FNAN 321 Financial Institutions

Syllabus

Print Friendly Version

Schedule

Time & Location:  Robinson Hall A123; 9:00 am – 10:15 pm Tuesday and Thursday  
Robinson Hall B222; 7:20 pm - 10:00 pm Thursday

Instructor:  Mike Anderson
Office:  237 Enterprise Hall
Office Phone:  993-5816
e-mail:  mander19@gmu.edu
Office Hours:  Thursday 2:00PM - 3:00PM and by appointment
Course Webpage:  http://mander19.goodluckwith.us

Course Description

This course is an introduction to financial institutions, the key roles they play in the greater economy, and the main risks they face. We will begin with an overview of financial institutions – how major types of institutions are structured, how this structure relates to their functions and some industry trends. Next, we focus on managing different types of risks: interest-rate risk, credit risk, off-balance-sheet risk, and liquidity risk; emphasizing basic ideas, tools, and business applications. We will also discuss the evolution of the financial services industry, causes and consequences of the 2008 credit crisis, and the response of regulators. The course is essential to anyone planning a career in financial services or in an area such as consulting or corporate treasury that works closely with financial institutions.

Prerequisites

This class assumes that students are equipped with a good understanding of basic theoretical and practical concepts of financial management, which means successful completion of FNAN 301. Students should have an operational knowledge of MS-Excel.

Required Text

Saunders and Cornett, Financial Institutions Management: A Risk Management Approach, 7th Edition,  

http://www.mander19.goodluckwith.us/syllabus.htm
Supplemental Readings

Supplemental readings will be available on the course webpage. Please note that recommended readings are not required for the course but are meant to advance your understanding of the material beyond what is presented in class.

Students are also strongly encouraged to read financial press, such as the *Wall Street Journal* or *Financial Times*, to reinforce the application of the topics that we cover in class.

Lecture Material

Handouts will be made available on the course webpage for each lecture. These handouts may closely resemble the slides used during lecture. However, they do not contain all course materials. Students may be tested on any information made available through course-required material. This includes, but is not limited to, lectures, required readings, and homework.

Grading

The final course grade is determined using the grading scheme below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Score</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Score</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Homework:** Each week, students will be assigned homework which must be completed and submitted individually. Although these assignments are not group work, students are encouraged to collaborate. Assignments will be graded on a four point scale (0-4) 4 is the highest possible score and will be awarded to assignments that meet the following criteria:

i. All required problems are fully complete
II. 50% or more of the required problems must be correctly completed
III. All work (for each calculation) is show in a complete, organized and legible fashion. Listing inputs to your calculator does not constitute showing your work.
IV. Solutions to each problem are identified by drawing a circle or box around your answer
V. **Homework is hand written electronic copies of homework will receive no-credit**
VI. **Homework is submitted in class on due date.** The due date for each assignment is indicated on the webpage. Any other form of submission including but not limited to: late assignments, emailed assignments, assignments dropped in my mailbox or the department drop box will receive no-credit.
Homework that is less than 60% complete will receive zero credit.

Each homework assignment is equally weighted in your final grade.

Students can drop one missed homework assignment. If a student receives non-zero grades on all homework assignments, the final assignment will be counted as extra credit. A total of one percentage point of extra credit toward your final grade is available. The fraction of this point received will depend on your score on the last homework assignment.

Exams: There will be three exams over the semester. Two “midterms” that will be held during scheduled lecture hours specified in the course outline on the website. The final exam will be held during finals week in the time slot allotted by the university. Each exam is implicitly comprehensive in the sense that material presented at later stages of the course builds on concepts developed earlier on. However, although exams will focus on the material presented since the last exam, they may also contain questions taken from previously tested material. The first exam “Exam I” will count for 15% of your final grade. Of the last two exams, your exam with the highest score will be worth 25% of your final grade. Your exam with the lowest score will be worth 20% of your final grade. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE ALL 3 EXAMS.**

Participation: PARTICIPATION WILL BE GRADED. Class participation is important, both for your retention of the material and for the benefit of class discussions and questions. **Formally, participation will be determined by periodic quizzes.**

- I will distribute quizzes periodically in class. These quizzes are your opportunity to practice new material on your own and clarify questions that may arise. You will receive full credit on these quizzes for making an effort. I will not penalize incorrect answers. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up.** However, you can drop two quizzes if the class meets twice a week and one quiz if the class meets once a week. This means that students who take all the quizzes will receive more than 100%. A maximum of 11% of the final grade can be earned from quizzes.
- In addition, extra credit may be awarded to students who actively participate in class discussions throughout the semester. These points are awarded at the discretion of the professor.

