



Corporate Finance – BUSFIN 4211 Syllabus (Spring 2026)

**Instructor:**

Professor Christopher O'Daniel, CFA Department of Finance, [odaniel.24@osu.edu](mailto:odaniel.24@osu.edu)  
Office hours: Tuesdays 9AM to 12PM, posted to the Carmen course website (below the NYSE Stock Exchange building on the Landing page, there is a link to schedule an office hour appointment)

**Safety and health requirements:**

All teaching staff and students are required to comply with and stay up to date on all [University safety and health guidance](#).

**Class Meeting Schedule:** Course Schedule as posted by registrar and on Carmen, differs by Professor.

Content Posted: (Friday) Weekly Module with additional resources + Assignments will be posted

**Meet: Monday/Tuesday on day and at time for your section (live in-class session):**

reinforce key learning outcomes that you need to master. Also, we will break students into groups, use polling features to gauge students' understanding, and have a forum for Q&A.

**Meet: Wednesday/Thursday on day and at time for your section (live in-class session):**

typically, this day is a continuation of material previously touched on or introduction to new topical areas.

Student progress toward attaining the learning outcomes, via completed practice exercises, will influence your overall grade for the semester.

**Course Materials / Software:**

**Required Texts/Materials:**

1. Textbook (Custom e-text, available through CarmenBooks)  
Title: Fundamentals of Financial Management, 16<sup>th</sup> Edition, plus content from Intermediate Financial Management, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition Author(s): Brigham and Houston; Brigham and Daves  
Publisher: Cengage

The textbook is the primary source of pre-lecture readings. You are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to class. This will aid your ability to participate in class discussions and make the lectures a better learning experience for all.

We are working hard in BUSFIN 4211 to make this class as affordable as possible. As a part of that, we enrolled the course in the OSU CarmenBooks program for the Spring term. The charge for the text access will be applied to your OSU account and this will provide you with direct access to the digital text.

If you haven't used CarmenBooks before, you can learn more about the program at <https://affordablelearning.osu.edu/carmenbooks/students>. If you have already purchased a copy of the book, you can opt-out and be refunded at <https://teaching.resources.osu.edu/form/carmenbooks-opt-out>.

Recommended: The Wall Street Journal. Access a WSJ subscription: [WSJ.com/OhioState](https://www.wsj.com/ohio-state).

### **Course Description:**

The course introduces students to key concepts in financial management, including financial securities, capital budgeting, working capital management, risk and return, cost of capital, capital structure, valuation and M&A. The course covers financial economics theory as well as empirical evidence on corporate financial policies and applications. It is intended for students aspiring to careers in finance. Prerequisites: BUSFIN 3220.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Value Bonds and Equity (via DCF and Market Multiples approach)
- Use NPV decision making framework in Excel
- Understand ways to identify and improve working capital (AR, Inv, AP)
- Understand the principles behind WACC and quickly/efficiently calculate WACC with a variety of inputs
- Identify the pros and cons of various capital structure choices, how to raise debt/equity, and how firms use their excess cash to maximize shareholder return
- Understand the principles behind good (and bad) acquisition strategies

### **How This Course Works:**

**Mode of delivery:** This course is in-person twice a week, supplemented with content to review prior, during, and after class. Relying solely on the powerpoint presentations to acquire the learning outcomes is not recommended.

**Pace of activities:** This course is divided into weekly modules that are released on Friday. Students are expected to keep pace with weekly deadlines but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

**Credit hours and work expectations:** This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to [Ohio State policy](#), students should expect around an average of 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example). In an online environment, time management and planning is critical skill.

Students that are most successful typically read the assigned chapters prior to in class lecture. Then, attend the lecture, ask questions, and take notes. Students then complete the practice exercises for that material. If they have additional questions or concerns, they are able to schedule an appointment in office hours (Tuesdays, 9AM to 12PM). Finally, they come class prepared to complete one of three quizzes and one Final Exam during semester.

**Attendance and participation requirements:** The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- **Participating in online activities for attendance:**  
You are expected to log in to the course in Carmen every week. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me as soon as possible.
- **Office hours and class sessions:**  
All live, scheduled events for the course, are recommended. The instructor will take attendance and review participation in TopHat. Office hours are optional.

### **Course technology:**

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at [ocio.osu.edu/help/hours](https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours), and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** [ocio.osu.edu/help](https://ocio.osu.edu/help)
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** [servicedesk@osu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@osu.edu)
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Baseline technical skills for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen: for questions about specific functionality, see the [Canvas Student Guide](#).

Required Technology skills specific to this course

- [CarmenZoom virtual meetings](#)
- [Recording a slide presentation with audio narration](#)
- [Recording, editing, and uploading video](#)

#### Required equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) or landline to use for BuckeyePass authentication

#### Required software

- [Microsoft Office 365](#): All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft's Student Advantage program. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found [at go.osu.edu/office365help](https://go.osu.edu/office365help).

