

# Computers in Finance

FINA 4920 (Call #14-904) - Fall 2008

Terry College of Business, University of Georgia

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM, Caldwell 306

## **Instructor**

Jason W. Howell

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday - 9:45-10:45 AM 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 spreadsheets (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.

## **WebCt**

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.

## **Office Hours/Visits**

My office hours will be Tuesday and Thursday from 9:45-10:45AM. I encourage you to make use of this time if you have any questions concerning the class.

## **Expectations**

The importance of this class cannot be overstated. If you expect to make a career in the finance industry, you must know how to effectively use spreadsheets.

**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.

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Numeric Grade</b>
A	94-100
A-	90-93.99
B+	87-89.99
B	84-86.99
B-	80-83.99
C+	77-79.99
C	74-76.99
C-	70-73.99
D	50-69.99
F	0-49.99

**Course Assignments/Grade Breakdown**

Attendance/Participation/Computer Use	5%
Pop Quizzes	4%
Problem Sets/Projects (6)	36%
MidTerm Exam	25%
Final Exam (12/11/08)	30%

**Attendance/Participation/Computer Use (5%)**

Come to class, participate, and use the computer properly (no surfing, etc.) and you will get the full 5%.

**Pop Quizzes (4%)**

During the semester, we will have several (at least 6) pop quizzes. If you are absent (and not excused), you will not be allowed to make up the quiz; however, I will allow you to drop your two lowest grades.

**Problem Sets/Projects (36%)**

Projects will require you to solve financial problems in Excel and may require you to write up your results using Microsoft Word. There will be six projects. Projects will be due at the beginning of class. Late projects **will not** be accepted.

**MidTerm Exam (25%)**

The midterm exam is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th.

**Final Exam (30%)**

The class final will be cumulative and is scheduled for Thursday, December 11th at 12pm. Be sure and mark your calendars!

## Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Session	Topic Covered	Textbook	Projects
08/19 (Tue)	1	Syllabus - Intro to Excel	Ch 27	
08/21 (Thu)	2	Graphs and Charts	Ch 28	
08/26 (Tue)	3	Advanced Graphs and Charts		
08/28 (Thu)	4	Cash Management	Ch 04	
09/02 (Tue)	5	Time Value of Money	Ch 05, 06	#1 Posted
09/04 (Thu)	6	Capital Budgeting	Ch 07, 08	
09/09 (Tue)	7	Discount Rates	Ch 09	#1 Due
09/11 (Thu)	8	Logical and Conditional Functions		#2 Posted
09/16 (Tue)	9	Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	Ch 10	
09/18 (Thu)	10	Discounted Cash Flow Valuation - continued		#2 Due
09/23 (Tue)	11	Importing and Exporting Data		#3 Posted
09/25 (Thu)	12	Text Functions, Sorting and Data Filters		
09/30 (Tue)	13	Risk and Portfolio Statistics	Ch 11, 12	#3 Due
10/02 (Thu)	14	Portfolio Statistics and Regression	Ch 12	
10/07 (Tue)	15	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>		
10/09 (Thu)	16	NO CLASS - Conference		
10/14 (Tue)	17	Spreadsheets in Google Docs		
10/16 (Thu)	18	The Efficient Frontier	Ch 13	
10/21 (Tue)	19	CAPM and the Security Market Line	Ch 14	
10/23 (Thu)	20	CAPM - continued		
10/28 (Tue)	21	CAPM and Investment Performance	Ch 15	#4 Posted
10/30 (Thu)	22	CAPM and the Cost of Capital	Ch 16	
11/04 (Tue)	23	Macros and Buttons		#4 Due
11/06 (Thu)	24	Efficient Markets	Ch 17	#5 Posted
11/11 (Tue)	25	Bond Valuation	Ch 18	
11/13 (Thu)	26	Stock Valuation	Ch 19	#5 Due
11/18 (Tue)	27	Pivot Tables		#6 Posted
11/20 (Thu)	28	NO CLASS - Conference		
11/25 (Tue)		NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break		
11/27 (Thu)		NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break		
12/02 (Tue)	29	Options - An Introduction	Ch 23	#6 Due
12/04 (Thu)	30	Black-Scholes	Ch 25	
12/09 (Tue)		Friday Class Schedule		
12/11 (Thu)		<b>FINAL EXAM 12:00-3:00pm</b>		

## Policies

### Attendance/Assignments/Exams

As future business leaders, you will be expected to attend meetings and meet important deadlines. Excuses such as “I just forgot”, “I stayed out too late last night”, or “I’m just not ready” will simply not cut it in the business world. In the same vein, I expect you to attend class, submit projects timely, and take exams at the scheduled time.

However, if you do have an extreme circumstance (medical or family emergencies) where you will have to miss an exam or submit a project late. Let me know **in advance** and I will work something out with you.

### Computer/Internet Use

As your instructor, I expect you to listen and pay attention in class. Checking email and surfing the web is not paying attention. I know many of you are smart and can do many things at one time, but you will not be practicing your multi-tasking in this class. Violations of this policy will be handled severely.

### 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.