Syllabus
University of Southern Maine
School of Business
Class 22362
Asynchronous Video Lectures
This syllabus is covered in the following video:
https://youtu.be/ICk1zc27rkA

FIN 320 Basic Financial Management

Prerequisites:
ACC 110 (C- or higher), ECO 101 or ECO 102, MAT 210 (C- or higher), or another approved statistics course, junior standing. See usm.maine.edu/school-of-business/stats for other approved statistics courses.

Spring 2022

Instructor: Bert Smoluk, Ph.D., CFA
Office Hours: just email me!
or by appointment.

Office Phone: 780-4407

Office: 314 Luther Bonney Hall
Email: smoluk@maine.edu
Course website: www.courses.maine.edu
Video website: youtube.com (USM Finance Man)

Course Description: This is the online version of the required financial management course in the undergraduate business program. As an asynchronous course, it provides substantial flexibility and convenience for students: there is no required weekly schedule and there are no weekly assignments that must we handed in. That said, there is a suggested schedule posted on Brightspace and there are a series of online quizzes and a face-to-face final exam (see dates below). The course is quite rigorous and requires a self-motivated, disciplined student to keep up with the material. Every assigned chapter, except chapters 1 and 2, has a detailed video covering the main material in the textbook. A list of the URLs (on YouTube) for the videos are posted on Brightspace.

This course is all about developing financial analytical skills surrounding the management of capital sources and uses within the context of creating and enhancing shareholder wealth. It provides a balanced introduction to the theory and practice of financial management that will prepare students to make basic financial decisions and critique the decisions of others. This course is the prerequisite for all other 300-level or higher Finance courses as well as possibly for pursuits of advanced degrees and professional designations. Topics include time value of money,
capital markets, risk and return, stock and bond valuation, and capital budgeting. As time permits, we will also cover leverage and capital structure, and working capital management.

Although FIN320 is an overview course, a commitment to quality means that it is a challenging course for many students. It requires you to apply many of the concepts and tools you learned in prerequisite courses. For example, students are expected to be familiar with:

- The use of algebra and business math.
- The preparation and interpretation of financial statements (Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Statement of Cash Flows), along with rudimentary background in the computation and interpretation of commonly used financial ratios.
- The concepts surrounding expected value, variance, and standard deviation.

If you initially had difficulty with these or if it has been a while since you have used them, it may help to review your previous class notes and course materials.

**Required Material**
Textbook only is required. You may buy Cengage’s Mindtap, but I do not refer to it in the course. It might help you as it seems to offer students plenty of testing/quizzing opportunities. Mindtap Course Key: MTPN82BQV8FD

A financial calculator will greatly facilitate computations in this class. *I strongly recommend* either the TI BA II Plus or the TI BA II Plus Professional.
Ability to view MP4 videos. Access to YouTube. The URLs for lecture videos (Khan Academy-style) will be posted on Brightspace.

1. You are required to periodically check Brightspace for assignments and messages.
2. The material covered is designed to be challenging, yet reasonably accessible to the average student provided sufficient time is spent preparing for class.
3. There is a lot of material covered in this course; therefore, it is probably a waste of my time and your time for me to lecture on topics easily comprehended by simply reading the text. Consequently, much of the course’s background material will not be addressed directly in class.

FIN 320 Grading Allocation

Quizzes

Final Exam 50% on chapters 10 and 11

and 50% cumulative. I will provide guidance before the final exam.
The final exam will be held on the Portland Campus on
Monday, May 2, 4-6pm Room Luther Bonney 326

* You must pass the final exam to pass the course.
Tutors may be available for this course. Contact the Learning Commons at usm.maine.edu/learningcommons.

Grading: Number scores for the course roughly translate into letter grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any curve, if appropriate, will be applied at the end of the semester based on overall course grades. I usually drop one quiz grade in computing the course average. No phone, no communication, no notes, no books, no notes (except for a formula sheet provided by the professor) are to be used during any quiz or the final exam. If you plan to take a vacation during the semester, I suggest that you avoid this course!

Make-up exams and Extra Credit: There are none.

Code of Conduct
Any student caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper will fail the course.

This course is structured to be consistent with the mission statement of School of Business: We prepare and inspire current and future leaders, and stimulate economic growth by providing quality learning opportunities, valuable research and professional service, all in partnership with the business community.

Skills
This course is designed to develop many skills that are demanded by employers. Furthermore, you will be expected to draw from the knowledge that you have gained in prerequisite courses such as accounting, statistics, math, and economics.

Analytical Skills
This course requires a working knowledge of business math, algebra, statistics, and economics. The lectures are designed to develop your quantitative and financial analysis skills.

Critical Thinking Skills
The spectrum of financial opportunities available to corporations is extremely broad and the skills needed to analyze these opportunities are even broader. This course seeks to develop your critical thinking skills in the area of financial management. You are challenged to apply the theory
advanced in class to real world situations.

**Ethical Context of Professional Practice**
The material contained in this course is presented within a context that ethical behavior in the field of financial management. Unethical business practices are a common source of business failures and substantial losses for individual investors, employees, and other stakeholders. We will not shy away from discussing these situations as they arise.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1992**
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. At any point in the semester, if you encounter difficulty with the course or feel you could be performing at a higher level, consult with me. Students experience difficulty in courses for a variety of reasons. For problems with writing skills and time management, make an appointment to see a student tutor at The Learning Center (TLC), 253 Luther Bonney (780-4228). Help is also available through the Counseling Center, 106 Payson Smith (780-4050) and the Office of Academic Support for Students with Disabilities, 237 Luther Bonney (780-4706). Please note that only students who are registered with the Office of Academic Support for Students with Disabilities are eligible for accommodation. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

**If you are struggling:** Students experience difficulty in courses for a variety of reasons. At any point in the semester, if you encounter difficulty with the course or feel you could be performing at a higher level, I encourage you to talk with me. For problems with writing skills and time management, you can make an appointment to see a student tutor at The Learning Center (TLC), 253 Luther Bonney (780-4228). Help is also available through the Counseling Center, 106 Payson Smith (780-4050).

**Repeat Policy**
Any School of Business major or minor who has enrolled in an ABU, ACC, FIN, or BUS course more than twice must, before continuing in that course, complete and have approved by the Department Chair, a course condition from (available from the School of Business academic advisors). Failure to do so may result in course disqualification.

**Tentative Course Outline – Chapter video URLs on Brightspace**
Chapter 5 Time Value of Money, this material does not rely on the material in previous chapters.
Chapter 1 An Overview of Financial Management
Chapter 2 Financial Markets and Instruments
Chapter 3 Financial Statements, CF, and Taxes
Chapter 4 Skip – you had this material in Accounting
Chapter 6 Interest Rates
Chapter 7 Bonds and their Valuation
Chapter 8 Risk and Rates of Return
Chapter 9 Stocks and their Valuation
Chapter 10 The Cost of Capital
Chapter 11 The Basics of Capital Budgeting