

ECONS 335

Business Finance Economics

Course Details

Instructor: Mengshan Zhao (mengshan.zhao@wsu.edu)

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions!

Virtual Office Hours: Zoom appointment.

Textbook: Fundamentals of Corporate Finance by Berk/DeMarzo/Harford, 6th Edition (Pearson) with MyLab

You can purchase the book & MyLab at a discount price through *First Day®* (simply choose Course Materials from the Navigation Bar on Canvas), or purchase directly from the publisher, or from any other third parties. I highly recommend to order the book before the course starts. The electronic version (e-book) is also available if you want to have it right away.

Washington State University will bill you at the discounted price as a course charge for this course. **You have the option to opt-out of this program in the LMS.** Bookmark the Faculty FAQ link for quick answers to common questions and troubleshooting: <https://tinyurl.com/firstdayfacultyfaqs>. *Links to an external site.*

IMPORTANT: Visit the course "[More Information](#)" page to review details about textbooks, course materials, media, proctor requirements, and any fees associated with this course.

Course Overview

In this course, students will learn the basic tools of financial economics and how to apply them. The course will equip students to analyze financial statements, understand and apply the time value of money, analyze the risk–return tradeoff, value such assets as stocks and bonds, and analyze businesses' major financial decisions. The course will also introduce students to major sources of financial data and teach students to interpret the data and evaluate its quality and credibility. These analytical and information-literacy skills will be useful not only in many careers but also in personal financial decision-making. The financial literacy that students acquire will give them lifelong appreciation of the role of financial economics in current events and their own lives.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

This UCORE QUAN course is designed to advance the following WSU Learning Goals:

- Quantitative reasoning
- Critical and creative thinking
- Information literacy

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Use quantitative reasoning to make financial calculations and solve financial problems
 - Use critical and creative thinking to appropriately apply the basic concepts of financial economics and to recognize the strengths and limitations of financial analyses
 - Understand financial terminology, data, and statements
 - Locate financial data, assess its quality, and interpret its significance
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Course Work

MyLab and Mastering

All coursework will be done in *MyLab and Mastering (Pearson)*, an online platform that has the course e-textbook, homework, quizzes, and exams. If you are not familiar with MyLab, you can read and watch some orientation materials provided. Some prep-course materials are provided related to accounting, economics, mathematics, Excel, statistics, and calculator. Please review these materials only if you need them. Some of the coursework requires financial calculations that cannot be done on an ordinary calculator. Learning to use either a financial calculator or the financial functions in an Excel spreadsheet is an important component of the course.

Please follow the student registration instruction for Canvas [here](#)Links to an external site.

Homework (30%)

There will be **10 homework** on MyLab. **The lowest two scores will be dropped.**

Quizzes (20%)

There will be **10 quizzes** on MyLab. **The lowest two scores will be dropped.** It is recommended that you complete your homework before starting the quiz. The homework will be a good preparation for the quiz.

Excel Project (10%)

There will be an **Excel Project** on MyLab. Please download the files uploaded on MyLab and follow the instructional steps to finish the project.

Exams (40%)

There will be **2 exams** on MyLab.

Extra Credit Opportunity

The instructor will provide EC opportunities during the semester for course evaluation and short paper reviews of recent issues.

Grading

This section will contain grading information and tables and will NOT be public to web visitors for preview of the syllabus.

Assignment Breakdown	
Assignment	Percent of Overall Grade
Homework	30%
Quiz	20%
Excel Project	10%
Exams	40%

Grading Schema			
Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A	$\geq 93\%$	C	73- 76.99
A-	90- 92.99	C-	70- 72.99
B+	87- 89.99	D+	67- 69.99
B	83- 86.99	D	60- 66.99
B-	80- 82.99	F	$< 60\%$

Grading Schema			
Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
C+	77- 79.99		

Instructor Interaction

Questions about the course material and mechanics should be posted in the discussion forum Questions for the Instructor. This allows all students to see the responses and avoids repetitious emails. Questions of a private nature should be emailed to the instructor.

Students who wish to interact with the instructor through a virtual office hour can do so using Zoom meetings from course tools. Please email the instructor to set up an appointment.

Academic Integrity Instructor Statement

The emergence of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT , Claude or Co-pilot) has sparked interest among many students in our discipline. The use of these tools for brainstorming ideas, exploring possible responses to questions or problems, and creative engagement with the materials may be useful for you as you craft responses to class assignments. While there is no substitute for working directly with your instructor, the potential for generative AI tools to provide automatic feedback, assistive technology and language assistance is clearly developing.

