FINA 363: Introduction to Finance  
Fall 2015 Section 1 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Professor Özgür “Oz” İnce
Section 1: 1:15-2:30pm, TR, 101
Office: DMSB 461A
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E-mail: ozgur.ince@moore.sc.edu

(Please include “363 Sec1:” at the beginning of your subject line of your email)

Course description: This is an introductory course in finance. The objective is to provide students with a broad framework and basic tools and techniques to make sound financial decisions, both as financial managers and investors. The topics include the time value of money, project valuation, the relation between risk and return, portfolio theory, stock valuation, market efficiency, debt instruments, capital structure, and payout policy.

Prerequisites: ECON 221, ACCT 225, and 3 hours of statistics at the 200 level

Course materials:

**Blackboard:** I will use Blackboard to post important announcements and upload important course materials. You are expected to check Blackboard daily.

**Required eText:** Corporate Finance Online, Eakins & McNally, Pearson
You can purchase an access code for the eText online from Pearson ($100) or buy a hard copy of the text along with the access code from the University Bookstore ($178.55). The eText includes access to MyFinanceLab.com, which we will use extensively. You can access MyFinanceLab and the eText via Blackboard. See “Course Information” on Blackboard for more information.

**Top Hat:** You are required to sign up for Top Hat at tophat.com to gain access to their classroom response system, which will enable you to answer in-class questions using your laptop, tablet, or phone. I will ask Top Hat questions on a regular basis for extra credit starting with the second class on August 25th. See Blackboard for information on how to sign up.

**Calculator:** You will need to use a calculator to solve homework and exam questions. You can use a scientific, financial, or graphing calculator. A financial calculator that has “time value of money” functions can be useful in your other business courses.

**Planet Money podcasts:** I will assign several Planet Money podcast episodes that are related to the course material. You can listen to the podcast on their website (http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/127413729/podcast/) or using a podcast app on your mobile device.

**Readings:** From time to time, I will post readings from the financial press on Blackboard. Material from these readings will show up on the homeworks and exams. I also encourage you to pick up a copy of the WSJ at the SCANA Study Commons on a daily basis.
Grading:
Homeworks 20%
Exam 1    25%
Exam 2    25%
Final Exam 30%
Extra Credit up to 5%

Grade scale:
A: 90-100  B+: 88-89  B: 80-87  C+: 78-79  C: 70-77  D: 60-69  F: 0-59

Homeworks:
I will assign homeworks on a regular basis through MyFinanceLab.com. I will announce the homeworks and their due dates in class and on Blackboard. You are allowed and encouraged to work together in a study group on these problems, although every student must submit their own answers. Keep in mind that some of the homework is algorithmic, so students may encounter different questions (same question with different numbers). Late homework penalty is 25% per day.

Exams:
Exams will be held in class. See the tentative schedule below for the dates. There are no make-up exams, except for participation in authorized University activity. Should you miss Exam 1 and/or Exam 2 for any other reason, those points will be allocated to the cumulative Final Exam.

For each exam, you are permitted to fill out both side of an 8.5x11 sheet of paper with whatever information you deem relevant. Your information sheet, the exam itself, No. 2 pencils, a Scantron, and a calculator are the only things permitted during the exam. There is absolutely no sharing of information sheets, calculators, or other resources during the exam. Cell phones may not be used as calculators. Any violation of these rules will result in a grade of 0 for all involved parties, and will be considered a violation of the Honor Code.

Extra credit: Top Hat questions
I will ask questions during the lectures that will be answered using the Top Hat response system. The questions might be about material covered during the prior or current lecture, an assigned reading (from the eText or article from financial press), a video showed in class, etc. For those questions with a right answer (as opposed to opinion/feedback questions), you will get 2 points for a correct answer and 1 point for an incorrect answer. At the end of the semester, I will divide your point total by the maximum possible points. If you answered and got every question correct, I will add 5% to your grade. If you answered every question but got none correct, I will add 2.5% to your final grade. If you answered zero questions, I will not add or subtract any points from your grade. I will not accept any excuses for missed Top Hat questions. There will not be any other opportunities for extra credit.

Peer tutors:
You are welcome to stop by my office hours (TR, 10:30am-12:00pm), or email me to schedule an appointment if you have a scheduling conflict with the regular hours. In addition, peer tutors will be available as an additional resource. Their schedule will be made available through Blackboard.
Blackboard and MyFinanceLab:
You are expected to check Blackboard and MyFinanceLab on a regular basis. I will post all announcements and assigned readings on Blackboard. Also, any changes to the syllabus and the tentative schedule (see below) will be announced on Blackboard. It is very important that you read the upcoming chapters of the eText before they are covered in class. All homeworks will be assigned and submitted via MyFinanceLab. I will also post practice tests on MyFinanceLab.

Strategies for doing well in this course:
• Check Blackboard on a daily basis.
• Prepare for classes by going through the assigned chapters ahead of time and reading the assigned readings (if any) carefully. Use all the resources in the eText such as Solution Tools, Self-tests, Explain It and Explain It Video features.
• Attend the lectures regularly and pay attention.
• Complete the homeworks before the due date.
• Complete as many Top Hat questions as possible. Otherwise, you are leaving easy points on the table.
• Take good notes. Not just what I write or show, but also what I say.
• Review your notes and study the material regularly instead of waiting until the last minute before homeworks and exams.
• Go over the homeworks and practice tests on MyFinanceLab in exam preparation.
• Utilize the peer tutors.
• Do not hesitate to ask questions and ask help when you need it.

