

Northeastern University
FINA 2201 Online Financial Management – Spring 2026 (32407)

Instructor: Professor John Bai (Jianqiu), Ph.D.

Course Descriptions:

Designed to develop the financial skills and logical thought processes necessary to understand and discuss financial policy decisions in a global economy. Specific objectives include developing an understanding of the time value of money; using financial statements in decision making; and understanding the nature of financial markets, the cost of capital, valuation of stocks and bonds, management of short-term assets, short-term and long-term financing, capital markets, and multinational financial management. Addresses the impact of legal, social, technological, and ethical considerations on efficient economic outcomes. Requires a financial calculator and provides an opportunity to develop computer spreadsheet skills.

Learning Objectives:

1. Analyze the financial performance of a company.
2. Calculate the cost of capital using the Capital Asset Pricing Model and other methodologies.
3. Apply discounted cash flow methodology to make capital budgeting decisions and to value financial assets such as stocks and bonds.
4. Use spreadsheets to help solve business problems.
5. Describe how managers determine short-term and long-term financing needs of a company.
6. Describe the difference between debt and equity in a company's capital structure.

Course Overview:

The content of this course is organized by weekly folders in Canvas. Each week contains a number of assignments that relate to the topics for the week. You are expected to complete all assignments, practice exercises, etc., in each week and lesson by the stated deadlines. You will apply theory and concepts with online interactive exercises and homework assignments. At the end of this syllabus you will find some tips/guidelines for being successful in an online course.

Course Materials:

Recommended Textbook (not required):

1. Fundamentals of Corporate Finance by Stephen Ross, Randolph Westerfield and Bradford

Jordan ([link here](#))

2. Corporate Finance by Jonathan Berk and Peter DeMarzo ([link here](#))

- **Financial calculator** – BAI+ is recommended. On the exam, please feel free to use any calculator of your choice, but I will only go over the key sequence for BAI+ in the lectures.
- **Lightboard Videos:** I have recorded several short videos (approximately 5 min. in length) to help facilitate a face-to-face interaction format. These videos either deal with specific exercise problems that we assign through Canvas or conduct review sessions. These are referred to occasionally throughout the course.
- **New Multimedia Recordings:** Under Modules, I have created an extra module which contains several recorded high-quality videos from other settings. Feel free to watch these videos in conjunction with existing voice-over-PPTs.
- **Discussion board:** the discussion board contains some extra-curricular videos that I found online that might be of interest to you. **These are not graded but hopefully can motivate you to learn more about these various subject matters. You DO NOT have to feel obligated to post on these topics.**
- **Static PowerPoint Slides:** the static version of the PowerPoint slides are also provided as additional resources for review. These are under “Module→Original PPT Slides”
- **Practice Problems:** Under “Module→Practice Problems”, there are a number of documents with additional practice problems (not graded) along with their answers.
- **Delivery format:** this course is strictly offered online (i.e., asynchronously) to provide students with the flexibility. The downside obviously is limited face-to-face times (the only exceptions are the three one-hour review sessions before each exam, i.e., one for each exam). However, I will be available by email and I generally do reply very fast. There will be three exam review sessions that are covered in more detail later.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to adhere to the University’s Academic Honesty Policy. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for this course.

NU’s Academic Honesty Policy: “Northeastern University is committed to the principles of intellectual honesty and integrity. All members of the Northeastern community are expected to maintain complete honesty in all academic work, presenting only that which is their own work in tests and assignments. If you have any questions regarding proper attribution of the work of others, contact your professor prior to submitting the work for evaluation.”

While I encourage you to study together, you are expected to complete your Canvas homework and exams independently. Anyone caught violating this policy will be referred to

OSCCR.

Grading policy

Canvas problems	15%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

Please mark your calendar with the exam days and times and make arrangements to be available at that time. Students in a different time zone or need alternative arrangements can email me to ask for accommodation within 24 hours of the scheduled time. Students with DRC accommodation requests should inform me before every exam so accommodations on extra time allowance can be made.

Grading Scale (in Percentage)

A 93 and above	C+ 70 – 74.99999
A- 90 – 92.99999	C 65 – 69.99999
B+ 85 – 89.99999	C- 60 – 64.99999
B 80 – 84.99999	D < 60
B- 75 – 79.99999	

Note: No rounding up is allowed when calculating grades. No exceptions will be made.

Homework

Canvas Assignments

As with every finance class, practice is the best way to truly learn the material, so please try to internalize the knowledge and practice as much as you can. In addition, the nature of the course is such that each topic builds on previous material so it is important to understand the early topics and to not fall behind.

Your homework assignments should be completed online through Canvas. The information for accessing Canvas is given in the beginning course information. Canvas assignments will be graded by Canvas.

All assignments should be submitted by the due date specified below in order to receive a grade. Please refer to Canvas for specific details. Please note that all problems in an assignment must be completed before submitting for a grade. Should you have any trouble submitting an assignment online, please contact me before the assignment is due for assistance.

Note: Late Canvas homework will not be accepted. No exceptions are made unless there are extenuating medical conditions. "Forgetting" about a homework assignment is NOT a legitimate excuse.

Exam Review Chats

Throughout the semester, there are three zoom chats scheduled to review for the upcoming exams, one before each exam (i.e., two midterms and one final). Zoom links to these chats are sent one week prior to these sessions.

