
Brandeis University
BUS 71A: Introduction to Finance
Course Outline - Dated June 1st 2023¹
Summer Session 1: June 5th - July 7th 2023

Contact Information

Instructor: Karen Smith

Email: klsmith@brandeis.edu

Student Hours: Fridays 9:00 - 10:30 am

Use of student hours must follow guidelines posted on Latte

Class Meeting Times

This course will be taught remotely, via Zoom, at the meeting times specified below. The Zoom link for the course is available on LATTE. Class sessions will be recorded and uploaded to LATTE within 24 hrs. of each class.

Class: T, W, Th 11:10 am - 1:40 pm

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the field of Corporate or Business Finance, explores the role of the financial manager, and provides a foundation in the *Essentials* of Financial Management. You will learn how to analyze financial statements, value cash flows, and value financial assets. We will explore the fundamentals of capital budgeting, analyze the concepts of risk and return in Finance and discuss how Firms make long-term financing decisions. At the end of this course, you will gain a more in-depth understanding of the importance of the role of the financial manager as a key decision-maker in any organization and will possess a toolkit of skills that will be an invaluable resource to you in your career in Business, Finance, and Economics at Brandeis and beyond. **I am delighted to embark upon this very exciting, enlightening, and interesting journey with you!**

Learning Goals

1. Apply the foundational principles in Finance to evaluate Firms' business decisions in a global environment

¹I reserve the right to make changes to this document as the course progresses. Any subsequent versions will be dated accordingly.

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2. Conduct an internal analysis of the financial position of a firm
 3. Perform the valuation of a firm's cash flows and typical assets such as equity and fixed-income instruments
 4. Understand the nature of investment decisions faced by firms and conduct investment evaluations, in consideration of the risks faced by firms
 5. Understand how capital is raised and managed by firms

Prerequisites

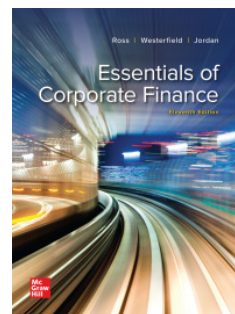
- BUS 6A or equivalent.
- BUS 51A or equivalent (prerequisite or co-requisite)
- This course is not to be taken for credit by students who have already taken ECON 171A for credit.
- This course may not be counted as an elective toward the Economics major or minor.

Required Course Readings

The required text for this class is **Essentials of Corporate Finance**, by Ross, Westerfield, Jordan (11th ed.). Mc Graw Hill.

If you are having difficulty purchasing course material, please make an appointment with your Student Financial Services or Academic Services advisor to discuss possible funding options.

Supplementary materials will be posted on LATTE on a topic-by-topic basis.



Course Evaluation

Your course average will be computed using the following formula:

Assessment	Weight	Frequency
Attendance and Participation	15%	Weekly
Online Quizzes / Homework	25%	Weekly
Midterm	25%	Once (6/23)
Final Exam	35%	Once (Date TBD)

Note: There are no extra credit assignments given the short time frame of this course.

Course Plan

Week	Meeting Dates	Chapter Readings	Online Quizzes Due Dates
1	6/6 - 6/8	1 - 4	6/11
2	6/13 - 6/15	5 - 8	6/18
3	6/20 - 6/22	8 - 10	6/25
		Midterm up to Chapter 8	6/23
4	6/27 - 6/29	11 - 13	7/2
5	7/4 - 7/6	14 - 15, Exam Review	7/6
		Final Exam Chapters 9 - 15	TBD

University Policies and Resources

Accommodation

Brandeis seeks to create a welcoming and inclusive learning environment for all students, and I want to support you in my course. If you think you may require disability accommodations, you will need to work with Student Accessibility Support (SAS) (781-736-3470, Email: access@brandeis.edu). You can find helpful student FAQs and other resources on the SAS website, including guidance on whether you might be eligible for support from SAS.

If you already have an accommodation letter from SAS, please make sure I receive a copy as soon as possible so that I can ensure the effective implementation of accommodations for this class. To help coordinate exam accommodations, please provide the accommodation letter at least 48 hours before an exam.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to be honest in all your academic work. You shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of your effort. The University's policy on academic integrity is contained in section 4 of the [Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#). Allegations of academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Student Rights and Community Standards. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University, or other sanctions. If you are in doubt regarding standards of academic honesty as they apply to a specific assignment, you should consult the course instructor before submitting your work.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Plagiarism

Note that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to complete assignments is considered plagiarism.

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- It is important to remember that chatGPT and other AI tools are not a replacement for your critical thinking and original ideas. The ultimate goal of this course and any tool used to submit work is to enhance your learning and understanding, not to undermine it.
 - As a college student, it is your responsibility to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Representing work generated by artificial intelligence as one's work is considered to be academically dishonest. This includes (a) ensuring that all work submitted for grades is your original work, and (b) properly citing any sources that you use.
 - Having AI do your work constitutes plagiarism. If the source of the work is unclear, I may require you to meet with me to explain the ideas and your writing process.
 - If you consult with other students on an assignment, report this in the work that you turn in. If in your code you use a library or implementation from another source, indicate that as well (minimally by including a URL in a comment). Do not generate new content with prompt-based AI tools like ChatGPT or CodePilot without my permission unless specifically allowed by the assignment. (Using, for example, Grammarly as a language aid is OK.) As the Instructor for this course, I reserve the right to request an oral explanation of answers.
 - If you have questions about what is permitted, please reach out to me.

Citation and research assistance can be found at [Brandeis Library Guides - Citing Sources](#).

Homework:

You can work on the homework with other students in BUS 71A. But what you turn in must represent your own work, not simply a copy of another student's assignment.

Course materials from previous semesters:

To protect your learning experience and that of your classmates, you may not consult course materials from previous semesters of BUS 71A.

Student Support

Resources are available to help with the academic and non-academic factors that contribute to student success (finances, health, food supply, housing, mental health counseling, academic advising, physical and social activities, etc.). Please explore the many links on the [Support at Brandeis](#) page to find out more about the resources Brandeis provides to help you and your classmates achieve success.

Course Policies

Communication

Please use your Brandeis email to reach out to me and to receive my replies and course announcements. Therefore, you will need to check your Brandeis email daily. All course announcements can also be found on the Course News & Announcements page in LATTE. Except for weekends and holidays, I will reply to most email messages within 24 hours and ask that you do the same. Even if you cannot give a full reply within that timeframe, please at least send a timely acknowledgment that you have received my message.

Time Commitment

Students should expect to work 3 hours outside of class for each hour spent in class. Success in this 4-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours per week outside of class reading and reviewing, working on homework and class projects, preparing for exams, attending recitation and student hours, etc.

Homework Submissions

The homework assignments must be submitted as legible pdf files through LATTE.

Virtual Classroom Etiquette

During classes and for all meetings with the Instructor and Teaching Assistant, students are required to keep their cameras on. Brandeis University is committed to providing its students, faculty, and staff with an environment conducive to learning and working and where all people are treated with respect and dignity. Please refrain from behavior that is disruptive to the class or your classmates.