

FINA 4920: COMPUTERS IN FINANCE

Applying computers to business applications especially using Excel in finance related work. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Spring 2009:

Terry College of Business
University of Georgia
MWF Caldwell 305 1:25-2:15

Instructor: Robert Giannini
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Course Web Site: webct.uga.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

For e-mails regarding queries on course material or requests for meetings please use my uga.edu e-mail address. I check this more frequently than WEBCT e-mail. However, you should make a habit of checking WEBCT regularly as I will use the e-mail facility there to send general instructions and comments to the class.

Course Objective:

The main objective of the course is to learn how to use Excel to solve a variety of problems in finance. The course is very 'hands-on' and is expected to help you develop skills that are useful in a variety of jobs in finance, accounting, insurance, real estate and management.

Recommended Texts:

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

Excel 2007 Bible, by John Walkenbach, ISBN: 0470044039

Excel VBA Programming For Dummies, by John Walkenbach, ISBN: 0470044012

Excel 2007 Power Programming with VBA, by John Walkenbach

The main purpose of the book for this class is to provide guidance for you when you work on topics outside of regular class time. I will not strictly follow or work from the book during class. Surf amazon.com or half.com for cheaper, second-hand versions of the book if you wish.

Prerequisites: FINA 3000 (Financial Management).

Absences: I do not keep track of attendance during the semester, but frequent absences will hurt your chances of good scores on tests and the exam. Furthermore, 10% of the final grade will be based on attendance/compliance (as outlined below) and frequent absences from class may hurt your score in this component. My office hours should be used for questions related to problems you are working from the book, or questions which have arisen as you reviewed your class notes or the book. I am

happy to assist students, but please ensure that you first consult the syllabus and your notes when questions arise.

Assignments: Various assignments will be given during the course of the semester. Please pay careful attention in class and check in on WEBCT regularly to ensure that you are always aware of upcoming assignments and their requirements.

Exam/Tests: Exams and tests will only be administered at the assigned times, and a missed exam or test will carry a grade of zero unless explicitly excused by a physician or the Dean of students. Truly exceptional circumstances should be discussed with me prior to the exam.

Exams: Three exams will be given during the semester.

Grade Determination: Final grade assignments will depend upon your overall performance and will be determined as objectively as possible based on the following weights:

Exams: 15% per exam (3 exams total)
Final Exam / Project 30 %
Assignments 15%
Participation / Attendance 10%

Your final grade will be determined solely on your scores in the above components. Regrettably, no points can be awarded for effort or amount of time spent studying.

Honor code:

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. While I strongly encourage discussion with classmates, all work for grades should be completed individually.

Course Outline:

Topics to be covered include:
Excel fundamentals
Formulas
Charts
Time value of money
Capital budgeting
Bond pricing
Logical functions
Regression analysis
Portfolios
PivotTables
Options
Random numbers