

FINA 4920: Computers in Finance

Fall 2009 Syllabus

TTh 9:30am-10:45am Caldwell 305

Instructor

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Office Hours: T 11:00am-12:30pm 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 and (MSIT 3000 or STAT 3000). Other courses in finance, Excel, or statistics may be helpful but are not required.

Recommended Materials

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

eLearning Commons will be used to post powerpoints, exercises, quizzes and assignments, <http://elc.uga.edu/>.

Course Outline

Introduction	Chap 27, 28, 40, 4
Capital Budgeting and Valuation	Chap 5-10
Portfolio Analysis and CAPM	Chap 11-16
Valuing Securities	Chap 17-19
Options and Option Valuation	Chap 23-26
Capital Structure and Dividend Policy	Chap 20-22

Assignments

Course grades will be computed using the following weights on exams and assignments.

Final Project	30%
Quizzes (best 3 of 4)	30%
Homeworks (3 to 4)	30%
Participation	10%
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	100%

Final Project

The final project will be a cumulative take-home project and will be due on a date decided in class. The scheduled final exam slot of Tuesday, December 15th from 8am to 11am will be used as a question and answer session for the final project.

Quizzes

There will be approximately four quizzes with the lowest grade dropped. Quizzes will be inclass and will be a series of multiple choice or short answer problems that must be completed using Excel. Missed quizzes will result in a score of zero unless an agreement is made 48 hours prior to the quiz.

Homeworks

There will be three to four homework assignments that will complete individually or in groups of two depending on the homework. I will make clear in the homework assignment which are to be done individually and which ones you may due in groups. The homeworks may not all be weighted the same. I will be clear on how much each is worth.

Participation/Attendance

Though I will not take attendance we will have inclass exercises that you will turn in at the end of class. These will count towards your participation grade. The more class periods you miss the more likely you are to miss the inclass exercises which will lower your participation grade.

Preparation

I expect students to come to class prepared for that day's lecture and/or exercises. We will go in the order of the course outline but the pace will be determined by the class. I will announce the topics and when they will be covered a week in advance.

Grading Scale

Final letter grades will be decided upon based on the following scale. I reserve the right to relax this scale when final numeric scores have been calculated, but I will not make the scale more stringent.

A	90-100
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	50-69
F	0-49

Honor Code

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.

While I strongly encourage discussion with classmates, all work for grades should be completed individually unless specified otherwise by the instructor.

Key Dates

Aug 12	Th	Drop/Add Deadline
Sept 7	M	Labor Day - No Class
Oct 22	Th	Withdrawal Deadline
Oct 30	F	Fall Break
Nov 23-27	M-F	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 8	T	Friday Schedule - Classes End

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Last updated: 07/10/2009.