University of St. Thomas  
Cameron School of Business

1. Course Information
   - Course Title: Fundamentals of Finance
   - Course Number: MBA 5X04
   - Course Section: SCTA
   - Credit Hours: 1.5
   - Semester: Fall 2015
   - Prerequisites: None
   - Room and Time: O'Rourke 104, Sat 8:00AM-11:45AM
   - Meeting Dates: Aug 22, 29, Sep 12, 19, 26, and Oct 3

2. Instructor Information
   - Name: Chih-Huei (Debby) Su, Ph.D.
   - Office Location: Welder Hall Room 205
   - Office Phone: 713-525-3807
   - Office Hours: Monday/ Wednesday 10:00AM-11:30AM; Tuesday 1:00PM-5:00PM
   - Email: csu@stthom.edu

3. Course Catalog Description
   This course provides an introduction to financial concepts and principles for students required to take the proficiency course in Finance. Special attention is given to the role of the financial system in the economy, the fundamentals of investment analysis, and the financial decisions of business firms as related to capital budgeting, capital structure, and responsibility in the conduct of business financial operations.

4. Program Learning Goals and Objectives

   **MBA Program**
   The Master of Business Administration program has six goals. When students complete the MBA degree at the University of St. Thomas:

   **Goal 1.** They will be effective communicators.
   - **Objective 1** Graduates will deliver a compelling oral presentation.
   - **Objective 2** Graduates will write professional quality documents.

   **Goal 2.** They will be effective team members.
   - **Objective 1** Graduates will demonstrate appropriate group techniques to participate in a team task that results in effective performance.
   - **Objective 2** Graduates will demonstrate effective leadership skills in a group project.

   **Goal 3.** They will be ethical decision makers.
   - **Objective 1** Graduates will recognize the ethical issues implicit in a business situation.
   - **Objective 2** Graduates will describe and use ethical frameworks applicable to business situations.
   - **Objective 3** Graduates will develop a variety of ethical alternatives for resolving or at least addressing, a problem in business.

   **Goal 4.** They will be globally aware.
Objective 1 Graduates will perform a global business situation analysis.
Objective 2 Graduates will formulate global business strategy.
Objective 3 Students will evaluate global business strategy.

Goal 5. They will be able to integrate knowledge across multiple business disciplines.

Objective 1 Graduates will identify business problems and opportunities that result from factors internal and external to the organization.
Objective 2 Graduates will apply quantitative and qualitative techniques from the different business disciplines to address problems and opportunities.

Goal 6. They will be knowledgeable about multiple business disciplines.

MSF Program
The Masters of Science in Finance has six goals. When students complete the MSF degree at the University of St. Thomas:

Goal 1. Core of Finance Knowledge
MSF graduates will be knowledgeable in the critical areas in the field of Finance. Graduates will:

- Demonstrate competency in the key fields of Corporate Finance, Investments, Banking and Financial Institutions, Risk Management, and International Finance when they apply the knowledge in the required courses to solve Finance problems.

Goal 2. Analytical and Critical Thinking Skills
MSF graduates will be analytical and critical thinkers. Graduates will:

Objective 1 demonstrate skills in analyzing financial reports
Objective 2 identify and evaluate complex financial problems by integrating the skills learned in the core Finance area.

Goal 3. Value System
MSF graduates will anchor financial aspects of business activities in ethics and human values. Graduates will be able to:

Objective 1 identify and apply principles of ethical leadership and accountability as applicable to the financial aspects of business decisions
Objective 2 assess workplace behaviors and financial aspects of business decisions in terms of human values, ethical norms, and societal impact.

Goal 4. Global Awareness
MSF graduates will be aware of global influences on financial decision-making. Graduates will be able to:

Objective 1 demonstrate the knowledge of global financial and foreign exchange markets.
Objective 2 identify the impact of global financial changes on multinational enterprises.

Goal 5. Teamwork & Leadership
MSF graduates will be able to work effectively on team projects with individuals from diverse groups. Graduates will be able to:

Objective 1 demonstrate appropriate group techniques to participate in a team task.
Objective 2 compile diverse contributions to produce a comprehensive outcome.
Goal 6. Communication Skills

MSF graduates will be effective communicators. Graduates will be able to:

Objective 1 prepare written reports on financial issues.

Objective 2 deliver effective presentations on financial issues.

5. Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

(a) Familiarize themselves with the nature of the corporation and of the general guiding principles underlying the process of stockholder wealth maximization. (MBA Goal 6 and MSF Goal 1)

(b) Learn the techniques and methods of financial analysis and develop the ability to use them as tools for problem solving. (MBA Goal 6 and MSF Goal 1)

(c) Learn to identify which techniques and methods are applicable to a given problem and how managers can use them individually or in combination as decision-making tools to increase the value of the corporation and thus the net worth of stockholders. (MBA Goal 5 and MSF Goal 2)

(d) Develop the ability to communicate clearly - to describe in words what the techniques of financial management contribute to decision making. (MBA Goal 1 and MSF Goal 6)

(e) Obtain an understanding of the functioning of financial markets and their role in financial decision-making. (MBA Goal 5 and MSF Goal 2 and 3)

(f) Broaden their knowledge beyond the excessively clear-cut concepts and problems of the textbook by approaching managerial decisions using the messier and less complete data typically encountered in practice by engaging in empirical studies of actual firms or engaging in case studies as assigned in the course. Whichever of these is assigned, it will involve written analysis and oral discussion. (MBA Goal 1, 5, 6 and MSF Goal 1, 2, 6)

6. Texts, Readings, Materials


Required Readings: I will assign some readings on Investopedia.com or Wikipedia as the supporting materials for the class. I will post the link on Blackboard for the required readings.

