



Graduate Course Syllabus

FIN 691: Financial Modeling

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

ECO 500 and FIN 500 or 550 (depending on catalog year)

Course Description

The course focuses on financial modeling as a tool in contemporary financial analysis. The course includes theoretical development, financial analysis, applications of financial modeling, and modeling approaches. Students use mathematical tools and apply statistical tests to evaluate and analyze a company's financial health, performance, and risk level of informed decision making.

Course Outcomes

- Analyze data and financial market conditions for making models effective in achieving strategic objectives
- Determine appropriate foundational elements for building financial models that arrive at optimal business solutions
- Synthesize modeling techniques in developing financial models that are appropriate to given situations
- Interpret data produced by financial models for communicating results that inform strategic corporate decision making
- Recommend implementation strategies that are derived from modeling results for balancing risk and return

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Financial Modeling in Excel

Chris Pope and Tingting Liu

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

First Edition

2018

Print ISBN: 978-1119130239

eText ISBN: 978-1119130239

Harvard Business Review

The following material is available in the Harvard Business Review area of your course:

- County Line Markets: Real Options and Store Expansions
- MTI: Cash Budgeting in Times of a Sharp Business Downturn
- MTI: Cash Budgeting in Times of a Sharp Business Downturn (Supplemental Spreadsheet)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU’s curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor’s answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment’s due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	10	15	150
Problem Sets	7	30	210
Modeling Paper	1	30	30
Milestone One	1	50	50
Milestone Two	1	70	70
Milestone Three	1	70	70
Milestone Four	1	70	70
Financial Model Report	1	350	350
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	<p>Corporate Finance and Valuation</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling in Excel</i>, Chapters 1, 2, and 3</p> <p>1-1 Discussion: Getting Started</p> <p>1-2 Valuation Practice Problem Set</p> <p>1-3 Graded Valuation Problem Set</p> <p>1-4 Final Project Milestone One: Select Organization</p>

Module	Topics and Assignments
2	<p>WACC and FCFs (Free Cash Flows)</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling in Excel</i>, Chapter 12</p> <p>2-1 Discussion: WACC and FCFs</p> <p>2-2 WACC Valuation Practice Problem Set</p> <p>2-3 Graded WACC Valuation Problem Set</p> <p>2-4 Final Project Milestone Two: Appropriate Procedures</p>
3	<p>Capital Budgeting Decision Rules</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling in Excel</i>, Chapter 4</p> <p>3-1 Discussion: Pro Forma</p> <p>3-2 Practice Capital Budgeting Problem Set</p> <p>3-3 Modeling Paper</p>
4	<p>Project Cash Flows</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling in Excel</i>, Chapter 5</p> <p>4-1 Discussion: Financial Modeling</p> <p>4-2 Practice Pro Forma Problem Set</p> <p>4-3 Graded Pro Forma Problem Set</p> <p>4-4 Final Project Milestone Three: Modeling Techniques</p>
5	<p>The Nuts and Bolts of Modeling</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling</i>, Chapter 7</p> <p>5-1 Discussion: The Nuts and Bolts of Financial Modeling</p> <p>5-2 Practice Risk and Return Problem Set</p> <p>5-3 Graded Risk and Return Problem Set</p>
6	<p>Efficient Portfolios</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling in Excel</i>, Chapter 8 (pp. 326–356 only)</p> <p>6-1 Discussion: Calculating Efficient Portfolios</p> <p>6-2 Practice Efficient Frontiers Problem Set</p> <p>6-3 Graded Efficient Frontiers Problem Set</p> <p>6-4 Final Project Milestone Four: Interpretation of Results</p>
7	<p>Stocks and Returns</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling in Excel</i>, Chapter 9</p> <p>7-1 Discussion: Stock's Return Data</p> <p>7-2 Stocks and Returns Practice Problem Set</p> <p>7-3 Graded Stocks and Returns Problem Set</p>
8	<p>More Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling in Excel</i>, Chapter 8 (pp. 357–396 only)</p> <p>8-1 Discussion: "Valuing" CAPM</p> <p>8-2 CAPM Practice Problem Set</p> <p>8-3 Graded CAPM Problem Set</p>
9	<p>Project Uncertainty and Scenario Analysis</p> <p><i>Financial Modeling in Excel</i>, Chapter 6</p> <p>9-1 Discussion: Scenario Analysis</p> <p>9-2 Final Project: Financial Model Report</p>

Module	Topics and Assignments
10	After the Final Project 10-1 Discussion: Reflection

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted this policy to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504, the ADA, or the ADAAA.

For questions about **support services, documentation guidelines, general disability issues, or pregnancy accommodations**, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) (OAC).

As a student, you must complete an interactive intake process, with supporting documentation, in order to be granted accommodations. Once reasonable accommodations are approved by the OAC, you will receive an accommodations letter. You are then responsible for sharing the letter with your instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you feel you've been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability, by any party, you may file a complaint or grievance. For more information on the ADA/504 Grievance Policy, go to the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

Academic Integrity Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic integrity policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).