

Course Description

Finance 361 is the finance course all business majors must take and it is a prerequisite to all finance courses needed for the Finance major.*

The course is taught from the perspective of problem solving. It covers key types of problems that you will encounter in your personal finance life and those in your careers. As such, it is condensed into necessary components. This means you should not “gloss over” any of the material.

The objective of the course is that you learn and retain the material. The pedagogical techniques chosen are targeted toward this purpose.

The course uses a mastery approach. With a mastery approach, you may do the exercises as many times as necessary, but you must master them (defined in this course as 80% or above) to proceed to the next topic.

The topics covered are:

1. Time Value of Money
2. Bonds – valuation, return and types of risk
3. Components of the Interest Rate and the Term Structure
4. Stocks – valuation and return
5. Capital Budgeting
6. Cost of Capital
7. Free Cash-Flow Estimation

The arrangement of the topics is such that each later topic builds on the preceding.

* You must earn a C or better in FINA 361 to take all Finance courses required for the Finance major.

The course is presented in a "flipped" format, which means the content for the course is presented outside of class. I will work problems in class and answer questions.

The flipped format means that you must come to class prepared by completing the material or tasks assigned to you.

Course Description

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Finance 361 will introduce you to concepts and techniques that form the foundation of modern finance. These include

1. Time Value of Money (TVM),
2. Bonds – Valuation – Return Composition - Risk
3. Discount Rates and Rates of Return
4. Stock Valuation
5. Capital Budgeting
6. Cost of Capital
7. Free Cash-Flow

Finance 361 will prepare you for more advanced finance courses, but will also prepare you to make informed financial decisions you will encounter in everyday life.

Answer the questions below. The more items you check “yes” the more the material in this course will be useful to you.

	Yes	No	Maybe
Do you have a student loan?			
Do you have (or will you have) a car loan?			
Do you (or will you) use a credit card?			
Do you plan to save for retirement sometime in the future?			
Do you plan on owning a house some day?			
Do you see yourself owning your own business some day?			
Do you see yourself owning stocks and bond and other investments some day?			
Do you aspire to be a			

top executive (Chief Executive Officer CEO, etc.)?			
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Resources for the Class

It is particularly important that you be self-motivated, disciplined and organized under the current Covid-19 circumstances.

I have provided you with a variety of resources that have been shown to be effective teaching instruments.

Mini Lectures are YouTube videos provided as links in your text. Most of these are short (5-15 minute) narrated step-by-step guides to working problems. These allow you to get virtual “one-on-one” help with specific types of problems you may have. They will provide you with lecture material to prepare you to work problems in class. These have the advantage that you can review them any time you need to refresh your memory. Also, it frees up class time so that I can answer questions.

Repeatable (In-Class Exercise) Quizzes are small point quizzes that count toward your grade. You may do these quizzes as many times as you want. Your high score is the score that will count toward your grade.

Success at solving problems results from repetition and from doing problems until the techniques become automatic. The frequent quizzes allow you to recall repeatedly what you have been taught, which based on the “testing effect,” aids in long term retention.

Your classmates are a valuable resource to you in this course. I encourage you to work with your classmates. You will be assigned a study group on Canvas so that you can meet new people and have a group to work with. Of course, you are welcome to work with others as well. Any work that is graded must be done by yourself.

There is substantial evidence that learning from and explaining material to others increases your depth of understanding and retention.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE IS OPTIONAL – because of the social distancing requirement, not everyone can attend class at the same time. I will create a sign-up sheet that you will need to use to reserve yourself a spot in the classroom.

If there is repeatedly more demand than seats, I will assign you to days that you can come in person.

You will be able to attend class at the scheduled time via Zoom and all Zoom classes will be recorded and available.

The course material is designed such that you can do well without attending class.

A Peer Tutor is available to provide you with one-on-one tutoring to supplement the other resources in the course.

Professor	Tutor	Tutoring	Review Session	Room	Zoom Link
Geppert	Khiana Blizek	Review Sessions & Appointments	Fridays 9am	HLH 032	https://unl.zoom.us/j/96798190093

Tutoring will begin Monday, August 31 and run until Friday, November 20.

I am available to help you once you have availed yourself of the other resources available in the course. I am happy to help you, but my goal is to help you to transition to an independent (life-long) learner.

DO NOT email me with questions regarding problems in the course. Use the Discussion Board or attend my Office hours. If you have a question regarding the course that applies just to you feel free to email me.

Discussion Board

Canvas Discussion Boards will be posted so that you may ask me questions regarding the material in the course. If you have a question regarding a problem, do the following:

1. Type the entire question into the Discussion Board
 2. Write how you attempted to solve the problem
 3. Ask for clarification

Do not say “I don’t know how to do #5 from In-Class Questions 3. I expect you to try the problems first and then I am happy to help you.

