

St. Thomas University
Department of Business Administration

Course Syllabus

FIN 751: Financial Management

Term A6: (August 15th – October 10th)

Instructor: Kevin Brady

Class times: Tuesday 6:00-10:00pm

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Office: O'mailia Hall

Class Room: O'mailia 6

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:45-5:45pm or by appointment

Required Textbook: Moyer, R.C., McGuigan, J. R., & Rao, R. (2018). *Contemporary financial management* (14th ed.). Mason, OH: Cengage-Southwestern.

Prerequisites: ACC 500, ECO 500 and BUS 500 or equivalents

Course Information

Course Description

This course covers budgeting, methods for analyzing financial statements, capital budgeting, and methods for financing.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the role of finance and the financial manager in the firm.
2. Understand the legal, operating, and tax environment for the firm.
3. Understand the basic forms of business, marketing, and interest rates.
4. Understand the basic financial statements, depreciation, and cash flow and analysis of the firm's funds flow.
5. Analyze financial statements, including the use of financial ratios, cross-sectional analysis, and time series analysis.
6. Understand the financial planning process, including budgets and methods of pro-forma statement preparation.
7. Understand operating, financial and total leverage, and break-even analysis.
8. Understand working capital management, including the trade-off between probability and risk and a firm's financing mix based on an aggressive or conservative approach.
9. Examine sources of short-term financing and consideration of alternative financing sources.

10. Compute the time value of money, compound interest, future value, annual and intra-year compounding, nominal and effective rates of interest, and present value.
11. Evaluate the characteristics of capital budgeting.
12. Examine sources of long-term financing.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Apply a balance of quantitative and qualitative concepts to executive decision-making cases.
2. Apply critical thinking skills acquired from exposure to specific functional theories and practices to strategic organizational issues.
3. Express ideas and recommendations in a concise and professional fashion by utilizing their enhanced verbal, analytical, and writing skills to solve case studies.

Schedule

Note: Chapters refer to those in the required text, Moyer, R.C., McGuigan, J. R., & Rao, R. (2018). *Contemporary financial management* (14th ed.). Mason, OH: Cengage-Southwestern.

8/15: Chapters 1 and 2

8/22: Chapters 3 and 4

8/29: Chapters 5 and 6

9/5: Chapters 7 and 8

9/12: Midterm; Chapter 9

9/19: Chapters 10 and 11

9/26: Chapters 12 and 13

10/3: Chapters 14 and 15

10/10: Final Exam

Grading

Midterm: 20%

Final: 25%

Assignments and Participation: 10%

WACC Project: 10%

Comprehensive Case: 15%

Research Paper: 15%

Overall course grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A = 93%–100%; A– = 90%–92.99%; B+ = 87%–89.99%; B = 83%–86.99%; B– = 80%–82.99%; C+ = 77%–79.99%; C = 73%–76.99%; C– = 70%–72.99%; D+ = 67%–69.99%; D = 60%–66.99%; F = 0%–59.99%

Research Project

Library Use and Information Literacy Assignment

Part of the expectation for this course involves students using library resources and focusing on information literacy. For the research project and certain assignments, students should use various mediums of information including books, e-books, academic journals, magazines, newspapers, archival and primary source materials, audio-visual materials, and other electronic materials. The purpose of the library research assignment is twofold. First, it is to introduce the student to the wide selection of electronic research facilities available from the St. Thomas University library. Some useful publications are:

Wall Street Journal
Economist
Business Week
Fortune
Journal of Finance
Journal of Small Business Finance
Journal of Case Management
Journal of Financial Planning
Journal of Portfolio Management
Journal of Accounting, Auditing, and Finance
Journal of Business
Journal of Accounting Research
Journal of Finance Research
Journal of Political Economy
Journal of Financial Services Research
Journal of Financial Economics
Journal of Banking and Finance
Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis
The Financial Review
Review of Business and Economics Research
Akron Business and Economic Review
International Review of Economics & Business
National Tax Journal
Financial Executive
The Review of Economics and Statistics
California Management Review
Corporate Cash Flow
The American Economic Review
The European Economic Review
International Economic Review
Financial Management
Global Finance
Management Decision

The second objective is for the student to gain an in-depth knowledge of a topic related to the course that is not completely covered by the lecture or the textbook. Your topic and outline is due on Week 3.