Extra Credit: Extra credit can be earned for demonstrating extraordinary effort in the course. These points are rarely awarded. However, if a student exerts significant effort and/or demonstrates a mastery of material far beyond the minimum level required by the course, they may be awarded extra credit upon calculation of the final grade. Extraordinary effort and mastery of the material is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and is entirely determined at the discretion of the professor.

Grading Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>less than</th>
<th>Greater than or equal to</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>less than</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>83%</td>
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http://www.mander19.goodluckwith.us/syllabus.htm
Percentages will be rounded to 3 decimal places prior to assigning the final letter grade.

**Absences and Late Assignments**

- There are no excused absences
- Exams: If you miss one of the first two exams, you will be required to make up that exam as part of your final.
- If you miss the final, you will receive a score of zero for that exam.
- **Missing two or more exams will result in a failing grade for the course**
- Homework/Quizzes: lost points on homework and quizzes resulting from absences cannot be made up
- Late assignments will not be accepted

**Regrading Policy**

**Errors:** Grading errors will be corrected. These include mechanical or mathematical errors such as an incorrect tally of points, incorrect calculation of percentage points, etc.

**Appeals:** Regrade appeals are appropriate when you feel that an answer has been graded incorrectly. These must be submitted in writing within **one week after the graded test is returned**. The appeal must include:

i. A description of the question(s) that needs to be reexamined as well as an explanation of why the original grade is incorrect.
ii. A reference to the location, in the required course material, that supports the argument that your answer is correct. For example, “My answer to test question 5 is taken directly from page 534 paragraph 3 of the Saunders and Cornett Text”.

**Conflicts:** The required text (Saunders and Cornett, *Financial Institutions Management: A Risk Management Approach*, 7th Edition) is the main resource for this course. Therefore, if for any reason information in other required materials (handouts, readings …) conflicts with the information in the text, the text will take precedence unless explicitly stated.

**Procedure:** Regarding request must be submitted using the regrading request form found on the course website. Any exam submitted for regrading of a question is subject to a complete regrade. As a result, the regraded score may increase, stay the same, or decrease after a careful reevaluation of the entire exam. I will not consider any regrade requests after the one week deadline has passed.
Office Hours

You are welcome to stop by my office at any time to see if I am available. In most cases I will be able to assist you with questions on a walk-in basis. However, if I cannot assist you at that time or if you require more time than I currently have available, I may ask you to schedule an appointment at a later time. For more formal arrangements, please call my office or email me to make an appointment for an office visit please include the time you would like to meet and length of the meeting. Office hours are for assistance with FNAN 321 questions only.

Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services verifies students with specific disabilities and develops strategies to meet the needs of those students. Students requiring accommodations based on identified disabilities should contact the office of Disability Services at George Mason University ((703) 993-2474) or visit the website (http://ods.gmu.edu/). Students are not required to discuss their disabilities with me, but they are welcome to do so if they choose. However, it is the students responsibility to setup the accommodation (through ODS) and provide the required documentation.

Academic Conduct

Honor Code: Students are expected to follow the University Honor Code: “Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, or lie in matters related to academic work.”

Lectures: Students are expected to be courteous and respectful while attending lectures. Conduct that will not be permitted in class includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate outbursts (excluding instances arising from documented medical conditions), sleeping, reading newspapers, magazines, or other material unrelated to the course. Also, I do not permit the use of computers in class unless otherwise stated. Students who violate this policy may be asked to leave the lecture.

Email: I expect emails to be written in a professional manner. This includes appropriate use of language and tone. In appropriate emails will not be answered.

Tentative Course Outline

This outline is tentative and subject to change. Please refer to the course website on Blackboard for updates on readings and homework assignments. Students are expected to prepare for each class by completing the assigned readings in the outline. It is the
students' responsibility to check the course website for updates and announcements.