

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA – AIKEN
ABUS 363 – BUSINESS FINANCE
COURSE SYLLABUS FALL 2008, SECT. 300, MW 6:00-7:15

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Leach

OFFICE: 226 Business & Education Building

PHONE: Office (803) 641-3713 E-Mail: RobertL@usca.edu

OFFICE HOURS: MW 2:00 – 6:00
(and by appointment)

PREREQUISITES: ABUS 225

CREDIT HOURS: Three (3)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is the first course in finance and is designed to introduce you to the basic tools and concepts necessary to understand the financial aspects of a business. For those who wish to be a finance major, this course provides the necessary foundation upon which higher level finance courses will be built. For those who don't wish to be a finance major, this class contains the necessary information that any professional manager (regardless of speciality) needs in order to understand how corporate financial decisions are and should be made. Many topics discussed in this course can also be applied to your personal financial decisions, such as financing a house or car, planning for retirement or a child's college education, etc.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MISSION STATEMENT:

The School of Business Administration focuses on creating a caring learning environment in its accredited undergraduate program. The program prepares students to successfully meet the dynamic global, technological, and ethical challenges of business and society.

RELATIONSHIP OF COURSE TO SOBA MISSION:

This course is required of all majors as a part of the core curriculum of business administration. It presents students with fundamental financial principles essential to understand the integration of basic financial concepts into management, marketing, accounting, and other business courses.

REQUIRED TEXT: Ross, Westerfield and Jordan, Essentials of Corporate Finance, sixth edition, 2008, McGraw-Hill Irwin.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There will be 4 quizzes, 3 mid-term examinations, and a final examination. Mid-terms 1 and 2 each count for 15 percent of the final grade, mid-term 3 and the final each count for 25 percent of the final grade, and each quiz 5 percent of the final grade. Total points earned will be converted to a letter grade based upon the following scale:

90 and above	A
88 - 89%	B+
80 - 87%	B
78 - 79%	C+
70 - 77%	C
68 - 69%	D+
60 - 67%	D
below	F

THE BLACKBOARD LEARNING SYSTEM:

The Blackboard Learning System will be used to present class materials and notes.

The URL of Blackboard is <http://blackboard.sc.edu>. If you have never logged into the system, you will need to log into VIP, click Technology, Network Username (Blackboard, University E-Mail, Dept. Networks), Password Reset. Your username will appear and then you will create a password.

GRADING POLICY:

Final Grades:

Final course grades are based primarily on the objective measurement criteria outlined above; however, the ultimate determination of final grades rests with the instructor's evaluation and application of these criteria.

University policy prohibits giving an incomplete grade for failing work. **Under no circumstance will any single individual be awarded the opportunity to earn "extra credit" (e.g., write a paper, do a project, etc.) to remedy a failing or otherwise marginal grade.**

<u>Tentative Testing Schedule:</u>	<u>Date</u>
Quiz 1	Sept. 11
Exam 1	Sept. 18
Quiz 2	Oct. 2
Exam 2	Oct. 14
Quiz 3	Nov. 6
Exam 3	Nov. 13
Quiz 4	Nov. 25
Final Exam	Dec. 12 (7:00)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

1. MATERIAL COVERAGE ON EXAMS. Material included on exams may cover class discussions, lecture items, reading assignments, homework/other assigned material, or any other material on which the instructor believes is reasonable to request the students to demonstrate competency.
2. STRUCTURE OF EXAMS. The structure of each exam will include the following formats: multiple choice, essay, computational problems.
3. PREPARATION OF EXAMS. Unless otherwise indicated, PENCILS should be used on all exams. Failure to present an essay response requiring the use of computations/graphs in a neat, well labeled, organized and professional manner will result in a substantial grade penalty.
4. HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS. Homework assignments are made for your benefit. I will attempt to cover a majority of the problems in class. You should look upon the assignments as an individual learning tool. All solutions will be provided upon request. Generally, there is a strong correlation between the time spent working on assigned homework problems and the student's final grade.
5. MISSED EXAMS. Students are expected to take examinations and quizzes when they are scheduled. Should a student miss a regularly scheduled examination/quiz for a legitimate reason, a make up will be permitted only in the event written documentation for the extenuating circumstance exists and that makeup must be taken before the next class meeting. In the event of one or more unexcused absence, the weight of the missed exam(s) (not quizzes) will be added to the final examination which will cover material from the missed exam(s).

6. **CLASS ATTENDANCE.** The USCA School of Business attendance policy will be followed. **In this class you must attend at least 80 percent of the classes (miss no more than 5 classes) in order to earn credit for the class – NO EXCEPTIONS.**
7. **CLASS PREPARATION.** Each student is expected to be completely prepared for each class meeting by reading and/or writing all assigned work. Each student is expected to actively participate in class discussions (where appropriate), to write all exams and to avail himself/herself of the instructor's assistance whenever necessary in order to achieve competency and understanding of the course material.
8. **SYLLABUS DATES.** The dates in the syllabus are tentative. The instructor reserves the right to alter the dates (and material coverage) indicated in the syllabus as determined by the need of material presentation and environmental circumstances. Every effort will be made to hold exams on the dates scheduled; however, verbal notification during any regularly scheduled class meeting period will constitute sufficient notification to effect such change under this syllabus.
9. **WITHDRAWAL POLICY.** "Under the course withdrawal policy, students may withdraw from a course until the withdrawal deadline and the mark of 'W' will be assigned. Students are required to check with their instructor and obtain the instructor's signature on the withdrawal form. No withdrawals will be permitted after the course withdrawal deadline. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course or stay in for a grade." **THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW IS OCTOBER 16.**
10. **STUDENT DISABILITY.** If you have a physical, psychological, and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, 803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disability Services Office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

CT (Critical Thinking and Concepts Review)

Q&P (Questions and Problems)

- Chapter 1: Introduction to Financial Management (CT 1-7)
- Chapter 2: Financial Statements, Taxes, and Cash Flow (CT 1-9; Q&P 1-14)
- Chapter 3: Working with Financial Statements (CT 2, 3, 7; Q&P 1-10, 19, 23-26)
- Chapter 4: Introduction to Valuation (CT 1-4, 8; Q&P 1-7, 9, 17, 19)
- Chapter 5: Discounted Cash Flow Valuation (CT 1,2; Q&P 4, 5, 7-10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, 25)
- Chapter 6: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation (CT 1-3, 6, 8, 9; Q&P 1-4, 6, 9, 10, 12)
- Chapter 7: Equity Markets and Stock Valuation (CT 1, 4-7, 11; Q&P 1-5, 7, 8, 10-12)
- Chapter 8: Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria (CT 1, 2, 5, 6; Q&P 1, 3, 6-9, 14, 15)
- Chapter 9: Making Capital Investment Decisions (CT 1, 3-5, 11; Q&P 1, 2, 9, 10, 13)
- Chapter 10: Some Lessons from Capital Market History (CT 3-7, 9; Q&P 1, 2, 4, 7, 13, 14, 23)
- Chapter 11: Risk and Return (CT 1, 3, 6, 8; Q&P 2, 5, 7, 8, 11-16, 19, 22, 26)