- 1) **All submitted work must be your own.** AI should assist in refining your ideas, not generating complete assignments.
- 2) Clearly indicate any AI tools used and describe their specific contributions to your work.

Failure to appropriately attribute AI assistance or submitting AI-generated content as your own may be considered a violation of the academic integrity policy. Ensure transparency in your use of AI tools. Please feel free to reach out to me well in advance of the due date of assignments for which you may be using generative AI tools and I will be happy to discuss what is acceptable.

Late Work Policy

Time management and meeting deadlines are essential skills in this course and in life. For homework, quizzes, Excel projects, and the midterm exam, there will be a 10% late submission penalty per day. Contact me before the due if there is any problem. However, I cannot accept any late submissions for the final exam and the last homework & quiz.

Incomplete Grade Policy (Academic Rule 90h)

Incompletes are granted only with permission of the instructor and are subject to the following guidelines:

1. Students must request an incomplete in writing or by e-mail from the instructor before the end of the semester.
2. The request must be signed and dated by the student (or identified by student's e-mail address) and must explain the reasons behind the request for the incomplete.
3. In order to be considered for an incomplete, there are two main conditions:
 1. A student must complete a minimum of 75 percent of the assigned course work.
 2. A student must have a mathematical possibility of scoring a 60 percent or above for the entire course.
4. If extraordinary circumstances (e.g., family emergency, serious illness) are involved and are documented to the instructor's satisfaction, the professor/instructor retains the discretion to grant an incomplete even if the minimum conditions outlined in item 3 above are not met.

If an incomplete is granted, the standard WSU policy applies (i.e., ALL work must be completed within one full year from the end of the enrollment semester at issue, unless a shorter time is specified by the instructor. Otherwise, an automatic grade of "F," or failing, will be entered on the student's transcript).

Credit Hour Equivalent

Academic credit is a measure of the total minimum time commitment required of a typical student in a specific course. For the WSU semester system, one semester credit is assigned for a minimum of 45 hours of student effort. See Academic regulation 27.

For a 15-week course, students should expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week for each online 3-credit course engaged in activities including, but not limited to: reading, listening to/viewing media, completing assignments and reviewing instructor feedback, contributing to discussions, conducting research, studying for and completing assessments, etc.

For a 7-week course, students should expect to spend a minimum of 19 hours per week for each online 3-credit course engaged in the activities as listed above.

For Graduate Students

The Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities describes procedures for channeling graduate student complaints, grievances, and concerns to faculty, staff and administrators for appropriate action. In conjunction with this document, graduate students must adhere to the Graduate School's Policies and Procedures. While these rights and responsibilities outline the complaint process, students are encouraged to use the Graduate School Deans for guidance and advice on conflicts that may arise at any point during their course of study at the University.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for reading WSU's [Academic Integrity PolicyLinks to an external site.](#), which is based on [Washington State lawLinks to an external site.](#) If you cheat in your work in this class you will:

- Incur a penalty up to and including failing the assignment, exam, quiz, course requirement, or the course itself.
- Be reported to the [Center for Community StandardsLinks to an external site.](#)
- Have the right to appeal my decision.
- Not be able to drop the course or withdraw from the course until the **appeals** process is finished.

If you have any questions about what you can and cannot do in this course, ask me.

If you want to ask for a change in my decision about academic integrity, use [the formLinks to an external site.](#) at the [Center for Community StandardsLinks to an external site.](#) website. You must submit this request within 21 calendar days of the decision.

Copyright

Any course-related materials, presentations, lectures, etc. are the instructor's intellectual property and may be protected by copyright. The use of University electronic resources

for commercial purposes, including advertising to other students to buy notes, is a violation of WSU's computer abuses and theft policy (WAC 504-26-218). Selling class notes through commercial note taking services without written advance permission from the faculty, could be viewed as be as copyright infringement and/or academic integrity violation, WAC 504-26-010 (3)(a,b,c,i).

