

	Course	FIN 3680-103 Introduction to Finance
	Professor	Alex Holcomb
	Term	Spring 2020
	Meetings	Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am – 10:45am PH-1011

Professor's Contact Information

Office	Peacock Hall 3085
Email Address	holcombaj2@appstate.edu
Office Hours	Wednesday 10am – 12pm and 1pm – 3pm and by appointment
Other	Please email me at AppState email address

General Course Information

Pre-requisites	ACC 1100 or ACC 2100 and MAT 1030 or MAT 1035 or MAT 1100, each with a grade of "D-" or better.
Course Description	This course introduces concepts and analytical techniques to identify and solve financial management problems. It serves as the basis for all other courses in the area of finance as well as providing those basic tools that every business student will need to be successful in her/his chosen career. Those students majoring in business administration and accounting, as well as those going further in the study of finance, will find this material an essential part of their business education. Regardless of the student's chosen career, these tools and techniques will provide the foundation for making personal financial decisions.
Learning Outcomes	You will learn to understand how and when to apply the basic concepts of financial analysis in a business setting, demonstrated through your ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to apply time-value-of-money concepts to various valuation problems. • Be able to describe what drives a firm's cost of capital and how to estimate it. • Be able to analyze investments in real and financial assets using various methodologies.
Required Text	<i>Fundamentals of Corporate Finance</i> ; McGraw-Hill Irwin; Twelfth Edition, by Ross, Westerfield and Jordan. [with Connect access code required]. The text is not required. Connect access is required. Connect is an online software that allows students to submit homework assignments and check their work on line. Access to McGraw-Hill Connect is required for this course. Connect Plus is the Connect Finance code plus an e-version of the textbook.

	<p>Options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ross, Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, Standard 12th edition packaged with Connect Plus: ISBN: 9781259918957 [Recommended] Available at bookstore. 2. Ross, Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, Connect PLUS Finance code only: 9781260129885 (includes digital text) 3. There are also loose-leaf versions and an Alternate Edition of this text book. The latter has a few extra chapters. <p>You can register for Connect and/or buy access code at the web link presented below under Web Link for this class.</p>
<p>Required Calculator</p>	<p>For the exams for this course, you are allowed to use any calculator that you prefer except for (i) calculators that reside on smart phones, or (ii) any calculator that has wireless access to the internet. An exam proctor will check your calculator before (or during) each exam to be sure that it complies with this rule; if the calculator is not in compliance, the proctor has the authority to remove your calculator for further use on that exam. Please do not risk having to incur the consequences. If you plan to use an unfamiliar, obscure type of calculator, you should check with your instructor any time before the actual exam date to avoid any potential complications during the actual exam.</p> <p>The time-value-of-money material in this course will be taught to you in two ways: (1) using five fundamental math equations and (2) using financial-function keys on a calculator. If you master either approach, you are perfectly well-equipped to be successful in this course; mastering both approaches makes you even more competent. The course instructor is only required to be fluent in the financial functions for any of the calculators that are made by Texas Instruments and contain financial functions (e.g., TI BA II Plus, TI-83 Plus, TI-84 Plus, TI-86, etc.). If you choose to use the financial functions on any calculator that is not of the Texas Instruments brand, you are required to learn these keys on your own. Any common calculator will have a user’s manual, as well as tutorials on YouTube for how to use it.</p> <p>SUGGESTION: If you use a TI BA II Plus (or Plus Professional), you will be wise to change the order of operations on your calculator, so that the keystrokes “2 + 3 x 4” yield 14 (and not 20). Also, you also almost certainly want to re-program your calculator so that it reports results to four decimals (as opposed to two).</p>
<p>Web Link & Practice Problems</p>	<p>Web Address for this class for Connect is: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/a-holcomb-fall-2019---sections-103-104-and-112 Practice problems from the end-of-chapter problems sets are assigned as Homework Sets. We will go over some of these in class.</p>

	Students are required to complete these on the McGraw-Hill Connect system.
McGraw Hill Connect	<p>Student Registration for Connect through AsULearn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign into the AsULearn system. • Go to your course, then Assignments. Click on any Assignment • Register (with code or purchase one). You are done. • If problems, Go to the "Tools" menu in eLearning • Click on the "McGraw-Hill Higher Education" link. • Below "My Connect Section", click Go to My Connect Section. • Follow the on-screen instructions to register.
Readings	You will be responsible for any reading articles posted on AsULearn.
Class Schedule / Academic Calendar	The material covered in each session is subject to change and may be updated throughout the semester. Students should continually check AsULearn for updates to the Schedule shown below.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
Version 1.0*