#### Carmen access

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](#) 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 take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a 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.
- Download the [Duo Mobile application](#) to 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) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

#### **Grading and Evaluation:**

Graded assignments may come in three forms, and students should note the expectations for each in the descriptions of our class assignments below.

- Independent Work (↑): Strictly non-collaborative, original-individual work. You may discuss this assignment only with your instructor. Discussions with other individuals, either in person or electronically, are strictly prohibited.
- Collaboration Required (👥): An explicit expectation for collaboration among students either in-class or outside (i.e. group work).
- Optional-Collaboration (❤️): Students are permitted, but not required, to discuss the assignment or ideas with each other. However, all submitted work must be one's original and individual creation.

Assignment Name	Points / Weight	Assignment Type
Quizzes (3 in total, each worth 30 points)	90	↑
Team Current Event Presentation	30	↑↑↑
Practice Quizzes – completed outside of class	75	↑
Final Exam	40	↑
<b>TOTAL COURSE POINTS</b>	<b>235</b>	

### **Course Assignments:**

#### **Quizzes**

There are 3 graded quizzes in Carmen over the course of the semester. You will take these “live” during class time on a Thursday with your laptop. You must be in person. Not attending class to take a quiz in person without a valid medical reason or emergency excuse will result in a score of 0 for that quiz. Quizzes for my sections will take place on Thursdays: February 5, March 5, and April 2.

Questions/answers will be randomized and quiz is only open during a window of class time. Students complete these individually, adhering to OSU’s Academic Integrity standards (see further in syllabus).

#### **Current Event Presentation**

Your group will be assigned a relevant topic covered in the semester. You then need to find an article(s) in the WSJ, Bloomberg News, or other financial literature about the topic.

Presentation should be no more than 10 minutes in length, and then allow for 2-3 minutes of Q&A from the class. The goal is to connect the class to relevant news based on what we learned (or will learn) in lecture. Groups should succinctly summarize the topic; offer their analysis of the issue, problem, or opportunity; and provide their point of view or recommendation. Not everyone needs to present, but it is expected that everyone contributes (i.e. does work behind the scenes). Please have the powerpoint presentation uploaded to Carmen prior to your scheduled class.

At the end of the semester, you will be required to complete a simple peer feedback assessment (shared only with Professor). You will grade your group mates as “above”, “meeting”, or “below” expectations for all the group work this semester.

#### **Practice exercises**

There are graded Practice Exercises in Carmen which cover each of the fifteen e-book chapters included in the course. You are to complete these outside of class based on a time that you choose but before a scheduled due date posted to Carmen. Not completing a Practice Exercise prior to a scheduled due date will result in a score of 0 for that Practice Exercise. To have a Practice Exercise due date rescheduled owing to a family or health care emergency, documentation must be provided.

***Other materials that are “fair game”*** You should be prepared to answer reasonable questions from in class discussions and current event presentations on quizzes and exams.

### **Final Exam**

It is not cumulative but places more weight on the second half of the course, which builds on material from the first half. It will consist of 40 multiple choice and/or True-False questions. The Registrar schedules Final Exams. For the SP 2026 semester, the Final Exam is scheduled as follows: Friday, May 1 from 8-9:45PM.

### **Grading Scale:**

The percentages below are the absolute cut-offs for letter grade. There is no rounding, there is no curve, and there is no extra credit. This is the OSU standard scheme A-E.

Grade	Range
A	100% to 93%
A-	< 93% to 90%
B+	< 90% to 87%
B	< 87% to 83%
B-	< 83% to 80%
C+	< 80% to 77%
C	< 77% to 73%
C-	< 73% to 70%
D+	< 70% to 67%
D	< 67% to 60%
E	< 60%

In keeping with Fisher College policy, I strive to have the average GPA for the course in the following range: UG Non-Core Specialization Required Classes 2.9 – 3.3

### **Additional grading details**

- It is possible to earn any of the official OSU grades, from A to E, in this course.
- Grades are intended to reflect the overall quality of performance of the student(s). If you think your grade on an exam or assignment does not reflect the quality of your performance, submit a clear written explanation of your reasoning within one week after the return of your assignment or test. The written document need not be long, but must clearly identify the problem or issue of concern. The entire exam or assignment will be checked for grading errors, and correcting these could either raise or lower the overall score. There will be no grading appeals or changes in marks after the one-week deadline has passed.