Academic Regulations

Students enrolled in online courses are subject to the same University academic regulations as on-campus students. For the most accurate and up to date information go to [Academic RegulationsLinks to an external site.](#)

Online Collaboration

The essence of education is exposure to diverse viewpoints. You will engage with people with vastly different opinions and backgrounds. You are encouraged to disagree with the substance of others' ideas and opinions but do so with an active sense of respect for one another, and without losing focus on the topic at hand. Personal attacks, inflammatory statements, flaming, trolling, and disruption of the discussion do not have a place in academic discourse. Postings must comply with University policy on use of computing resources, including those regarding harassment and discrimination, as well as conform to the [WSU Community StandardsLinks to an external site.](#)

Your instructors will promote high-quality academic discussions by removing any posts they view as disruptive of the educational process and alerting students whose posts have been removed that they have violated course expectations. Students who continue to misuse the discussion boards after a warning may be subject to removal of access rights, course failure, and referral to the Office of Community Standards.

[Review the netiquette guidelines.Links to an external site.](#)

Cougar Community and Reimbursement Options

[Student InvolvementLinks to an external site.](#): Explore all the ways to become involved at WSU Global Campus and get connected with the Cougar community.

[ASWSU Global Grocery Voucher ProgramLinks to an external site.](#): Apply for assistance by applying for a grocery voucher through ASWSU Global Campus.

Mental Health Resources and Support

[Mental HealthLinks to an external site.](#): Life as a student can be stressful. WSU Global Campus has mental health resources that may help.

[988 Suicide & Crisis HotlineLinks to an external site.](#): 24/7 call for yourself or if you are concerned about a friend, acquaintance, or family member.

Technical Support

The [WSU Global Campus Current StudentLinks to an external site.](#) site has all the non-content, administrative, and contact related information you need to be a successful online learner as well as [study tips and skills for successLinks to an external site.](#) Before contacting Technical Support please visit our [Equipment Requirements web pageLinks to an external site.](#) to ensure your system meets our computer requirements and test your connection.

Technical support is available 24/7

A member of our technical support team will assist you or direct your request to the appropriate group. The technical support team is NOT able to answer questions about course content or procedures (e.g., assignments, grades).

Please visit our [Tech Support web pageLinks to an external site.](#) for contact information.

Library Support

All students enrolled in Washington State University online courses can use the WSU Libraries online databases and receive reference and research assistance from their home campus. Students can also borrow books and other circulating material as well as access full-text journal articles.

General Library Links by Campus

- [Pullman Library SupportLinks to an external site.](#)
 - [Global Campus Library SupportLinks to an external site.](#)
 - [Vancouver Library SupportLinks to an external site.](#)
 - [Tri-Cities Library SupportLinks to an external site.](#)
 - [Library Support at Spokane – Riverpoint and Nursing at YakimaLinks to an external site.](#)
 - [College of Nursing Library SupportLinks to an external site.](#)
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Online Tutoring

As a WSU student enrolled in an **undergraduate course**, you have FREE unlimited access to Online Tutoring. This is not a course requirement, but a resource for you to utilize as needed.

With three ways to access a tutor you can choose the one that best fits your needs:

- **Submit a paper:** Writing Lab tutors will respond to papers in ANY academic subject. Just submit your paper, ask specific questions on the submission form, and a tutor will respond within 24-48 hours.
- **Live tutoring:** eChat rooms allow students to meet with tutors in one-on-one tutoring sessions via a fully interactive, virtual online environment.
- **Leave a question:** Students can leave specific questions for a tutor in any of our subjects by taking advantage of our eQuestions option. Our tutors will respond to your question within 24-48 hours.

More details and the list of available tutoring subjects can be found at [eTutoringOnlineLinks to an external site.](#)

As a WSU student enrolled in a **graduate level course**, you have FREE unlimited access to writing support through eTutoringOnline. This is not a course requirement, but a resource you may utilize as needed.

Writing Lab tutors will respond to papers in ANY academic subject. If you're working on a paper for ANY of your courses our tutors can help you. Just submit your paper, ask specific questions on the submission form, and a tutor will respond within 24-48 hours. For more information visit [eTutoringOnlineLinks to an external site.](#)

Important Dates and Deadlines

Students are encouraged to refer to the [academic calendarLinks to an external site.](#) often to be aware of critical deadlines throughout the semester.

Please see the Course Schedule for the most comprehensive list of due dates.

University Syllabus

Students are responsible for reading and understanding all university-wide policies and resources pertaining to all courses (for instance: accommodations, crisis resources, policies on discrimination or harassment), which can be found in the university syllabus:

<https://syllabus.wsu.edu/university-syllabus>Links to an external site.