

FINA 4920: COMPUTERS IN FINANCE

Fall 2009

Robert Loveland

INSTRUCTOR

Robert Loveland

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Terry College of Business

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Office Hours: MW, 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Contact Notes: The best way to contact me is via e-mail.

Course Website: www.elc.uga.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Applying computers to business applications with a concentration on using Microsoft Excel in finance related work.

PRE-REQUISITES

FINA 3000 and MSIT 3000 (or STAT 3000)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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 intended to help you develop skills that are useful in a variety of jobs in finance, accounting, insurance, real estate and management.

COURSE TOPICS 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

UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE & ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL

Required Text:

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

Recommended Texts:

Excel 2007 Bible, by John Walkenbach, ISBN: 0470044039

The primary purpose of both the required and recommended texts 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.

ASSIGNMENTS

Various assignments will be given during the course of the semester. Assignments will be posted to the class website at www.elc.uga.edu. Please pay careful attention in class and check eLC regularly to ensure that you are always aware of upcoming assignments and their requirements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Three exams will be given during the semester. Exams will be administered only at the assigned times, and a missed exam 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. There will be no make-up exams given. Since there are no make-ups additional weight will be put on the final.

GRADING POLICY

Final grade assignments will depend upon your overall performance and will be determined 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.

Final letter grades are determined competitively. The target percentages for the final letter grades are as follows:

	<u>Percentile Range</u>
A: 25%	0 to 25.0
B: 35%	25.1 to 60.0
C: 25%	60.1 to 85
D: 10%	85.1 to 95
F: 5%	95.1 to 100

There are no targets set for plus/minuses.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

I will not keep track of attendance during the semester, but frequent absences will hurt your performance on exams. 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 your notes when questions arise.

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

Exams will be administered only at the assigned times, and a missed exam 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. There will be no make-up exams given. Since there are no make-ups additional weight will be put on the final.