

Computers in Finance

FINA 4920 (Call #10-187) - Spring 2006

Terry College of Business, University of Georgia

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 10:10-11:00 AM, Caldwell 306

Instructor

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 1-2pm and by appointment

Course Description/Objective

Applying computers to business applications especially using Excel in finance related work.

The objective of the course is to help students learn how to use Microsoft Excel to solve a variety of corporate finance and investment problems. The course is real world oriented and is expected to be useful training for a variety of jobs in banking and finance.

Prerequisites

FINA 3000 [Financial Management] and (MSIT 3000 or STAT 3000)

I will expect you to know what you learned in introductory finance. If this is only your second finance course, I expect it might be a little challenging but it will help you with investments and corporate finance.

Course Material/Books

Principles of Finance with Excel, by Simon Benninga (ISBN: 0-19-530150-1), Oxford University Press, 2006.

Course Outline

Introduction	Chapters 27, 28, 30, 4	One Week
Capital Budgeting and Valuation	Chapters 5-10	Five Weeks
Portfolio Analysis and CAPM	Chapters 11-16	Four Weeks
Valuing Securities	Chapters 17-19	Two Weeks
Options and Option Valuation	Chapters 23-26	Two Weeks
Capital Structure and Dividend Policy	Chapters 20-22	One Week

Course Assignments

Attendance/Participation/Computer Use	5%
Problem Sets/Projects (5)	50%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam (5/4/07)	25%

Course Grading

I may elect to slightly relax these breakdowns, at my discretion, after the final course numeric scores are determined but I will not make them more stringent.

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D	50-69
F	0-49

Website [<https://webct.uga.edu/www/>]

WebCt will be used for posting assignments, solutions, and course grades. Please familiarize yourself with it if you have not used it in the past.

Projects

Projects are similar to traditional homework assignments from your other courses. Projects will require you to solve financial problems in Excel and write up your results using Microsoft Word. Your solution will be a memorandum written to me that outlines your results (see the sample memo). Instructions for the write-up will be included with project assignments. There will be six projects assigned during the semester. The lowest grade will be dropped.

Final Exam

The class final will be cumulative and is scheduled for Friday, May 4th at 8am. Be sure and mark your calendars!

Policies

Academic Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” You can find the policy at: [<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/ah.pdf>]. All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

I fully subscribe to the University’s policies on academic honesty. I take my teaching responsibilities very seriously, and I expect every student to do likewise. I have zero tolerance for breaches of academic integrity, and I will report all suspected offenses.

Unless otherwise specified, I expect all work on projects and assignments to be your own. While I strongly encourage open and frank discussion in class, and collaboration on in-class activities, all other assigned work must be done individually.

Attendance

Attendance is required. Students are held responsible for all material covered in class. In other words, if you do not attend class, you are responsible for asking classmates for information/notes/etc. covered during periods missed; it is not the responsibility of the instructor to recover material with you on an individual basis.

Students are allowed three unexcused absences. The fourth unexcused absence will result in an automatic one point deduction in their participation grade. Every two unexcused absences after the third will result in an additional point deducted.

<u>Unexcused Absences</u>	<u>Points Deducted</u>
0-3	0 points
4-5	1 point
6-7	2 points
8-9	3 points
10-11	4 points
12-13	5 points

Computer

Students will often be working on computers during the class. However, you should strictly refrain from checking emails, surfing the web or playing games. Violations of this policy will affect your participation grade. Also, there may be times over the course of the class that I will ask you to turn off your monitors.

Late Assignments/Exams

Late assignments/exams impose a substantial cost on your classmates and I. Therefore, my policy on late assignments/exams is strict. Late assignments will generally not be accepted unless I have consented in advance. Examinations will be rescheduled for individual students only for valid reasons such as medical or family emergencies, and only if I have consented *in advance*. All assignments are due at the **beginning** of class.