Please come to these sessions prepared to ask questions. We will together solve problems, talk through concepts,

Exam Format (Very Important)

Exams will be conducted on Canvas with Respondus Locked down Browser as well as monitor for proctoring purposes. Exams are **closed book** with the exception of access to a **formula sheet** sent by the instructor. Exams should be completed individually.

Each exam will consist of several multiple choice questions and a couple of short answer problems. For short answer problems, **it is imperative to show ALL THE WORK leading up to your answer (for partial or full credit)**. That is, if you show the correct (final) answer on a short answer question without documenting some intermediate steps, you will be given a ZERO for that problem. All numbers not provided directly in the question need to be justified by providing detailed steps. No exceptions can be made on this point.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to Financial Management:

Jan 7 – Jan 19

Complete: Module 1: Introduction to Financial Management

Submit: Canvas homework (Introduction - Module 1)

Due: Jan 19 at 11:59 pm

Week 2: Accounting Review:

Jan 19 – Jan 26

Complete: Module 2: Accounting Review

Submit: Canvas homework (Accounting Review 1 - Module 2)

Due: Jan 26 at 11:59 pm

Week 3: Accounting Ratios:

Jan 26 – Feb 2

Complete: Module 3: Accounting Ratios

Submit: Canvas homework (Accounting Review 2 - Module 3)

Due: Feb 2 at 11:59 pm

Week 4: Time Value of Money Part 1:

Feb 2 – Feb 9

Complete: Module 4: Time Value of Money Part 1

Submit: Canvas homework (Time value of money 1 - Module 4)

Due: Feb 9 at 11:59 pm

Week 5: Time Value of Money Part 2:

Feb 9 – Feb 10

Complete: Module 5: Time Value of Money Part 2

Submit: Canvas homework (Time value of money 2 - Module 5)

Due: Feb 16 at 11:59 pm (Note this is due after the exam but materials are covered by the exam)

Exam I Review Chat (Zoom)

Monday, Feb 16 at 7 – 8 pm

EXAM 1: Modules 1-5

Opens Wednesday, Feb 18 at 6:00 pm

Closes Wednesday, Feb 18 at 9:00 pm

Exams are accessible under “Quizzes” on Canvas (Exam 1: Modules 1-5)

Remember that you are required to work independently on this exam. Lockdown browser with camera monitoring will be used for all exams.

Note that the instructor will send out an email asking for accommodation requests (different time and date for taking the exam) from students prior to the exam.

Week 6: Interest Rates:

Feb 16 – Feb 23

Complete: Module 6: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation Part 1
Submit: Canvas homework (Interest Rates - Module 6) **Due Feb 23 at 11:59 pm**

Week 7: Interest Rates and Bond Evaluation: Feb 23 – Mar 2

Complete: Module 7: Interest Rates and Bond Valuation Part 2
Submit: Canvas homework (Bond valuation - Module 7) **Due Mar 2 at 11:59 pm**

NOTE: Spring Break between Mar 2 and Mar 8

Week 8: Stock Valuation & Capital Budgeting I: Mar 9 – Mar 16

Complete: Module 8: Stock Valuation
Submit: Canvas homework (Module 8 Assignment) **Due Mar 16 at 11:59 pm**

Week 9: Capital Budgeting I: Mar 16 – Mar 23

Complete: Module 9: Capital Budgeting Part I

Week 10: Capital Budgeting Part II: Mar 23 – Mar 30

Complete: Module 10: Capital Budgeting Part II
Submit: Canvas homework (Capital Budgeting - Module 9 & 10) **Due Mar 30 at 11:59 pm**

Exam II Review Chat (Zoom) Monday, Mar 30 at 7 – 8 pm

EXAM 2: Module 1 to 8 Opens Wednesday, Apr 1 at 6:00 pm
(cumulative) Closes Wednesday, Apr 1 at 9:00 pm

Exams are accessible under “Quizzes” on Canvas.

Remember that you are required to work independently on this exam. Lockdown browser with camera monitoring will be used for all exams.

Note that the instructor will send out an email asking for accommodation requests (different time and date for taking the exam) from students prior to the exam.

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Week 11: Risk and Return :

Mar 30 – Apr 6

Complete: Module 11: Risk and Return

Submit: Canvas homework (Risk and Return - Module 11)

Due Apr 6 at 11:59 pm

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Week 12: Cost of Capital:

Apr 6 – Apr 13

Complete: Module 12: Cost of Capital

Submit: Canvas homework (Cost of Capital-Module 12)

Due Apr 13 at 11:59 pm

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April 13 to April 19: Review Time

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Final Exam Review Chat

Wed, Apr 15 at 7 – 8 pm

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FINAL EXAM:

Date: **April 20 (Thursday)**

Cumulative, all modules (1 to 12)

Final Exam

Opens Thurs, Apr 20 at 6:00 pm

Closes Thurs, Apr 20 at 9:00 pm

(two hour time limit – plan your time accordingly)

Exams are accessible under “Quizzes” on Canvas.

Remember that you are required to work independently on this exam. Lockdown browser with camera monitoring will be used for all exams.

Note that the instructor will send out an email asking for accommodation requests (different time and date for taking the exam) from students prior to the exam.