

FINA 5310: Advanced Topics in Financial Management

Contact information

Professor: Dr. Nga Nguyen

Office Location: BLB 358D

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Teaching Assistant: Mr. Abhinay Kakarla

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Office Hours

Professor's Office Hours: Tue 10:30 – 11:30 am and by appointment.

Zoom: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/89515988545?pwd=2gvoEwH9TKQaqaYn1kGNHvNVKp19q7.1>

Meeting ID: 895 1598 8545

Passcode: 823562

Teaching Assistant's Help Sessions:

TBA

Finance Lab (in person BLB 006)

TBA

Finance Tutor Lab

[Finance tutor lab](#) offers free individual appointments.

Email: FinaLab@unt.edu

Course Description

FINA 5310 (3 credit hours) This course develops a framework for considering key corporate finance problems and issues faced by financial managers. In doing so, the course will enhance your understanding of market efficiency, capital budgeting with real options, capital structure, dividend policy, the capital raising process, and mergers and acquisitions. This course builds upon prior corporate finance classes (e.g., FINA 5170) and maintains an emphasis on key topics such as risk and return, discounted cash flow analysis, Net Present Value, and the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM).

Course Structure

This course is delivered 100% online (asynchronous). There will be a 60-minute weekly synchronous office hour via Zoom throughout the semester. These office hours are optional, but students are encouraged to attend. Other than that, your interaction with the professor and with your fellow students will take place on Canvas and via email. There are 14 weeks of content that you will move through. These lectures cover materials from the textbook. PowerPoint slides and supplementary materials are designed to summarize the basic concepts and applications introduced in the class. Applied problems are utilized to assess student understanding and help prepare students for the exams.

Course Objectives

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

1. Interpret financial statements
2. Analyze a firm's past performance
3. Compare performance among companies within the same industry and analyze trends over time
4. Estimate a firm's cost of capital
5. Understand the basics of the capital raising process
6. Understand a firm's capital structure
7. Understand the basics of a firm's payout policy
8. Understand the basics of mergers and acquisitions

Course Prerequisites or Other Expectations

Completion FINA 5170 or equivalent. The FINA 5310 syllabus is designed with the assumption that students have a sound understanding of basic mathematics, algebra, statistics, accounting (especially balance sheets, income statements, and statements of cash flows), the time value of money, basic capital budgeting tools, and all other prerequisites. It is your responsibility to read and review these topics thoroughly so that you are comfortable with these concepts.

Required Materials

1. Textbook. Corporate Finance, 13th ed by Ross, Westerfield, Jaffe, and Jordan. Publisher: McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 978-1260772388.
2. Online homework system McGraw-Hill Connect
3. A Texas Instruments (TI) BA II Plus financial calculator. I will use the TI BA II Plus financial calculator to demonstrate calculation problems in the lecture notes. You can find the online manual at <http://bit.ly/14A6Fba>

Suggested Reading

The Wall Street Journal

[Free subscription instructions](#)

Course Site (Canvas)

PowerPoint slides and other supplementary course materials are available on the course website, accessible through Canvas at canvas.unt.edu/. You can use Canvas to access homework and quizzes. All grades will be available on Canvas, allowing you to track your progress.

Grades

The course grade will be determined as follows. Detailed explanations for each component are below.

Contribution to Grade	Percentage of Final Grade
Homework (lowest one dropped)	25%
Group Cases	15%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Your final grade will be determined based on the percentage points of your assignments accumulated over the semester as follows.

A = 90-100 B = 80-89.99
C = 70-79.99 D = 60-69.99
F = below 60

Grade-related Policies

Homework and Late Submission Policy

All homework assignments need to be completed online via McGraw-Hill “Connect” website on an individual basis. There will be 10 graded homework assignments, and one homework assignment with the lowest score will be dropped. You have unlimited attempts to complete each individual homework. The attempt with the best score will be kept. You have unlimited time (before the deadline) to complete each homework.

All homework assignments are to be completed by 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) on the due date, unless the student has a university-excused absence and provides documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline. There will be a 10% grade deduction per day for homework submitted after the due date. Any unsubmitted homework or homework submitted ten days or more after the due date will receive a grade of zero. Homework dates are posted in the Canvas calendar. You will be able to see your grade in the Canvas grade book immediately after you complete the homework.

Homeworks are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the financial concepts you learn in this course in making business and personal finance decisions as well as to prepare you for the exams. You should plan on spending at least 3-4 hours per week working on your assignments. I would suggest everyone start working on the homework/quiz well before the due date so that you have more time to

work on your assignments, more opportunities to get help from me or from my teaching assistant, and in case of technical difficulty.

Group Cases

During the semester, students are required to work on 3 case studies with up to 2 other students (i.e., a group of 2 or 3 people). Each case is worth 5% of your grade, totaling 15%. The case studies must be submitted electronically on Canvas by the specified deadlines. Every team member is expected to contribute to the team project equally and, therefore, will receive the same grade for each project.

Note: All submissions for grading, including case studies, are subject to plagiarism screening using detection software such as Turnitin.

Exam Policy

There are two exams: one midterm exam and one *non-cumulative* final exam. Each exam is worth 30% of your course grade, totaling 60%. Any missed exam will get a grade of zero.

All exams have similar formats and are closed-book and closed-notes. Exams will consist of both conceptual and numerical questions. Any material discussed in this course (including but not limited to course notes and supplementary materials posted on canvas, assigned textbook chapters, problems assigned as homework, and ungraded practice quizzes) is examinable.