Tentative schedule for Fall 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>CFO Chapter #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (8/20)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (8/25, 8/27)</td>
<td>Time value of money</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 (9/1, 9/3)</td>
<td>Time value of money</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 (9/8, 9/10)</td>
<td>Annuities and loans</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (9/15, 9/17)</td>
<td>Annuities and loans, Capital budgeting</td>
<td>4, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 (9/22, 9/24)</td>
<td>Capital budgeting</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 (9/29, 10/1)</td>
<td>EXAM 1, Risk and return</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 (10/6, 10/8)</td>
<td>Risk and return</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 (10/13, 10/15)</td>
<td>Portfolio theory</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 (10/20, 10/22)</td>
<td>Portfolio theory, <strong>Fall Break (No class)</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11 (10/27, 10/29)</td>
<td>Cost of capital</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12 (11/3, 11/5)</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 2</strong>, Debt markets</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13 (11/10, 11/12)</td>
<td>Debt markets, Equity markets</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14 (11/17, 11/19)</td>
<td>Equity markets</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15 (11/24, 11/26)</td>
<td>Capital Structure, <strong>Thanksgiving (No class)</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16 (4/21, 4/23)</td>
<td>Capital structure, Payout</td>
<td>12, 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exam 1:** Tuesday, September 29th, 1:15 – 2:30pm, DMSB 101
**Exam 2:** Tuesday, November 3rd, 1:15 – 2:30pm, DMSB 101
**Final Exam (Cumulative):** Thursday, December 10th, 12:30 – 3:00pm, DMSB 101
**Business Expo:**
Moore School’s Business Expo will be held on Wednesday, September 30th (Noon to 4pm at the Colonial Life Arena). This is an important event for business students seeking a full-time position or an internship. All juniors and seniors are strongly encouraged to participate. Business attire is required and students should bring several copies of their resume.

**Classroom decorum:**
Laptops and other communication devices are allowed in the classroom but their use is strictly restricted to work related to the course only. Please refrain from engaging in private conversations during lecture; even whispered conversations become a dull roar in a large room like ours. Classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) my ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of students to benefit from the instruction is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Examples may include routinely entering class late or departing early; use of communication devices (or other electronic devices) for non-course related purposes (checking Facebook, sending/checking texts etc.); talking in class without being recognized; talking while others are speaking; or arguing in a way that is perceived as “crossing the civility line.” In the event of repeated disruptive behavior, I will have to ask the student at fault to leave the classroom.

**Attendance policy:**
Students are obligated to complete all assigned work promptly, to attend class regularly, and to participate in whatever class discussion may occur. I will not formally take attendance; however I expect and encourage you to attend every lecture.

**Class cancellation:**
If the university is closed, classes will not be held. If I cannot make it to campus even though the university is open, I will try to arrange for a substitute. If I am running late to class, I will send an email via Blackboard, but I will not cancel class unless I know I am going to be extremely late.

**Accommodating disabilities:**
The University of South Carolina provides high-quality services to students with disabilities, and you are encouraged to take advantage of them. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should (i) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Student Disability Services in LeConte College Room 112A, and (ii) discuss with me the type of academic or physical accommodations you need. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services. Please do this as soon as possible.

**Darla Moore School of Business Code of Student Conduct for Undergraduate Students:**
The Darla Moore School of Business is recognized globally for educating students who are prepared to become responsible business and civic leaders. An effective learning environment where students and faculty value integrity, professionalism and diligence is foundational to this mission. Consistent with these values, the Student Leadership Council and the faculty of the Darla Moore School of Business expect students to:
- Spend a minimum of two hours outside of class studying for each hour of classroom time;
- Exhibit classroom behavior that is respectful to faculty and fellow students;
- Refrain from the use of phones and other electronic equipment during class, unless permitted by the instructor;
• Arrive at class on time, actively participate in class, and not leave class early;
• Keep up with assigned readings and complete assignments on time;
• Contribute fully to team assignments;
• Respect the university’s staff and be responsible stewards of its facilities; and
• Abide by the University of South Carolina Honor Code Approved by the Undergraduate Student Leadership Council and the faculty of the Darla Moore School of Business

**University of South Carolina Honor Code**

It is the responsibility of every student at the University of South Carolina Columbia to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic program. Any student who violates this Honor Code or who knowingly assists another to violate this Honor Code shall be subject to discipline.

The Honor Code is intended to prohibit all forms of academic dishonesty and should be interpreted broadly to carry out that purpose. The following examples illustrate conduct that violates this Honor Code, but this list is not intended to be an exhaustive compilation of conduct prohibited by the Honor Code:

- Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or attempting to give or receive such assistance, in connection with the performance of any academic work.
- Unauthorized use of materials or information of any type or the unauthorized use of any electronic or mechanical device in connection with the completion of any academic work.
- Access to the contents of any test or examination or the purchase, sale, or theft of any test or examination prior to its administration.
- Use of another person’s work or ideas without proper acknowledgement of source.
- Intentional misrepresentation by word or action of any situation of fact, or intentional omission of material fact, so as to mislead any person in connection with any academic work (including, without limitation, the scheduling, completion, performance, or submission of any such work).
- Offering or giving any favor or thing of value for the purpose of influencing improperly a grade or other evaluation of a student in an academic program.
- Conduct intended to interfere with an instructor’s ability to evaluate accurately a student’s competency or performance in an academic program.

Whenever a student is uncertain as to whether conduct would violate this Honor Code, it is the responsibility of the student to seek clarification from the appropriate faculty member or instructor of record prior to engaging in such conduct.