Financial Calculator: Texas Instruments BA II Plus (This is the suggested brand/model.)¹

Supplementary Readings: The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Business Week, and Fortune magazines. I would like to encourage you to read business press outside the class. It will help you to relate topics covered in class to the real business world and enhance your class performance.

7. Instructional Methods

Class time will be devoted to lecture, discussion, and analysis of assigned problems. Finance is a subject highly problem oriented. Therefore, problems will constitute the largest number of points for each exam. Assigned problems will be given on a weekly basis. Active participation in class is encouraged and required. You will also be assigned a team project throughout the semester.

¹I will be using BA II Plus for classroom demonstrations. If you use a different calculator make sure you have the manual, so that you may learn how to use it on your own or you can “google” instructions on how to use it.
8. Technology
Students are expected to be able to perform the following:

(a) Online data retrieval and/or research on the World Wide Web
(b) Online communication or collaboration with each other
(c) Use of Microsoft Office programs to complete assignments
(d) Use of a financial calculator to perform the analyses
(e) Use of BlackBoard learning platform

9. Course Policies

- Readings
  Students should prepare for ALL regular scheduled classes prior to class meetings and are responsible for all of the material discussed in class, assigned in the readings, and problems assigned for homework regardless of your attendance status.

- Assignments
  Homework will be assigned on a weekly basis and will be collected at the beginning of the class on the following week. Please TYPE and PRINT assigned problems. Hand-writing assignments and late submission will not be accepted. Solutions for the homework problems will be discussed in the class and students can get full credits if revisions with red marks are provided. Since students type their assignments and keep the electronic version of the submitted assignments, assignments will be not returned.

- Exams
  Make-up exams will not be permitted unless I am notified of your absence on an exam before the exam date. Make-up exams from excused absences will be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable to the instructor and the student.

- Attendance Policy
  Attendance is mandatory and expected. Students are expected to arrive on time and stay in class until the class period ends. If you missed more than one class meeting, your course grade, at the instructor’s discretion, will be reduced by 0.5 point per absence.

- Class Communication
  Major class announcements will be made through BlackBoard with email notifications. Online discussions can also be established on Blackboard. So please check the email on your BlackBoard account is correct.

- Academic Honesty
  Academic integrity is very highly regarded at the University of St. Thomas. Using someone else’s work as your own is a grave violation of this principle. Ethical conduct is essential to a community of scholars and students searching for truth. Anything less than total commitment to honesty and honorable conduct undermines the efforts of the entire community. In the Cameron School of Business, students and faculty are expected to commit to a code that exemplifies each individual’s honor and integrity. Any conduct that violates this standard and betrays the respect of others is a matter of grave concern and, accordingly, is deemed unacceptable.

- Accommodation
  The University of St. Thomas abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied
the benefits of an education “solely by reason of a handicap.” If you have a documented disability that may impact your performance in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to Counseling and Disability Services which is located on the second floor of Crooker Center. Contact the Center at 713-525-6953 or 713-525-3162.

10. Class Participation
The following criteria will be used to judge and grade your participation performance:

(a) Content Mastery:
The student makes evident by classroom comments and/or responses to questions, an understanding of the facts, concepts, and theories presented in the assigned readings.

(b) Communication Skills:
The student informs other students in a clear and constructive manner what he/she knows. Communication skills include listening to others and understanding what they have said, responding appropriately, asking clear, constructive questions, building on the ideas of others, etc.

(c) Synthesis/Integration:
The student shows the connections between this material and other material. For example, the student could take several ideas from the readings or class discussions and combine them to produce a new perspective on an issue, or the student could take outside materials (personal experience, work experience, other classes etc.) and combine them to create insights.

(d) Creativity:
The student shows further implications of the material by finding new ways of articulating or setting the materials, which produce significant insights, etc.

(e) Valuing:
The student identifies values inherent to the material and offer rationales based on some value system.

11. Mission Statement: Cameron School of Business
The Cameron School of Business will serve students of diverse backgrounds, providing them the necessary professional skills for a changing global economy, and instilling in them a deep appreciation for ethical behavior as the hallmark of a successful and fulfilling business career. The Cameron School will provide its students a timely and comprehensive business curriculum, with opportunities for specialized study in major business fields. The faculty will provide quality teaching, as this is the core of our mission. As an extension of our teaching mission, the faculty will engage in scholarly activity and service to the University, the profession, and the community.

12. Grading
• Grade Distribution:
  Assignments & Cases  30%
  Class Participation  5%
  In-Class Quizzes  15%
  Final Exam  50%
13. Course Tentative Schedule
The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. However, you must keep up with the reading assignments.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| Week 1- Aug 22 | • Introduction to the class  
• Types of Firms and Corporate Governance  
• Financial Statements- Balance Sheet and Income Statements |
| Week 2- Aug 29 | • Introduction to the Financial Market, including Securities Market and Financial Intermediaries  
• Basic Operations of Financial Calculators  
• Assignment 1 due  
• In-Class Quiz 1 |
| Week 3- Sep 12 | • Time Value of Money  
  – Single Cash Flow  
  – Making Interest Rates Comparable: APR v.s. EAR  
  – Annuity and Annuity Due  
• Assignment 2 due |
| Week 4- Sep 19 | • Amortization Table  
• Time Value of Money- Level Perpetuity and Growing Perpetuity  
• Time Value of Money- Complex Cash Flows  
• Assignment 3 due  
• In-Class Quiz 2 |
| Week 5- Sep 26 | • Interest Rates, Returns and Risk  
• Assignment 4 due  
• In-Class Quiz 3 |
| Week 6- Oct 03 | • Final Exam |

\(^2\)The above schedule and procedures in this course are tentative and subject to change.