There will be several topics provided to you to choose from for the research project. The paper must be at least 10 double-spaced pages in length. You must use at least three *academically reviewed* electronically indexed articles from the St. Thomas Library databases—e.g., ABI INFORM, ACADEMIC UNIVERSE, etc., for sources. There should be a reasonable number of properly formatted references. More guidance will be provided during the second week of class.

Reference Guide (Recommended)

American Psychological Association. (2012). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

COURSE STANDARDS

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

Each student is responsible for protecting the secure login and pass code assigned him/her. Furthermore, the student may be required to participate in other designated activities that allow the University to confirm that the registered student participating in courses, assessments, and evaluations and being granted credits or credentials is one and the same person.

ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES

The material for this class represents a broad range of topics that have been collected based on their relevance to you, both academically and professionally. The weekly topics leading to your final paper or final assessment, although presented in a logical manner, are a dynamic process requiring both focus and flexibility on your part and must conform to the following:

1. All assignments are to be submitted in APA format.
2. Late assignments will not be accepted.
3. All written assignments must be double-spaced, word processed, and submitted as requested by the due dates.
4. Students are expected to submit high-quality assignments during this course. In this regard, students should ensure their submissions are edited and grammatically sound. The quality of the exposition and content will impact the grade of each assignment and subsequently the final course grade.

Format for All Course Assignments

The required format for *all* course assignments (e.g., projects and research papers) is that of the American Psychological Association (APA). For more information about this style, see the Supplementary Readings and Resources section of the syllabus. If an assignment does not follow APA style, it will receive a penalty of up to a 10% grade deduction.

Writing Across the Curriculum

Communication in written form is one of the most important skills for a university graduate. In order to develop and demonstrate this skill, students' written work will be expected to meet high standards in both content and style. Students will be held to the scholastic standards and policies outlined in the University Catalog.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Weekly class attendance is required to successfully complete the course. Reading assignments are to be completed prior to class. Students will be expected to be prepared to discuss assignments in class.

Regular class attendance is essential in this course. Your final course grade may be reduced by one letter grade for each unexcused absence more than one. You will be assigned an unexcused absence if you are late or leave early. It is your responsibility to notify your professor if you have a valid reason for arriving late for class or leaving early. This must be in writing or by email.

Students are responsible for all the materials discussed and/or announced in class. Students are also reminded that the penalties for plagiarism in any form are serious (review the Saint Thomas University Student Handbook for student responsibilities) and will be handled according to STU policy.

NONPARTICIPATION

If the student never logs on to class (online) and does not successfully initiate a course drop request, the student receives a UW grade. A student may also receive a UW grade by meeting the following four criteria: (1) never participating in Discussion forums, (2) never submitting an assignment, (3) never taking part in any assessment, and (4) never participating in any learning group activity. To receive course credit in the future, the student is required to re-register for the course and pay the full course fee.

WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE

It is not true that withdrawing from a course simply means not showing up or stopping participation in that course. Please ensure that the policy on withdrawing from a course at St. Thomas University is clearly understood.

At St. Thomas University, in order for a student to withdraw from any course, it is NOT SUFFICIENT for the student to stop attending class or to inform the instructor of his or her intention to withdraw. St. Thomas University's policy states that any student wishing to withdraw from a course must do so formally through BASIC. Any student whose name appears on the final official roster for the class will receive a letter grade based on the percentage of points earned, even if the percentage of points is 0 and the letter grade is an F.

To officially withdraw from a distance education course, students must consult with their instructor and complete the withdrawal forms. Students must electronically submit their forms through their academic advisors. A completed form must have the signature of a dean.

Guidelines for Participating in All Online Course Activities

All class activities are to be completed according to the specific due dates indicated on the course syllabus. Students are expected to participate fully in all discussions and to submit postings on time. Students will be assessed by the degree and quality of their participation (postings) in Discussions. **All assignments will be submitted via Ember.**

NOTICE TO STUDENTS REGARDING SEVERE INCLEMENT WEATHER AND UNIVERSITY EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

If there is a hurricane, the instructor will post and email students instructions before the storm takes him/her offline.

