

## **BUSFIN 4630H: Honors Finance Senior Capstone Class Seminar, Fall 2021**

*August 2021 – Subject to Updates and Changes*

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We will convene class in person (following proper PPE safety and physical distancing protocols as designated by the University). Please read more here: <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/current-students>

All teaching staff and students are required to comply with and stay up to date on all [University safety and health guidance](#), which includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space. Non-compliance will be warned first and disciplinary actions will be recorded for repeat offenses.

**We will meet in person Tuesday and Thursday from 11:10am to 12:30pm in SB 200.**

### **Course Overview**

The course is a culmination of finance training throughout the program. It will leverage real-world examples across industries to teach advanced topics on financial management within small and large firms. Industry experts will be leveraged throughout the semester to reinforce material. The course is highly interactive as students will need to come prepared each class to discuss and apply the material. Course will leverage case studies, simulations, written reflections, and role play exercises. ***You should have high expectations of me to deliver new and practical training.*** Essentially, I want you to walk away with a toolkit that you can apply in a variety of scenarios upon graduation. ***Conversely, my expectations for you will be high. This is a 3 credit hour course and you will get out of it what you put into it.*** The pacing of activity may feel intense at times, so pace yourselves and plan ahead. This will not be an “easy A” like Junior seminar. This is a full 3 credit hour capstone course. Time management and maintaining focus will be key enabler to your success in this course, especially as we adapt in a post-COVID world.

The course is divided into three broad themes:

1. First part of class will highlight specific experiences/skills you can leverage early in your career at a variety of large MNC companies, working with other functions (e.g. Marketing, Sales, Operations).
2. We transition to more senior decision making and macro decisions that Finance helps influence.
3. And finally, we end the course with more of an external viewpoint: hearing from a variety of CFOs and each other via team presentations so you have a better grasp on the evolving world of Finance.

### **Course Material**

Material will be posted on Carmen and discussed in class. This will come in the form of instructor's own material along with supplemental articles or assignments. There is no required text book.

The course will require the purchase of a case/simulation/exercise packet from Harvard Business Review website (\$42). Follow this link and it will walk you through the steps to set up an account to purchase the packet (use osu.edu email): <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/853058>

Wall Street Journal: Access monthly WSJ subscription for \$4 a month (cancel anytime). Here is referral link to access this price: <https://r.wsj.com/PROFwjqu>

### **Grading (see course schedule at end of syllabus for details and timing)**

Students should notify instructor one week in advance if they will be unable to attend class. Unless there is a documented medical emergency, there are no exceptions for assignments submitted late. Time management is needed in this course (and your career); students can plan accordingly using Carmen due dates and the course schedule at end of syllabus. *Point totals listed to the right are the cut-offs for letter grades. No rounding.*

- **Participation**

Participation in case discussions and asking questions during class will be monitored. Your engagement level with the course material inside and outside class will influence your grade at the end of semester.

- **Reflections/Homework Exercises**

Throughout the semester, there will be multiple chances to read material before class and respond to questions. This will then form basis of discussion in class that week. For graded assignments, scoring rubrics will be published ahead.

Grade	Points	%
A	218.0	92.8%
A-	211.0	89.8%
B+	204.0	86.8%
B	195.0	83.0%
B-	188.0	80.0%
C+	181.0	77.0%
C	172.0	73.2%
C-	164.0	69.8%
	235	total

- **Case Studies/Simulations**

For case discussions/simulations, you will be given preparation questions to help guide your analysis. At a minimum, you should address the study questions prior to class, but I encourage you to think about relevant issues beyond the questions in the guidelines. The case grade reflects both your preparation of the case materials and your participation in the case discussion. You will submit your case brief to Carmen by the published due date.

For some cases, you will be assigned a group of 4 or 5 (via Carmen → click People → click Groups) so that you can work together, brainstorm ideas, and deliver a better end-product. It is important for the group to communicate regularly and share with me if the other individuals are not doing their perceived fair share. Only one upload submission per group is required in Carmen. At the end of the semester, you will be required to complete a simple peer feedback assessment (shared only with me). You will grade your groupmates as “above”, “meeting”, or “below” expectations for the groupwork this semester.

- **Final Presentation**

Working in your group, identify and present on a relevant current event topic that was covered in class this semester. This involves finding an article in the WSJ, Bloomberg News, consulting publications, or other financial literature about the topics discussed this semester.

Presentation should be no more than 10 minutes in length, and then allow for 5 minutes of Q&A from the class. The goal is to connect the class to relevant events based on what we learned this semester. Teach us something new and/or reinforce class learning with tangible examples.