Office Hours

I will have office hours Monday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM via zoom

Wednesday 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM via zoom

My Contact Information

John Geppert

CoB 425P

402-472-3370

jgeppert1@unl.edu

Prerequisites

Sophomore standing;

2.5 GPA;

Business Qualified

(MATH104 or MATH106 or MATH107/MATH107H or MATH208/MATH208H;

ACCT201 or ACCT201H or RAIK181H;

ACCT202 or ACCT202H or RAIK282H;

ECON211 or ECON211H or RAIK282H;

ECON212 or ECON212H or RAIK182H;

ECON215 or ECON215H or STAT218 or equivalent.

The College will drop you from the course if you fail to meet the requirements for this course. The above list of courses are prerequisites and cannot be taken simultaneously with finance 361. If you are incorrectly dropped from the course, go to the Undergraduate Advising Office.

Calculator

A financial calculator

You may use any calculator you like, but the illustrations in the book and Mini-lectures use the Texas Instrument BA II Plus.

Textbook & Reading Materials

Introductory Finance

FINANCE 361

A WORKED PROBLEM APPROACH

John Geppert

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

ISBN 978-1-5339-2477-3

Everything is based on the book so the book is absolutely required. The book is available at the bookstore or online.

I recommend you get a hard-copy because the book is also a workbook.

If you cannot get a hard copy the book can be rented using the following link:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/introductory-finance-finance-361-a-worked-john-geppert-v9781533933119?term=978-1-5339-3311-9>

Grading Policies

Your course grade is composed of a series of quizzes, two exams and a final.

Type	Number	Repeatable	Minimum Required	Points	Total Points
In-Class Exercises	22	YES	NO	6 points each	132
Unit Quizzes	7	YES	YES 32 points required on each	40 points each	280
Exam 1	1	NO	NO	144	144
Exam 2	1	NO	NO	144	144
Final Exam	1	NO	NO	300	300

In-Class Exercises quizzes are just like the exercises in the book. You may do these quizzes as many times as you like throughout the semester. Your highest score on each is what will count toward your course grade.

Unit Quizzes are similar to the questions that will be on the exams. You may do these quizzes as many times as you like throughout the semester. Your highest score on each is what will count toward your course grade. You

MUST score at least 32 points (80%) on these quizzes to be able to take the exams. You may retake them before the final exam if you want to further raise your course score.

Exam 1, Exam 2 and the Final will be taken at a time TBA (to account for time zones). These exams may only be taken once.

If you miss exam 1 or exam 2 with a DOCUMENTED SERIOUS, REASON the points from the missed exam will be moved to the final

Late Work Policy

Late work will be counted without penalty EXCEPT for exam 1, exam 2 and the final exam, unless special arrangements have been made.

Note: once you take an exam, that score is what will be counted toward your course grade. If for some reason you are not able to take an exam to the best of your ability, contact me BEFORE the exam to discuss the circumstances

Grading Scale

Points	Course Grade
970-1000	A+
930-969	A
900-929	A-
870-899	B+
830-869	B
800-829	B-
770-799	C+
730-769	C

700-729	C-
670-699	D+
630-669	D
600-629	D-
Below 600	F

This is a fixed scale.

There is NO EXTRA CREDIT

The grade of Incomplete is given only in rare circumstances. By that I mean you are not able to complete the course due to circumstances beyond your control. If you complete an assignment, exam or quiz it will count toward your grade, so if you need an incomplete grade, make these arrangements prior to completing any class component which contributes to your grade. Unsatisfactory performance on exams is not grounds for the grade of I. If you are not doing well in class, please speak to me immediately.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is essential to the existence and integrity of an academic institution. The responsibility for maintaining that integrity is shared by all members of the academic community. The University's [Student Code of Conduct](#) addresses academic dishonesty. Students who commit acts of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action and are granted due process and the right to appeal any decision.

College of Business students are held to the standards set by the UNL Student Code of Conduct. In the Student Code of Conduct, acts of dishonesty are specified as, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication or falsification, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, falsifying grade reports, impermissible collaboration, or misrepresentation to avoid academic work. The penalties for academic dishonesty will be severe and may range from receiving a failing grade on the test or assignment, failing the course in which academic dishonesty took place, or the possibility of expulsion from the university.

Accessibility Support

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options privately. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). If you are eligible for services and register with their office, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so they can be implemented in a timely manner. SSD contact information: 117 Louise Pound Hall.; 402-472-3787

Counseling and Psychological Services

UNL offers a variety of options for students to aid them in dealing with stress and adversity. [Counseling and Psychological & Services \(CAPS\)](#) is a multidisciplinary team of psychologists and counselors that works collaboratively with Nebraska students to help them explore their feelings and thoughts and learn helpful ways to improve their mental, psychological and emotional well-being when issues arise. CAPS can be reached by calling 402-472-7450 (even after hours).

Required Use of Face Coverings for On-Campus Shared Learning Environments

As of July 17, 2020, and until further notice, all University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) faculty, staff, students, and visitors (including contractors, service providers, and others) are required to use a facial covering at all times when indoors except under specific conditions outlined in the COVID 19 face-covering policy found at <https://covid19.unl.edu/face-covering-policy>.