course web site.

Important Resources on the Course Website:

- Course syllabus
- Supplemental course material used (or mentioned) in class
- Course announcements
- **Logging in Carmen:** Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.)

## **Course Technology:**

Baseline technical skills necessary for this course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating **Carmen**
- Microsoft Excel

## **Technology Support for Carmen**

As instructor, my responsibility is the course content and evaluating performance. Please contact me about any concerns in these areas. However, I am generally not able to assist in matters relating to technology, connectivity or Carmen access. Such issues may be addressed directly to either Carmen Technical support or Help desk.

Hence sources of help are available from [helpdesk@osu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@osu.edu) (or by phone at 292-8976) and [carmen@osu.edu](mailto:carmen@osu.edu) or 614-688-HELP at any time

## **Communication**

If it is necessary to communicate with the class between class sessions, I will post announcements or send communication via Carmen. Please make sure you have notifications turned on. I assume that you check your e-mail at least once every 24 hours, Monday through Friday, or talk to classmates who check their e-mail daily. I will also check our OSU.EDU emails once every 24 hours for questions Mon - Fri.

## **Groups (see Carmen – click People (on left hand side) – click Groups)**

There will be 5 groups to work in teams for projects throughout the semester. Working in groups throughout the semester will foster teamwork/agility skills and also provide the opportunity to see and learn from different styles. There will be chance to provide feedback on your group mates at the end of semester. This feedback is meant to be constructive and will be solely for the individual student's use.

### **Attendance Policy:**

You are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, and participate in all class discussions and exercises. Missing class is not acceptable if you want to be a member of the Finance Honors Program. However, if you have a situation that might cause you to miss a class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*. Not notifying me of an absence is not acceptable. If there are individual issues as it relates to attendance, they will be quickly addressed, and could result in dismissal from the program.

### **Time Expectations:**

The University and College expectation is that students spend two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. Since this course meets 1hr 20 min hours per week, you should expect to spend around 3 hours per week outside of class on course-related work.

## **Course Requirements and Policies:**

### **1) Capstone Project- Report**

A capstone is a final project that highlights your skills as a future leader in finance as well as analytical thinker and a problem solver. In finance honors program's Capstone project, you will work with a non-profit organization, United Way of Central OH, to learn how they define their mission and make their mission work. You will also see how their finance department operates and understand their key financials. Hence, you will learn how they raise funds and manage their money. Even though you will concentrate in operation of finance department you should be able to speak more broadly about non-profit organization. You will assist with on-going project that may require extensive data collection, analysis, and literature review. The details of the project and report will be discussed in class.

### **2) Capstone Project- Presentation**

Please keep in mind the following points while preparing your presentation. Your presentation should have an

- introduction,
- a discussion of the model/methods used in the project,
- tables and graphs presenting your findings,
- interpretation of the data.
- Lastly, you should provide conclusions and recommendations.

Please note that your presentation should not exceed 20 minutes. The above structure is just an example, and the leadership of United Way of Central OH will define specific components for each project.

### **3) Junior Achievement of Central OH**

Our program has partnered with Junior Achievement of Central Ohio, a non-profit organization that helps young people succeed by teaching them financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship. They are the largest organization in the US that focuses on giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. You can find more information about them at <https://centralohio.ja.org/about/index>.

As a volunteer, you will be supporting their JA in a Day and JA Future Pathways programs.

### **JA in a Day**

JA in a Day is a community engagement experience in which Finance Honors students visit a local elementary school to teach financial literacy concepts to students in grades K–6 using curriculum provided by Junior Achievement. Prior to the visit, students will complete a one-hour training session during regular class time and engage in brief preparation activities. On the day of the event, students will deliver five structured lessons to their assigned classroom. This experience develops communication skills, professionalism, and the ability to translate financial concepts for a non-technical audience.

### **JA Future Pathways**

JA Future Pathways is an outreach program in which Finance Honors students visit a local high school to share their post-high school experiences, including college pathways, internships, and career exploration. The goal of this program is to provide insight from peers aged 18–22 and to foster meaningful dialogue through interactive discussion and Q&A.

We are proud of you for sharing your professional and personal experience to help the younger generation achieve their dreams.