If there are problems with completing assignments because of damage from hurricanes or tropical storms, the instructor will revise the assignment schedule as needed.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to complete an online evaluation at the end of the term for each course in which they were enrolled for a term. Evaluations are very important as they help to improve course content and provide the instructor with feedback on how he/she could enhance the course. Term course evaluations are available at the end of the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICIES

The University trusts that each student will maintain lofty standards of honesty and ethical behavior. All assignments submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be the student's own work. Students are reminded that the penalties for plagiarism are very serious. Students who plagiarize will fail the course. No professional can maintain credibility using another's work, whether that person is an employee, a fellow student, or a published writer. Therefore, our discipline requires that plagiarism in any form be dealt with severely.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is highly valued at St. Thomas University. You must always submit work that represents your original words or ideas. If any words or ideas used in a class posting or assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. Please see the Student Handbook for more information about academic honesty, including consequences of academic dishonesty.

Written assignments that include material similar to that from course reading materials or other sources should include a citation including source, author, and page number. Quotation marks should be used if the material is copied directly from the readings, and text citations should be used (for example, "Kozol, 1988, p. 22"). Following that example, if the material is paraphrased, "(Kozol, 1988)" should appear immediately following the paraphrased material. In addition, written assignments that are similar or identical to those of another student in the class are also a violation of the policy. The consequence for a violation of this policy is receiving 0 points for the assignment. Rewriting the assignment will not be an option. Finally, you may not submit the work of someone else as your own or submit work that you have submitted for another class.

CITING EXTERNAL SOURCES

A particularly important part of writing a paper is giving credit to external sources used. Failure to cite external sources may cause a paper to be considered not in conformance with the Academic Honesty policy as outlined in this syllabus and/or result in a paper being considered to contain plagiarism. Be familiar with these areas, and note that citing sources means having them in your references as well as where otherwise appropriate.

Sources that must be cited include the following:

1. Material from another source used word for word (direct quote)
2. Material from another source with some rewording (revised quote)
3. Material from another source put into your own words (paraphrase)
4. Material for another course you have written

Failure to cite external sources will be considered a significant lack of adherence to guidelines and will incur a penalty. Failure to cite sources may have profound consequences, particularly if the use of sources is considered a significant portion of the content of a submitted assignment.

NONORIGINAL CONTENT (EVEN IF PROPERLY CITED)

Without question, the use of external material in an assignment is strongly encouraged, as it can add value and supporting information. However, it is important to note that assignments should generally consist of a substantial amount of original material (wording and ideas). If an assignment contains an excessively large percentage of content that is nonoriginal, the assignment will be marked down to reflect that. As an extreme example, if an assignment consisted of all nonoriginal content, even if correctly cited, the assignment would be given 0 points on the basis of not having any original content. Therefore, please make sure your assignments have an appropriate balance between cited and original content. **The maximum amount of properly cited, nonoriginal content allowed in each assignment is 30%.**

TECHNOLOGY IN ANTIPLAGIARISM

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

St. Thomas University utilizes online plagiarism software as both a deterrent to academic dishonesty and an educational tool to assist students in their ability to work with and document sources of information. The plagiarism software is used as a tool to guide professors and students on the originality of the material submitted for assignments and the documentation of the sources used to produce the material.

