FINANCE 421
Money and Capital Markets
Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Derek Horstmeyer
Office: 234 Enterprise Hall
Phone: (703) 993-9761
E-mail: dhorstme@gmu.edu
Course Website: Blackboard
Office Hours: MW 11:00 – 12:00 and by appointment

Class Meeting

Section 001: Friday 10:30 – 1:10, Mason Hall D001

Course Objectives

This course is both a practical and a concept-oriented treatment of the workings of today's financial markets and institutions. It starts with an introduction of the fundamentals of financial markets and proceeds with a detailed review of the central banking system, the different financial markets, financial institutions, and the management of the different types of risks that these institutions face. These issues are presented within a unified framework intended to encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills in students.

Prerequisites

Degree status and a grade of C or higher in FNAN 321 is necessary to take the class. The course will also require proficiency in Microsoft Excel and use of a financial calculator. No exceptions to the SOM rules of admittance. If you do not know whether you meet the requirement, you should notify the instructor and also consult Student Services.
Course Textbook and Resources


An electronic version of the text is available at the following websites:


Other Resources: A calculator is required (non-programmable preferably – e.g. HP 10b11+) and should be brought to class on a daily basis. A subscription to the Wall Street Journal is also encouraged (or another finance oriented publication like Business Week or the Financial Times).

Grades

Since this is an advanced course, it inevitably covers more difficult topics than those in FNAN 321. I expect this course to be intellectually challenging. My intention is to grade generously, but fair. I will, however, not hesitate to give low grades to those who clearly did not put in a sufficient amount of effort.

Your final grade will be based on:

- Class Participation/Attendance 10%
- Homework/Problem Sets 10%
- Financial Markets Essay (December 12th) 10%
- Quizzes (4 total) 20%
- Midterm Exam: (October 16th) 20%
- Final Exam (See GMU’s Schedule) 30%

Grade distribution is based on a standard 10-point scale: 92-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 88-90 = B+; 82-88 = B; 80-82 = B-, etc. All grades are calculated straight from the raw points allotted from each assignment.

Note: The final exam is a comprehensive final and will cover issues from the first midterm exam. Students are not allowed to skip any exams and must take the exam at the scheduled time. Any student missing an exam will receive a grade of zero. One exception is that you present a physician’s statement attesting to illness on the day of the exam or for an extraordinary reason.
**Problem Sets/Quizzes**

I will assign problems for homework. The assignments will be collected and checked for effort. Part of the each exam will be taken either directly or slightly modified from the homework, thus it is your responsibility to do each assigned question.

There will be 5 quizzes total. The quiz with the lowest score will be dropped – leading to 4 quizzes total showing up on your final grade, each worth 5% of your final grade.

In addition, there will be one 3-5 page essay which will be distributed and due at the end of the semester.

**Important Rules**

The test and the final exam must be taken without notes or sheets of formulas. You will be required to bring your own financial calculator to the exams. Sharing calculators and the use of graphing calculators (and other calculators that allow for the storage of information) are not allowed.

**Appeal of Grading**

If you wish your answer to a question to be regarded, first submit a copy of your answer to the question and a written explanation of why you believe that the grading is incorrect. You must turn in this material within one week after the graded work is returned. In general, the entire exam will be checked for grading errors, and correcting these could either raise or lower the overall score.

**University Office of Disability Services**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

**Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct causes failing the course and triggers quite unpleasant university-mandated procedures which result in further sanctions. Faculty Rule 2.11.5 (Faculty Responsibility under the Honor Code) requires alleged misconduct to be reported to the department and the Honor Committee. So follow the GMU honor code at all times and don’t even think about cheating!
Tentative Course Outline

Each class period includes required readings from the textbook Saunders and Cornett, 2012, *Financial Markets and Institutions* (SC). Except for the dates of the exams, the dates in the course schedule are approximate and could be subject to change.

Weeks 1 (Sept. 4): Course Introduction and Background
Course Syllabus and SC 2

Week 2 (Sept. 11): Interest Rates and Security Valuation
SC 3

Week 3 (Sept. 18): The Federal Reserve System
SC 4

Week 4 (Sept. 25): The Federal Reserve System (continued)
Quiz 1: Chapters 2 and 3

Week 5 (Oct. 2): The Federal Reserve System (continued)

Week 6 (Oct. 9): Overflow and Review
Quiz 2: Chapters 4 and the Fed

Week 7 (Oct. 16): Midterm Exam

Week 8 (Oct. 23): Money Markets
SC 5

Week 9 (Oct. 30): Bond Markets
SC 6

Week 10 (Nov. 6): Equity Markets
Quiz 3: Chapters 5 and 6
SC 8

Week 11 (Nov. 13): Commercial Banks, Crisis
SC 11 and 12, Video series on crisis

Week 12 (Nov. 20): 2008 and Forward
Quiz 4: Chapters 8, 11 and 12

Week 13 (Nov. 27): No Class (Thanksgiving)
Week 14 (Dec. 4): 2008 and Forward, Dodd-Frank, HFT
Quiz 5: Regulation/2008 and Forward

Week 15 (Dec. 11): Overflow and Review
Financial Markets Essay Due on the 12th
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<th>Type of Violation</th>
<th>First Offense</th>
<th>Second Offense</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plagiarism—failure to cite/attribute sources</td>
<td>An F in the class; multiple visits to the Writing Center required; and Academic Integrity Seminar Attendance</td>
<td>An F in the class; multiple visits to the Writing Center required; Academic Integrity Seminar Attendance; dismissal from the program; and possible suspension or expulsion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plagiarism—representing someone else’s work as the student’s own</td>
<td>An F in the class; multiple visits to the Writing Center required; and Academic Integrity Seminar Attendance</td>
<td>An F in the class; multiple visits to the Writing Center required; Academic Integrity Seminar Attendance (at times of hearing and reenrollment if relevant); dismissal from the program; and possible suspension or expulsion</td>
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<td>Cheating on an assignment, homework, class participation, or minor project</td>
<td>An F in the class; and Academic Integrity Seminar Attendance</td>
<td>Expulsion</td>
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<td>Cheating on a major project, test, or exam</td>
<td>An F in the class; Academic Integrity Seminar Attendance; and at least one semester suspension</td>
<td>Expulsion</td>
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<td>Egregious Violation [e.g., stealing an exam; submitting coursework from another class as original work; lying to an employer about academic performance]</td>
<td>Dismissal from the program; at least one year suspension; and attendance at Academic Integrity Seminar at the time of hearing and just prior to reenrollment</td>
<td>Expulsion</td>
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