	Date	Topic	Assignment Due **	Comment
	19-Aug	Intro	See AsULearn	
	21-Aug	Ch 2	See AsULearn	
	26-Aug	Ch 2	See AsULearn	
	28-Aug	Ch 3	See AsULearn	Hw 1 due chap 2
	2-Sep	Labor Day	See AsULearn	
	4-Sep	Ch 5	See AsULearn	
	9-Sep	Ch 5 & start Ch 6	See AsULearn	
	11-Sep	Ch 6	See AsULearn	Hw 2 due chap 5
	16-Sep	Ch 6 & Review	See AsULearn	
	18-Sep	Exam 1	See AsULearn	Hw 3 due chap 6
	23-Sep	Ch 8	See AsULearn	
	25-Sep	Ch 8	See AsULearn	
	30-Sep	Ch 7	See AsULearn	Hw 4 due chap 8
	2-Oct	Ch 7	See AsULearn	
	7-Oct	Ch 9	See AsULearn	Excel Assignment & Hw 5 due chap 7
	9-Oct	Ch 9	See AsULearn	
	14-Oct	Fall Break	See AsULearn	
	16-Oct	Ch 9	See AsULearn	
	21-Oct	Ch 10	See AsULearn	Hw 6 due chap 9
	23-Oct	Ch 10	See AsULearn	
	28-Oct	Ch 10 & Review	See AsULearn	
	30-Oct	Exam 2	See AsULearn	
	4-Nov	Ch 11	See AsULearn	Excel Assignment Due
	6-Nov	Ch 11	See AsULearn	
	11-Nov	Ch 13	See AsULearn	Hw 7 due Chap 11
	13-Nov	Ch 13	See AsULearn	
	18-Nov	Ch 13	See AsULearn	
	20-Nov	Ch 14	See AsULearn	Hw 8 due chap 13
	25-Nov	Ch 14 & review	See AsULearn	
	27-Nov	Thanksgiving		
	2-Dec	Exam 3		
		Review for final (possible)		
Final	6-Dec	Final Exam (11-130pm)		

* Updates, if any, will be accompanied by an “Announcement” in AsULearn

** Homework and due dates are shown online in “Connect” system and AsULearn

Course Policies

<p>Course Grade</p>	<p>Course grade will be weighted as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Exam 1</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exam 2</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exam 3:</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Homework Assign/Excel</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Exam:</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> </table> <p>If lowest score on Exams 1, 2 and 3 is less than Final Exam score, then the final exam score will be used in lieu of that low score.</p>	Exam 1	20%	Exam 2	20%	Exam 3:	20%	Homework Assign/Excel	15%	Final Exam:	25%
Exam 1	20%										
Exam 2	20%										
Exam 3:	20%										
Homework Assign/Excel	15%										
Final Exam:	25%										
<p>Grading</p>	<p>Course grades are: A, B, C, D and F. Corresponding grade ranges and grade points are shown below. + grades will be assigned for scores in the top 2 points of each decile, no – grades will be assigned.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A :</td> <td>90-100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B :</td> <td>80-90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C:</td> <td>70-79%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D:</td> <td>60-69%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F:</td> <td>Below 60%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Instructor may assign a “+” or a “-” to the above grade ranges.</p>	A :	90-100%	B :	80-90%	C:	70-79%	D:	60-69%	F:	Below 60%
A :	90-100%										
B :	80-90%										
C:	70-79%										
D:	60-69%										
F:	Below 60%										
<p>Class Procedure</p>	<p>Students should review assigned chapter material <u>prior</u> to the class session and are expected to participate in class.</p>										
<p>EXAMS</p>	<p>No make-up exams allowed. Laptops are NOT allowed during exams. Financial calculators are required. If Scantron forms are used, they supersede handwritten responses on the exam. All students are REQUIRED to take final exam.</p>										
<p>Missed Exams</p>	<p>Should you miss any of the first three exams, your final exam will be re-weighted to account for the missed exam.</p>										
<p>Disability Resources</p>	<p>Appalachian State University is committed to providing an inclusive experience, accessible learning environments and equal opportunity to individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Individuals needing reasonable accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Resources (828.262.3056 or odr.appstate.edu).</p>										
<p>Academic Integrity</p>	<p>Appalachian State University prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, Appalachian faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of Appalachian. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty members insist on adherence to these standards. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline.</p>										

	<p>Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.</p>
<p>Withdrawal from Class</p>	<p>The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. <u>It is the student's responsibility</u> to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled. I will NOT announce withdrawal deadlines or any other enrollment related dates.</p>
<p>Student Engagement</p>	<p>In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at "providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers" as well as "maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students." Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time. Hence, a fifteen-hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.</p>