Junior Achievement of Central OH  
68 E. 2nd Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43201

### **4) Class Contribution / Participation**

Your participation- within the classroom as well as outside the classroom is a key element in the design of this course. I expect you to come to class having read and prepared all pre-class assignments. Much of learning will occur through discussion and activities. Discussions in class will help you develop critical thinking and decision-making skills you will need in your business career. A classroom is a cost-free environment for experimenting and learning to “play the game”. Make use of it. Shyness is no excuse. It is expected that your interactions will be well ***informed, constructive and respectful***. I will call on students if needed but voluntary participation is what will be most important for your grade. It is up to you to ask for feedback on your class contribution during the semester.

**Class Participation Rubric:** For your class participation grade, you can earn up to 10 points a week, with a max of 50 points this semester. Class participation accounts for 20 % of your grade. Your grade will be determined by the quality of your contributions to the class discussions.

<b>9 -10 Points</b>	Attends class regularly and always contributes to the discussion by thoughtful questions, building on one’s ideas, expanding the class’ perspective and improving the conversation, and properly challenging assumptions and assessments; shows interest in and respect for others’ views; participates actively in small groups.
<b>6-8 Points</b>	Attends class regularly and sometimes contributes to the discussion in the above-mentioned ways
<b>4-5 Points</b>	Attends class regularly but rarely contributes to the discussion in the above-

	mentioned ways
<b>0-3 Points</b>	Misses classes, or attends classes regularly but never contributes to the discussion in the above-mentioned ways

### 5) Reflection Paper

A final reflection paper about your experience in the finance honors program and your thoughts on working with a nonprofit organization on a Capstone project. To structure your personal reflections, you can answer the following open-ended questions as a framework for sharing your personal reflections:

- 1) How was your experience in the finance honors program, and how did it help you grow personally and professionally?
- 2) How do you plan to engage with nonprofits in the future?
- 3) How do you plan to express your values and theory of change through the nonprofit sector?
- 4) Please discuss the types of nonprofits you hope to be involved with in the future, and what role(s) you plan to take, such as funder, employee, volunteer, or board member.

Your reflection paper should be 2 pages of 12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced text and it is due on May 4<sup>th</sup>, Monday via Carmen until 11:59 pm.

**Course Grading Policy:** Your final course grade will be determined by the following

Category	Due Date	Max Points	Percentage of total grade
Class Contribution/ Participation	All Semester	<b>50 points</b>	<b>10 %</b>
Junior Achievement of Central OH- BizTown Event	<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>20 %</b>
Capstone Project- Non-Profit Report/PowerPoint Presentations	<b>April 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>30 %</b>
Capstone Projects: Group PowerPoint Presentations <b>(Group 1,2, &amp;3 on April 13<sup>th</sup> )</b> <b>(Group 4 &amp; 5 on April 20<sup>th</sup> )</b>	<b>April 13<sup>th</sup> &amp; April 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>100 Points</b>	<b>30 %</b>
Non-Profit Reflection Paper	<b>May 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>10 %</b>

After the total course grade has been calculated for all students, the average for the class is calculated. If the  
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course class average is below 80%, a curve adjustment is applied. The curve adjustment equals 80% minus the course class average. If the course class average is equal or above 80%, a curve adjustment is not applied (that is curve adjustment is zero). **There will be NO extra credit work available in this course.**

The course grade will be converted to a letter grade for the course using the following grading scale:

**Grading scale:**

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

I reserve the right to correct grades recorded on the course website, should we determine such entries were posted incompletely or incorrectly.

**Suggested Readings (Optional):**

Financial Times: <http://www.ft.com/home/us> Bloomberg: [www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)

Yahoo! Finance: <http://finance.yahoo.com/> Freakonomics: <http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/>

Real Time Economics (WSJ): <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/> Calculated Risk: <http://www.calculatedriskblog.com/>

Economy and Economics of Everyday Life: <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com>

**Additional University Policies and Resources**

*You can find a list of university policies and resources at [go.osu.edu/UPolicies](http://go.osu.edu/UPolicies), but here are a few important ones.*

**Religious accommodations:**

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an

absence approved under this policy. If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the Office of Institutional Equity.