### **Optional Course Materials**

Optional materials that are included with the e-book are recommended. The e-book publisher, Cengage, has grouped student exercises and other learning tools inside MindTap. The e-book chapters are organized into folders (see the Cengage material inside CarmenCanvas). Each folder includes these icons:

✓  **Learn It**

✓  **Study It**

✓  **Apply It**

Under Learn It, videos providing background on course topics appear. Under Study It, there are Blueprint Problems and Adaptive Test Prep questions. The resources inside Study It are useful for test preparation. Under Apply It, students can acquire skills in Excel and sharpen their understanding of course related topics.

### **Absence and Makeup Policy:**

There are no make-ups for graded assignments in Carmen or “live” quizzes/exams, except via permission within 2 days of the exam via evidence of a clear emergency\* (e.g. admitted to doctor for illness).

### **Instructor Feedback and Response Expectations:**

- **Email Response Times:** within 48 hours. Please email again if you do not receive a response. We have many students this semester, so will not take offense or seem “bothered” if you reach out multiple times.
- **Graded Materials Return Times:** within one week for cases.
- **SEIs:** These are a crucial feedback tool for Fisher and for me personally. If you are really enjoying class content/delivery, then please let your instructor know before end of semester. And conversely, if you are struggling or not feeling like the course is delivering on expectations, then please reach out to your instructor as soon as issues pop up. In this class, it is critical that you not “sit” on feedback/questions. We want to help you but need to know if you have issues/questions.

### **Academic integrity:**

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 (<https://trustees.osu.edu/bylaws-and-rules/code>) and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct (<https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-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 we suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, we are 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 your instructor.

### **Disability Services:**

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. 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. 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, you should register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

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

### **Accommodated Quizzes and Exams:**

Student Life Disability Services will proctor exams for students with accommodations that necessitate in-person testing. Exam services is open from 8am-8:30pm M-Th and 8am-5pm F. Students with the following exam accommodations may schedule to take their exams at SLDS:

- Accessible formats (e.g. braille, large print, screen-free)
- Assistive technology (e.g. JAWS, CCTV)
- Private testing room accommodation ☐ Test assistant (reader or scribe)

Students requesting exam accommodations not listed above, such as extended time or a smallgroup testing space, will need to take their exam off-site utilizing Carmen or other virtual assessment method. For more information on operational changes, visit the [SLDS website](#).

### **Additional Course Policies**

**Use of AI:** There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, Sudowrite and others. These tools will help shape the future of work, research and technology but when used in the wrong way, they can stand in conflict with academic integrity at Ohio State.



All students have important obligations under the Code of Student Conduct to complete all academic and scholarly activities with fairness and honesty. Specifically, students are not to use unauthorized assistance in the laboratory, on field work, in scholarship or on a course assignment unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor. In addition, students are not to submit their work without acknowledging any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing, ideas or other work that is not your own. These requirements apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use.

Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor. AI tools should not be used in the completion of the course assignments for BUSFIN 4211.

**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 [Civil Rights Compliance Office](#).

Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#)

### **Course Schedule:**

The schedule for your section will be posted on Carmen and also reflected in the structure of the Carmen site for the course. The posted schedule is subject to change depending upon circumstances and how long it takes to cover each topic, so please check Carmen regularly for updates (which will also be clearly announced on Carmen, when they take place). A version of the course schedule appears below.

### **Copyright:**

© 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.

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE – Subject to Change Weeks listed by Tuesday and Thursday Lecture Dates**

Week 1: Course Introduction, Chapters 5, 6 and 7 in the *Fundamentals* e-book.

- Practice Quizzes due Monday, January 19

Week 2: Chapters 11 and 12 in the *Fundamentals* e-book.

- Practice Quizzes due Monday, January 26

Week 3: Chapter 16 in the *Fundamentals* e-book.

- Practice Quiz due Monday, February 2

Week 4: Review.

- Quiz #1 is Thursday, February 5

Week 5: Chapter 8 in the *Fundamentals* e-book.

- Practice Quiz is due Monday, February 16

Week 6: Chapter 8 in the *Intermediate* e-book.

- Practice Quiz is due Monday, February 23

Week 7: Chapters 18 in the *Intermediate* e-book.

- Practice Quiz is due Monday, March 2

Week 8: Review.

- Quiz #2 is Thursday, March 5

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Week 9: Chapters 16 and 17 in the *Intermediate* e-book.

Week 10: Spring Break – no classes or assignments

Week 11: Chapters 10 and 14 in the *Fundamentals* e-book.

- Practice Quizzes due Monday, March 30

Week 12: Review

- Quiz #3 is Thursday, April 2

Week 13: Chapter 15 in the *Fundamentals* e-book.

- Practice Quiz due April 13

Week 14: Chapter 21 in the *Fundamentals* e-book.

- Current Events Presentations (approximately one-half of the class presents)
- Practice Quiz due April 20

Week 15: Review for Final Exam

- Current Events Presentations (the remaining one-half of the class presents)