

FIN 3403, Section 3  
Financial Management of the Firm  
Spring, 2010

**Instructor:** McKay Price  
**Meeting Times:** 9:30-10:45 am, Tues. & Thurs.  
**Classroom:** RBA 101  
**Office:** RBB 337-C  
**Office Hours:** 10:45-12:00 pm, Tues. & Thurs.  
**Phone:** 850-644-2038  
**email:** [smp06g@fsu.edu](mailto:smp06g@fsu.edu)

**Prerequisites:** ACG 2021 and ECO 2023. ACG 2071 is highly recommended

**Textbook:** Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan. Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, McGraw-Hill Irwin.  
(A custom edition for FSU is available which contains only those chapters which we'll be covering in this class. The custom edition lacks the color graphics found in the full edition, but is much less expensive. You may use either the full ninth edition or the custom ninth edition.)

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce the students to the organization and practices of corporate finance. Students are expected to become familiar with time value of money considerations, the use of equity and debt by the firm, the history of markets, and security valuation. Upon completion of this course students should be able to approach financial analysis and decision making from the perspective of the financial manager of the firm.

**Course Coverage:** Includes chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17.

**Course Attendance:** You are expected to be in class for our meetings, but there is no direct association between attendance and your course grade. However, please note that in my experience, most students who have received a grade of D or F in this class have missed a number of our class meetings. The slides for each chapter of the book that we cover in class are posted on Blackboard. HOWEVER, these slides are only an outline and will be supplemented with further notes and examples in class. Unannounced bonus quizzes will be given periodically throughout the class. Missing class will negate the student's opportunity to take these bonus quizzes. Bonus quizzes will be one question each and every student that gets this question correct will have 1 point added to his/her *final average*. Every student that gets the question incorrect, but was present for the quiz gets 0.5 points added to his/her *final average*. While this might not seem like much, these points are added to the final grade after all averaging has been done...hence they can be quite helpful. Bonus quizzes are open book and open notes.

**Calculator:** A calculator with financial functions (time value of money calculations) is necessary for this class. While there are many models out there, I will teach the class using the TI-BAII PLUS.

**Course Grade:** The grade for this class is based on 4 non-comprehensive multiple choice exams. All students will take all exams. Each exam will count 25% of the student's grade. Any bonus quiz points will then be added to the student's exam average to give the student's final grade. The student's letter grade for the course will be determined by where the student's final numerical grade falls on the following grade scale:

92.0-100 A	90.0-91.9 A-	88.0-89.9 B+	82.0-87.9 B	80.0-81.9 B-	
78.0-79.9 C+	72.0-77.9 C	70.0-71.9 C-	60.0-69.9 D	58.0-59.9 D-	<58.0 F

Note: In calculating final grades I will round to one decimal point using standard mathematical rounding.

**Tentative Exam Schedule and Material Covered:**

Exam 1	Feb. 4, in class	Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6
Exam 2	Feb. 25, in class	Chapters 7, 8, 9
Exam 3	Apr. 1, in class	Chapters 10, 12, 13
Exam 4	Apr 26, 12:30-2:30pm	Chapters 14, 16, 17, 3

If a student is unable to take an exam at the scheduled time, he/she should contact me prior to the exam and specify why the exam is going to be missed. Failure of notification may result in a score of zero for a missed exam. If an exam is missed due to an excused absence, the student will take a comprehensive Exam 4 which will count 50% of the final grade. No individual makeup exams will be given.

**Homework and Preparation:** Working problems is the best way to understand the course material and assure yourself that you will be ready for the quizzes and exams. Thus, I'd suggest completing all the problems I highlight AND working through additional exercises. This being said, it is important in this class (and many other quantitative classes) to really understand WHY we are using certain formulas and taking certain steps. There is danger in just finding out how I or the book works a problem and memorizing the pattern to get an answer. I would encourage you to go slowly through the steps of problems and ask yourself "WHY am I doing this step?" Homework problems and answers (not "solutions", just the final result) will be posted on blackboard in the assignments section.

**Help with the Course:** The easiest way to get in touch with me is via e-mail or speaking with me after class or during my office hours. If you feel you are beginning to have difficulties with the material PLEASE SPEAK TO ME. I want to help you to learn this material, although I cannot guarantee a painless process. I am very willing to make arrangements to try to resolve any issues you may have. While some students have little trouble with the material, many others find it very easy to get behind. Please let me know if you feel this is happening to you.

**Cell Phones:** If you bring pagers or cell phones into class, please set them to silent or vibrate.

**Academic Honor Policy:** The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm>)

**American with Disabilities Act:** Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center  
97 Woodward Avenue, South  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>