### ***USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):***

Unless we specifically mention otherwise (and in writing), the use of any AI-generated content in any deliverables in this course will be considered academic misconduct and will be acted on as such. Writing assignments will be turned in online and I will be using Turnitin and other applications that have AI detection algorithms. You need to complete the assignments using your own brain and your own thinking...which will lead to more of your own learning!

### ***Disenrollment:***

Fisher College University Rule 3335-8-33 provides that a student may be disenrolled after the third instructional day of the quarter, the first Friday of the quarter, or the student's second class session of the course, whichever occurs first, if the student fails to attend the scheduled course without giving prior notification to the instructor.

### ***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, 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. You can also review these resources:

- [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)

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

It is also expected that each student will behave in a manner that is consistent with the Fisher Honor Statement, which reads as follows:

*As a member of the Fisher College of Business Community, I am personally committed to the highest standards of behavior. Honesty and integrity are the foundations from which I will measure my*

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*actions. I will hold myself accountable to adhere to those standards. As a future leader in the community and business environment, I pledge to live by these principles and celebrate those who share these ideals.*

Finance Honors Programs students are expected to be the leaders of integrity, and anything less will not be acceptable.

### ***Statement on Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and Title IX:***

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.

**Title IX** makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Melissa Mayhan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu) or 614-247-5838

### **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. 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](http://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](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org) (suicidepreventionlifeline.org) or by calling [1-800-273-8255\(TALK\)](tel:1-800-273-8255). The [Ohio State Wellness app](http://go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) (go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) is also a great resource.

### **Accommodations for Accessibility:**

### **Health and COVID Related Accommodation Process**

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](http://slds.osu.edu).

### **SLDS Requesting Accommodations**

If you would like to request academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, contact your instructor privately as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. The discussions are confidential.

To establish reasonable accommodations, I 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. Students registered with Student Life Disability Services should work directly with their [Assigned Access Specialist](#) to modify their accommodations or make additional COVID-based accommodation requests.

Please visit <http://ods.osu.edu> for more information.

SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

### **Tentative Course Schedule:**

The following describes the tentative course schedule. The topics covered on each proposed day may change as the semester progresses, but the general order will not vary. If you have any questions, please feel free to come and see me. The following outline is the order of our seminar (I reserve the right to change this outline when necessary).

### **Spring Semester 2026**

#### **Tentative Course Schedule**

#### **Week # 1**

<b>January 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Syllabus & Projects & Group Assignments
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#### **Week # 2**

<b>January 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Class / Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
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#### **Week # 3**

<b>January 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Capstone Project Sponsor: Juliana Hardymon, CPA, CFO</b> Vice President, Finance and United Way of Central Ohio
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**Week # 4**

<b>February 2nd</b>	Working Session for the Projects
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**Week # 5**

<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	United Way of Central Ohio – Applied Working Session with Juliana Hardimon (Client Partner)
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**Week # 6**

<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Junior Achievement – In-Class Financial Literacy Workshops session
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**Week # 7**

<b>February 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Working with 501c-3 Non-Profit Organizations  <b>Guest Speaker:</b> Prof. Erynn Beaton John Glenn College of Public Affairs The Ohio State University
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**Week # 8**

<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Working session with Juliana Hardymon, UWCO (Q&A session)
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**Week # 9**

<b>March 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Visit to United Way of Central OH's office in downtown Columbus
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**Week # 10**

<b>March 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES</b>
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**Week # 11**

<b>March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	No Class – Due to Junor Achievement Volunteering
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## Week # 12

<b>March 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Project - Working Session with Juliana Hardymon, UWCO
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## Week # 13

<b>April 6<sup>th</sup></b>	No- Class due to Junior Achievement Volunteering
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## Week # 14

<b>April 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<p style="color: red;"><b><u>Capstone Project Reports and Presentations due for all groups.</u></b></p> <p style="color: black;">Project Presentations (<b>Groups 1, 2 and 3</b>)</p>
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## Week #15

<b>April 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Project Presentations ( <b>Groups 4 and 5</b> )
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## Week #16

<b>April 27<sup>th</sup> Last day of class</b>	<p><b>Panel of Financial Professionals:</b> What to expect from your first job and how to succeed in first year after graduation.</p> <p>Final Reflection Paper is due on <b>May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026</b></p> <p>Congratulation on your big accomplishment! Proud of you!</p>
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*Good Luck!*