Groups should succinctly summarize the topic; offer their analysis of the issue, problem, or opportunity; and provide their point of view or recommendation. Groups will submit presentation ahead of class as select number of students will be assigned to review and come prepared with questions after the group presents.

## Course Policies

- **Professionalism**

Professionalism includes arriving on time and prepared, asking thoughtful questions, answering questions, and contributing to a positive classroom environment. Using the Zoom interface will be a similar experience to what you will face in Company meetings upon graduation. We will have numerous guest speakers this semester. Leverage their experience and network to apply what you are learning and add to your career toolkit.

- **Course website**

We will maintain a website through Carmen. The URL is <https://carmen.osu.edu>. We will use the website to post course slides, recorded lectures, case preparation questions, take exams, etc. It is important that you check it regularly and have notifications “turned on” for when announcements are made and/or the course is modified.

- **Grade Change Policy**

Grade appeals must be emailed **within one week** after the graded work is made available. The entire document will be checked for grading errors, and correcting these could either **raise** or **lower** the overall score.

- **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 we 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 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 us.

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

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages (COAM Home)
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (Ten Suggestions)
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity ([www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm](http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm))

- **Office of Disability Services (ODS)**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss his/her specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

- **Time Expectations**

The University and College expectation is that students spend two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. Since this is a 3 credit hour course, you should expect to spend around 6-8 hours per week on course-related work.

### **Student COVID-related Accommodation Process**

The university is committed to supporting students and program participants with COVID-19 based risk factors. Student Life Disability Services, in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Equity, will work with students who are vulnerable to complications from COVID-19 to ensure that they have the necessary resources to participate in university life as safely as possible. Ohio State students from any campus may submit a [COVID-](#)

[related accommodation request](#). Students registered with Student Life Disability Services can work directly with their [assigned Access Specialist](#) to modify their accommodations or make additional COVID-based accommodation requests.

**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 me 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 Exams - COVID-19 Operational Adjustments**

In order to promote the health and safety of students, Student Life Disability Services will only proctor exams for students with accommodations that necessitate in-person testing for autumn 2020. Modified exam hours for autumn 2020 are 9 AM – 5 PM.

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 small-group 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](#).

**Tentative Course Schedule (on next page)**

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class may be necessary.*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Section 1: redefining the role Finance can play at a Company</b>	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug
		Intro, Expectations, Course Outline; Form Working Teams		Summer Reflection Due + Discussion What is most pressing right now?	
	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep
	pre-read	Total Shareholder Return Strategic Revenue Management		Company TSR Mapping Student Input to Syllabus	
	6-Sep	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep
	Labor Day - No Class	Company Budgeting and Financial Planning Cycle		Lecture Continued + Examples + Flash Memory Case Intro	
	13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep
		Team working session on Flash Case		Flash Memory Due + Debrief	
	20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep
	pre-read	Using Leading KPIs and Scorecards to Drive Action		Lecture Continued + Examples + Simulation Intro	
<b>Section 2: Senior decision making and macro decisions that Finance helps influence.</b>	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct
		Team working session on Simulation		Simulation Debrief + Final Presentation Intro	
	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct
	Sim write-up due	Corporate Tax Structure and Transfer Pricing	pre-read Cameco Case	Team working session on Cameco Case	
	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct
	Cameco write- up due	Final Presentation Topics Submitted Corporate Governance, Bankruptcy, Restructuring		Fall Break - No Class	
	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct
	Co. Distress Reflection due	Lecture Continued + Reflection Discussion + Pinewood Role-Playing Intro		Team working session on Pinewood	
	25-Oct	26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct
		First 30 min: Final Q&A with Chad Last 50 min: Begin role-playing exercise		Finalize Pinewood role-play negotiations	
<b>Section 3: External Viewpoints on the evolving world of Finance</b>	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov
	Pinewood write- up due	Divestiture Lecture	pre-read + reflection	Discuss Articles and Opel Case Intro	
	8-Nov	9-Nov	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov
		Opel Case Working Session	Opel due 11:59pm	Veteran's Day - No Class	
	15-Nov	16-Nov	17-Nov	18-Nov	19-Nov
		Debrief Opel + Intro Financial Analysis Detective		Sim Working Session (Individual)	
	22-Nov	23-Nov	24-Nov	25-Nov	26-Nov
	Sim write-up due	CFO Series Guest Speaker	Thanksgiving Break - No Class		
	29-Nov	30-Nov	1-Dec	2-Dec	3-Dec
		CFO Series Guest Speaker	Presentations Due 11:59pm	Final Team Presentations (6 x 10 min each + Q&A)	
	6-Dec	7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec
		Life After College:ask Chad any question you want + 3m3 lecture + SEIs	Guest Speaker Reflection Due		