

Semester: Autumn 2023**Class Day/Time:** Tues/Thurs, 8-10am**Room:** GE 365**Instructor:** Chad Zipfel **Office:** Fisher Hall 312 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chad-zipfel-ba5759103/>**Office Hours:** by appointment, please email me directly at Zipfel.4@osu.edu.*With 6 classes this semester, it is best to meet me Tues/Thurs at 7am*

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. The link to purchase is in Carmen.

Coursepack: <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/1098646>

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

	Graded Item	% of Total	Points
Optional Collaboration	HW 1	4%	5
	HW 2	4%	5
	HW 3	4%	5
	HW 4	4%	5
	HW 5	4%	5
Group	Simulation Competition	12%	15
Group	Team Current Event Presentation	12%	15
Solo	Exam 1	24%	30
Solo	Exam 2	24%	30
Solo	Integration Session	8%	10

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 Aplia end-of-chapter problems and Excel practice in MindTap. Please use these as you see fit.

Team Current Event Project: Working in Teams, you will choose a finance related topic to research and present to the class. The goal is to demonstrate your comprehension of the topic, while also teaching the class about it in a manner that is engaging and stimulates conversation. More details and rubric to be shared in class.

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.

Exams: There will be two exams. The exams will not be cumulative. However, basic concepts like the time value of money will carry through the entire course. All exams will be open-book, open-note. You will need 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.

The remaining 10% of the grade will be based on your contributions to the Integration sessions.

From Director Kendall:

“Successful management requires a cross-functional mindset. To facilitate development of cross-functional thinking there will be twelve “Integration Sessions” on Thursday afternoons. These sessions will consist of activities designed to integrate concepts across multiple core subjects. Full participation in Integration Sessions is expected, and is part of a student’s grade for all autumn core classes. If MBA-related activities such as a case competitions or conferences conflict with an integration session, a student can request an excused absence from a given session by emailing the program director (Kendall.185@osu.edu) and the session instructors before the start of the session. Note that unexcused and/or excessive absences from Integration Sessions will result in the student receiving a grade reduction across all autumn core courses. Failure to fully participate in these activities, as well as unprofessional or disruptive behaviors, will also result a grade reduction. Note that the grade reduction can be up to 10% of the total course grade and will be assessed consistently across all autumn core courses.”

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 MindTap homework. For exams, please notify me in advance of the exam to schedule a makeup.

Attendance / Participation Expectations:

You need to attend the first class meeting, or risk being disenrolled, per University policy. Aside from this, I do not take attendance.

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 come to this course with a variety of backgrounds. Students who have strong math skills and have had a finance course in the past have generally done well. Students who do not like math, 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 and C. Students who have weaker backgrounds in math and no background in finance will need to put in the time before class on A in order to be the most productive while in class.

Course Calendar

Week of	Tues	Thursday	Cengage HW	Due Date
25-Sep-23	Course/Instructor Intro Ch 1 - via video modules	Ch 4: TVM	Ch 4 = 10 questions	Oct 1st
2-Oct-23	Ch 5: Interest Rates and Bonds	Ch 5: Continued	Ch 5 = 10 questions	Oct 8th
9-Oct-23	Ch 6: Risk & Return	No Class - Fall Break		
16-Oct-23	Ch 7: Valuation DCF	Ch 7: Valuation (Other)	Ch 7 = 9 questions	Oct 22nd
23-Oct-23	Review in Class, come with Q&A	Exam 1 in Class		
30-Oct-23	Ch 9: Cost of Capital	Ch 9: Cont (Debt/Equity)	Ch 9 = 10 questions	Nov 5th
6-Nov-23	Student Presentations (Teams 1-5)	Student Presentations (Teams 6-10)		
13-Nov-23	Ch 10 & 11: Capital Budgeting NPV/IRR	Ch 10&11 cont: Capital Budgeting NPV/IRR	Ch 10 = 10 questions	Nov 19th
20-Nov-23	Simulation in Class: Compete in Teams	No Class - Thanksgiving		
27-Nov-23	CFO: Guest Speaker	Review in Class, come with Q&A		
4-Dec-23	Final Exam 12/5 in class (material since midterm)			