

Brandeis University

Summer 2021

BUS 71a

Introduction to Finance

Syllabus ver 1.0 (Subject to Change)

Class Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 11:10 a.m. – 1:40 p.m. (US Eastern Time)

Zoom address: TBD

Instructor: Hyongse Yoo

Office Hours: (Regular) Monday 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. (Additional) By appointment

E-mail: hyungse87@brandeis.edu

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Prerequisites: Bus 6a or equivalent, and Bus51a or equivalent. This course may not be taken for credit by students who have previously taken Econ 171a. This course cannot be counted as an elective towards the economics minor or major.

Course Description & Learning Goals

This course is the introductory finance class for the business major. The objective of the course is to let the students be familiar with various concepts used in finance and develop financial skills and logical thoughts needed to make financial decisions. Upon successful completion of the course, students will understand and utilize financial concepts/skills. As an investor, students will be able to calculate the value of financial products and make optimal investment choices. As a corporate manager, students will be able to make financial choices, such as managing working capital and capital budgeting.

There are five primary learning outcomes for students:

- (1) You will learn the basics of financial concepts.
- (2) You will understand time value of money and calculate value of financial products.
- (3) You will learn to analyze corporate finance.
- (4) You will learn basics concepts of derivatives.

Textbook

The textbook for this class is **Introduction to Finance, 17th Edition, Melicher and Norton, Wiley** (Any version after 14th edition is okay). The course syllabus refers to the chapters in the textbook and the lectures cover the material as it is presented in the textbook.

Teaching Methods/ Technology

The lectures in this course assume that you have already gained exposure to the material through the textbook. Participation and discussion during the class take a huge part of the course. By asking questions and sharing your thought, the entire class will be able to learn financial concepts better. Sometimes computer programs such as excel can be used to demonstrate financial calculation but knowing how to do it is not a necessary part of this course. Students can use any type of computer programs or calculators (including financial calculator).

Grading

The overall composition of the final grade is as follows:

- Class Participation 20%
- Quizzes/Assignments 20%
- Midterm 30%
- Final 30%

Course Policies

Class Participation (20%)

Thinking through problems and being able to work on them in real time is an important aspect of financial environment. By participating in class discussion, you will familiarize yourself with financial concepts and environment more, and you will learn how to solve problems on your own as well as part of a team.

Note: You are permitted two absences for any reason (e.g., illness, family celebration, job interview, varsity sports, unfavorable airline schedule, you forgot to set your alarm); for each additional absence, your letter participation grade will be reduced by one grading notch, e.g., A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, and so on.

Quizzes/Assignments (20%)

There are four assignments (two quizzes and two take-home problem sets), which are to be done individually (without assistance from anyone). Assignments are to be submitted electronically, on LATTE, by the start of class on the due date. Late submission will not be allowed.

Midterm Exam (30%) This is a written closed-book exam that will take place during normal class hours. You will be asked questions about the materials covered in class and the textbook chapters assigned.

Final Exam (30%) This is a written open-book exam that will take place during final exam period. The questions will cover every materials covered in class and the textbook chapters assigned.

Contact

The best way to contact is via e-mail. If you have any issues, please let me know.

Accommodations

Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, please talk with me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as you can. I want to support you.

In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support (SAS) at 781.736.3470 or access@brandeis.edu.

Academic Integrity

You should be honest in all of your academic work.(Please see <https://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/srcs/rightsresponsibilities/index.html>) Any dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Potential sanctions for academic dishonesty include failure in the course and/or suspension from the university.

Submissions

All work must be submitted on Latte before the required date and time. Only with my prior approval will late work be allowed, and that is only in exceptional circumstances. Every file, including assignment, exercise, midterm, and presentation slides, you submit should be in pdf format.

Absences

The class discussions are not limited to what is in the textbook. Therefore, if you are absent, it is your responsibility to ask a peer for their class notes and read the textbook to catch up. You are permitted up to two absences for any reason; for each additional absence, your grade will be degraded.

Recording

Class sessions will be recorded and provided only for the students who couldn't attend the class. You may decline to be recorded; if so, please contact me to identify suitable alternatives for class participation. These recordings will be deleted within two months after the end of the semester. If you can be personally identified in a recording, no other use is permitted without your formal permission. You may not record classes on your own without my express permission, and may not share the URL and/or password to anyone unaffiliated with this course. Your behavior in these recordings, and in this class as a whole, must fulfill Brandeis standards:

Brandeis University is committed to providing its students, faculty and staff with an environment conducive to learning and working, where all people are treated with respect and dignity. (1) You must refrain from any behavior toward members of our Brandeis community, including students, faculty, staff, and guests, that intimidates, threatens, harasses, or bullies. (2)

(1) *Brandeis Business Conduct Policy p. 2, 2020*

(2) *Student Rights & Responsibilities, p. 11, 2020 ed.*