Where anti-plagiarism software is used, and depending upon the assignment and the requirements of the professor for the assignment, 30% similarity or matching is the recommended threshold for faculty to closely review the submitted material to determine if a student has plagiarized. Where the use of anti-plagiarism software is absent, and there is reason to suspect that a student has violated the Academic Conduct Code, as it relates to plagiarism, the procedure to follow in both cases is the same.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE CLASSROOM

One of the highlights of the STU academic experience is that students can draw on the wealth of examples from their background or organizations in discussions and written work. However, it is imperative that students not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary. Students must be mindful of any contracts to which they have agreed with their employers or others.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

All University services are available to online students.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The University Library provides access to electronic databases and print and media resources. The best place to start is www.stu.edu/library for the E-RESEARCH link, as well as other important links and library services. The electronic library catalog will allow you to find books, government documents, videos, and other media types. Access to these collections and services is available with your University email authorization and password. The Library hours are posted on the website. The Reference Research Help Desk phone number is 305-628-6668.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES

Students are responsible for acquiring and maintaining the required equipment and technological services they need to participate in the learning activities. For issues or problems related to University email, My Bobcat, and Ember, please contact:

Email and My Bobcat
Mon–Fri, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

STU Help Desk

305-628-6610
helpdesk@stu.edu

All matters relating to usernames,
passwords, second-term
registration, financial aid, tuition
fees, transcripts, PIN numbers, and
Student IDs

B.A.S.I.C.

305-474-6900
[Website](#)
stubasic@stu.edu

Support
Mon–Fri, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Ineabelle Colón
Program Technical Assistant

305-628-6702
icolon@stu.edu

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

The University Writing Center (UWC) provides writing assistance to STU students from all disciplines, both undergraduate and graduate. The UWC is staffed by a director and writing tutors who work one-on-one with writers at

all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming to developing proofreading skills. To make an appointment, please email writingcenter@stu.edu.

CAREER SERVICES

The Office of Career Services is dedicated to assisting students and alumni in attaining their career goals. The Office specializes in combining one-on-one career advising with the latest in career-related technology, including an Internet-based system for job openings and résumé writing/referrals. Hours can be found on the website: www.stu.edu/career.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COUNSELING SERVICES

The Counseling Services Office serves to make a positive difference in students' lives. They assist students in working through adversity and difficult life situations. The services provided are free and confidential to registered students. To schedule an appointment to speak with a counselor, call 305-628-6690 or email counseling@stu.edu.

DISABLED STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES

It is the intent of St. Thomas University, consistently with its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to insure equal access to quality education for its diverse student population. The Academic Enhancement Center provides auxiliary aids, guidance, and other academic assistance to students with disabilities. This assistance includes tutoring, registration help, adapted equipment (magnifiers, hand magnifiers, recorders, grandstands), testing accommodations, etc. For information regarding services for students with disabilities, contact Mrs. Maritza Rivera, Director of Academic Enhancement Services at (305) 628-6564 or by email at mriviera@stu.edu.

TECHNOLOGY SPECIFICATIONS (2015–2016)

COMPUTERS, INTERNET SERVICE, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

1. Students **must** have the ability to log on to the Internet.
2. Students must have access to and use of the Microsoft Office program.
3. Students must have access to and use of the Ember learning management system (LMS).
4. Students must update their profile and email on Ember. Students can use only their STU email address. If you do not know your email address, log in to My Bobcat and click User Account.
5. Students must log in to Ember a few times each week to check in and stay informed.
6. Students must post specified assignments in the corresponding discussion forum or assignment, depending on the assignment and instructor's request.
7. Course-related questions should be posted in Discussions to benefit the entire class.

The onus is on each student to safeguard his/her work in the event that technology fails. For example, students may back up work to an external unit, such as a USB or CD.

The following table lists the required computer and Internet specifications for using the Ember LMS.⁺

	Minimum
Internet Connection	512K
Bandwidth	512 kbps
Software	MS Word 2000 or higher
Processor	(PC or Mac) 2GHz

Operating System	(PC) Windows XP SP3 and newer (Mac) Mac OSX 10.6 and newer (Linux) Chrome OS
RAM	512 MB
Browser ⁺⁺	Upgrade your browser to the latest version: Chrome (PC or Mac) www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/ Firefox (PC or Mac) www.mozilla.org/en-US/ Safari (Mac) support.apple.com/downloads/#internet
Plug-ins	Flash10 plug-in or newer http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/ JavaScript enabled
Peripherals	1024 x 768 pixel resolution display Speakers and sound card

⁺ STU recommends students use/purchase a computer with these standards listed at the start of their program.

⁺⁺ STU does not provide technical support for browsers other than those listed.