

FIN 320F: Foundations of Finance

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Robert C. Duvic, Ph.D.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: 45 hours of college coursework and one of the following: Accounting 310F; 311 or 311H, and 312 or 312H; or 6 semester hours of accounting coursework.

How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview

This course develops your ability to use economic decision tools in a market environment. Finance answers two market questions: what is it worth and do the benefits of an action exceed the cost of taking that action? Making good economic decisions involves integrating behavioral, economic, accounting and political information into a qualitative and quantitative decision process. This valuation approach is essential for all market participants, including investors, governments, and non-profits.

Required Materials

There is no required textbook for this class. A basic financial calculator, such as an HP 10B11+, is recommended.

Course Organization

The course is organized into 12 modules, each containing two or three lessons that focus on a major element of financial decision making. Each lesson consists of scenarios, key concepts, applications, and extensions.

Assignments

All modules conclude with a proctored end-of-unit quiz (instructor-graded assignment). These quizzes help you evaluate your understanding of the unit and your ability to apply economic concepts to decisions.

Exams

Students will take two proctored exams. They consist of fill-in-the-blank, short essay, and quantitative problems that measure your ability to apply your knowledge of financial decision making. The midterm exam covers modules 1–6 and the final exam covers modules 7–12.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Outline

Module	Topics	Assessments
1	Human Nature and Economic Activity - Human Nature and Decision-Making - How a Market Economy Works	Instructor-Graded Assignment 1
2	Human Nature and the Ethics of Decision Making Ethics in Non-Profits	Instructor-Graded Assignment 2

	• Do Markets Produce Fair Results? • The Role of Government in a Market Economy	
3	Structuring the Business Firm • Organization of Businesses • Corporate Goals and Governance	Instructor-Graded Assignment 3
4	Accounting Value • Developing a Company's Balance Sheet • Connecting Managerial Decisions to the Income Statement	Instructor-Graded Assignment 4
5	Economic Value: The Basics • Calculating Economic Value • Making Wealth Increasing Decisions • Adjusting Economic Decisions for Risk	Instructor-Graded Assignment 5
6	Economic Value: Detailed Cash Flow Analysis • Calculating Single Cash Flows in Multiple Time Periods • Calculating Multiple Cash Flow Streams	Instructor-Graded Assignment 6
7	Risk and the Opportunity Cost • Understand Diversification • Determine the Opportunity Cost	Instructor-Graded Assignment 7
MIDTERM EXAM		
8	The Economic Balance Sheet • Understand the Basis for Valuing a Corporation • The Financial System • The Efficient Market Hypothesis	Instructor-Graded Assignment 8
9	Valuing Bonds • Calculate a Bond's Value • Assess Bond Risk	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 9
10	Valuing Stocks • Valuing Stocks • Connect Managerial NPV Decisions to Stock Prices	Instructor-Graded Assignment 10
11	Capital Budgeting Investment Decision Rules • The Capital Budgeting Process • Special Capital Budgeting Situations	Instructor-Graded Assignment 11

12	Capital Budgeting Cash Flow Analysis • Project Cash Flows • Compute the Cost of Capital	Instructor-Graded Assignment 12
FINAL EXAM		

Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Instructor-graded assignments	700 points
Midterm Exam	150 points
Final Exam	150 points
Total	1000 points

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

A 100-93%	B+ 89-87%	C+ 79-77%	D+ 69-67%	F 59-0%
A- 92-90%	B 86-83%	C 76-73%	D 66-63%	
	B- 82-80%	C- 72-70%	D- 62-60%	

Getting Help

- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies

Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest

benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of F on the exam and an F in the course.

University Extension Contact Information

uex@austin.utexas.edu

512-471-2900