

**William Paterson University**  
**COTSAKOS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**  
**Department of Economics, Finance, and Global Business**

Corporate Finance-- FIN 3200 (3 credits)  
Winter 2012  
DECEMBER 26, 2012-January 14, 2013

- 1. Professor** Francis Cai, Ph.D.

Office: Valley Road Building: Room 3028  
Tel: (973) 7202178  
Fax: (973) 7202809

Email: caif@wpunj.edu
- 2. Course Number and Title:** Corporate Finance -- FIN 320 (3 credits)
- 3. Course Description:** A study of the basic principles and practices of the financial management of private business corporations. The course provides an operational framework for financial analysis, planning and forecasting, along with profit analysis and financial control for today's business world.
- 4. Course Prerequisites:** ACCT 211 and ECON 202
- 5. Course Objectives:** This course will provide students with an understanding of the basic principles and practices of the management of the financial affairs of a business. This includes an understanding of the financial environment in which a private enterprise operates; the assessment of the financial condition of a business, and the investment and financing decision process that leads to wealth maximization. The topics include the importance of ethical business practices; the effect of taxes on financial decisions; the use of financial statements; the relationship between the present value and a future sum of money; and decisions on capital expenditures. Finally, students should feel comfortable to use the knowledge gained in this course to make personal financial decisions and to improve their understanding of the financial decisions at the firm where they will be (or are currently) employed.
- 6. Student Learning Outcomes:** Students should demonstrate an appreciation of the principles of financial management; in the context of private enterprise as a vehicle for creating wealth. They should understand the legal and ethical framework in which business is conducted; be able to measure and assess the financial performance of a business; demonstrate importance of the time value of money; apply

finance techniques to the investment and financing decisions of a business.

**7. Teaching Methods:**

This is a web-based online course.

**“Learning Goals”:** “Learning Goals” and Power-Point materials will be posted on the Black Board.

**Readings:** Read the related chapters and chapter notes.

**Discussion:** Participate the discussion on Black Board’s discussion board.

**Assignment:** Every time we finish a chapter, I will post homework assignment for that chapter. I will also post the “due date” for the assignment. I expect that you will finish the homework assignments on time by following the “due date”. You may find the list of due dates on Blackboard. **I will randomly check your homework assignments.** When I do so, I will make an announcement first, and you will use assignment manager to hand in your homework.

**8. Assessment Methods:**

Students should demonstrate their understanding of financial management principles through their performance on a combination of assignments, discussion, quizzes, and one project.

*To take an on-line course*, the student must take more responsibility for scheduling their learning activities than is the case with classroom instruction. Make sure you read the syllabus carefully and follow them as you participate in the course.

**9. Textbook:**

“Fundamental of Financial Management : Concise”  
7th edition, by Eugene F. Brigham, Joel F. Houston,  
Thomson South-Western

**10. Recommended**

- 1) Study Guide to “Fundamental of Financial Management : Concise”
- 2) The Wall Street Journal
- 3) a financial calculator is required (Make sure you keep the instruction manual handy for your reference)

**11. Participation Policy**

The discussion board serves as a "virtual classroom". Imagine you are in a classroom setting once you log in the Blackboard. After having read the book and the Learning Goals in the Power-point presentation, you want to join the discussion with other students in the “classroom.” You can ask related questions for that particular forum.

For every chapter, I will post “Learning Goals” for the chapter on the discussion board. I will also post the “due date” on the discussion board for the “learning goals.” I will count the number of times you participate

the discussion board on the “Learning Goals” by the “due date.” The **MINIMUM REQUIREMENT IS 3 TIMES PER CHAPTER.** Missing the minimum requirement for a chapter will result in a lower grade. Missing the discussion board is equivalent to be absent from a regular class. Three absences from the class will automatically result in a grade of F.

On DB, you may post a comment on any topics listed on Learning Goals or any other topics you would think of related to our Learning Goals. **You may create a thread or just follow a thread.** You may follow the topics in the learning goals **or develop your own talking points.** Do not repeat what other people already said for the same topic. Ask different questions. Make different arguments. Let's have fun online.

12. **Homework Policy:**

Every time we finish a chapter, I will post homework assignment for that chapter. I will also post the “due date” for the assignment. I expect you will finish the homework assignments on time by following the “due date”. I will randomly check your homework assignments. When I do so, you will follow the instruction to submit your homework in Assignment Manager. Late assignments will not be accepted or graded!

To find out the homework assignments, please click “Assignments.” To find out homework solutions, click “Assignments’ and then “Solutions”

The homework assignment has a "**due date.**" "Due date" means you should finish it by that date. However, **please don't send it to me unless I request it.** The solutions will be posted after “due date.”

Homework solutions will be posted after the due dates for each chapter.

**Due dates for homework and discussion board can be found by clicking the course menu “Due Dates for HW and DB”**

13. **Quiz:**

We will have a number of online quizzes during the session. I will post the information about the quizzes in advance of the quiz dates. Please follow the instruction carefully and make every effort to take the online tests. No make-up quizzes will be available. The first online quiz will be called “Welcome you quiz.” The quiz is designed to check if you have read Syllabus carefully. “Welcome you quiz” will include the materials from Syllabus only.

14. **Academic Integrity Policy**

If a student violates the Academic Integrity Policy (as printed in the section of Academic and Related Regulations, William Paterson University Catalog), a grade F will be assigned.

15. **Important Note**

As many of you know that online classes have many advantages over traditional classes in that online classes are flexible and convenient.

However I would like to warn you that an advantage can turn into a disadvantage if the flexibility and convenience are abused. In an online class, no one looks over your shoulder to tell you to go online, to study, and to do homework assignments. Online classes require self-discipline and dedication. You must do a lot of reading and keep up with the assignments on your own. The success of taking an online class depends on you.

To keep up with the course, you will need to log on to the course every day. New course materials and announcements will be posted frequently.

Please use the school email to communicate with me so that we may better protect our students' confidential information.

- 16. Quick Links:**
- Homework Assignments:** click “Assignments”, and then “Homework Assignments”
  - Homework Solutions:** click “Assignments”, and then “Homework Solutions”
  - Homework Submission:** click “Assignments”, and then “Homework Submission”
  - Due Date for Homework and DB:** click “Due Date for HW and DB”
  - Quiz:** click “Assignments”, and then choose related quiz
  - Project Outline:** click “Assignments”, and then Project Outline
  - Financial Calculator Tutorials:** click “Course Materials”, and then choose one of the six different calculators

- 17. Grading Policy** The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Discussion Participation	15%
Quiz 1	8%
Quiz 2	8%
Quiz 3	8%
Final	37%
Homework	10%
Project	14%

Final Grade will be curved to an approximate distribution as follows:

A+	97
A	94
A-	90
B+	87
B	84
B-	80
C+	77

C	74
C-	70
D+	67
D	64
D-	60
F	below 60

## 18. Course Outline

Chapter	Topics
1.	An Overview of Financial Management.
3.	Financial Statements, Cash Flow, and Taxes.
4.	Analysis of Financial Statements.
5.	Time Value of Money.
7.	Bonds and their Valuation.
8.	Risk and Rates of Return.
9.	Stocks and Their Valuation.
10.	The Cost of Capital.
11.	The Basics of Capital Budgeting.
12.	Cash Flow Estimation and Risk Analysis.
13.	Capital Structure and Leverage.
14.	Distributions to Shareholders: Dividends and Share Repurchases.