You are allowed to bring a non-programmable financial calculator, scratch paper, pen/pencil, and a form of ID (UNT student card or driver's license) for the remote exam. You must display the model of the non-programmable calculator on the web camera when you take the remote exam.

Makeup Exam Policy

Exam dates are fixed, and everyone is required to take exams at these pre-specified time slots. Make sure to arrange other appointments (including work, job interviews, doctor's appointments, etc.) well in advance if there is a conflict with the exam date and time. Makeup exams are only allowed in extreme circumstances (i.e., [university-excused absences](#)). In such cases, you must notify me in writing (via email) at least one week prior to the exam date, provide appropriate supporting documentation, and obtain confirmation from me prior to the exam. If such extreme circumstances are unforeseeable (i.e., an accident), you need to contact me as soon as possible, and I will determine how to proceed.

Grade Disputes

You are required to wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect you to review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you submitted. If you would still like to meet, please email me to set up an online meeting (I am unable to discuss grades via email). You should attend our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate how you earned a higher grade than the one you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within seven days after grades become available to students, you will also forfeit your right to dispute the grade.

Office Hours

In the optional weekly office hours via Zoom, the professor may review the important topics covered in the prior week, work on example problems as necessary, and answer specific questions that students may have. Additionally, the class TA (teaching assistant) will also hold office hours/ review sessions weekly via Zoom. Students are highly encouraged to attend our weekly office hours/review sessions. Students do not need to reserve time to attend office hours or a review session. In addition, students can book appointments to meet with the professor or the TA if the regular office hours do not work.

Recordings of the professor's regular office hours will be available on Canvas, but there will be no video recordings of the TA's office hours.

Change of Recorded Grades

Components of your grades will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester. You need to review your grade book carefully to make sure that all items of your grade are recorded correctly. If, however, any item is incorrectly recorded, you must inform me in writing (via email, accompanied by evidence to support your claim) within one week from when it is posted on Canvas or on the last day of class, whichever is sooner. If no request to adjust grades is made within that time frame, all graded items will be finalized, and no further adjustments will be made.

Incomplete Grade

A grade of incomplete can only be assigned if you follow the University policy regarding incomplete grades. You must check with me to arrange an incomplete before the final exam is administered. Not performing well in class, not being able to complete an assignment on time, or being out of town during a test are inadequate reasons for requesting or granting an "I".

Add/Drop Deadlines

If you are not currently enrolled in this course, you must add it by the designated deadline. If you want to drop the course without penalty, you may do so by the appropriate date. For these and other deadlines, including receipt of an automated grade of "W", please consult UNT's (<https://registrar.unt.edu/>)

Student Responsibility

Each student is responsible for the information contained in this syllabus and all announcements made in this course. This includes announcements made on the first day of class and any emails from the professor. Students are responsible for checking the course's most current calendar and turning in quizzes, homework, and exams on time. The students are also responsible for withdrawing from the class should they decide to do so.

Instructor Responsibility

As an instructor, my responsibility is to deliver the course knowledge outlined in this syllabus, help you grow and learn, provide clear instructions for activities and assessments, answer questions about assignments, and identify additional resources as necessary.

Course Contract

This syllabus represents a binding contract between you (the student) and me (the instructor). Please read it carefully. Your enrollment in this course constitutes an agreement to these terms for the length of the course. I look forward to working with you to achieve the goals outlined in this syllabus.

Tentative Course Outline/Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Introduction & Review (TVM, Basic capital budgeting)	FINA 5710 or Ross Chapters 4&5
2	Financial Statement & Cash Flows	Ross Chapter 2
3	Financial Statement Analysis	Ross Chapter 3
4	Case 1: Capital Budgeting	
5	Capital Budgeting: Inflation, Sensitivity Analysis	Ross Chapter 6
6	Valuing the Firm's Projects: Capital Budgeting and Real Options	Ross Chapter 7
7	Valuing the Firm's Projects: Cost of Capital	Ross Chapter 13
8	Case 2: Cost of capital	
9	Exam 1: Thu 3/19/2026	
10	Raising Capital	Ross Chapter 20
11	Debt/Equity Policy: irrelevance, corporate taxes	Ross Chapter 16
12	Debt/Equity Policy: bankruptcy costs, pecking order	Ross Chapter 17
13	Dividend Policy	Ross Chapter 19
14	Mergers and acquisitions	Ross Chapter 29
15	Case 3	
16	Final exam: Tue 5/5/2026	

General Course Policies

Communication and Feedback: The best way to contact me is via email. Students must use their official UNT email address to communicate with either the TA or the Professor. I batch process emails and will do my best to reply to you within a 24-hour period (usually sooner). My response may be delayed over the weekend. Moreover, some questions do not lend themselves to an easy answer via email, in which I may ask you to arrange an appointment time for an online meeting. Additionally, emails can sometimes go missing. If it appears that I have not responded to you, please feel free to follow up with me. You may also want to find someone in class to be a "buddy" with. This will give you at least one other person with whom you can email questions.

Students are expected to use appropriate and professional email etiquette when communicating. As business students, you should exhibit a high level of care in ensuring that your message is communicated clearly and in an appropriate manner, so that the recipient can understand. You want your email to reflect well on you and your intelligence. Check for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Although most of us compose emails on our cell phones, emails are not the same as text messages. Be mindful of your "tone" and language. Use appropriate greetings, full sentences, and a closure statement. Do not use text message shortcuts or acronyms. Here is a [guideline for online communication](#).

I will post announcements or may contact you by e-mail whenever necessary and will send e-mail messages to your EagleConnect (e-mail) account. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail account on a regular basis. Note that any information about your quiz/homework/exam grades will only be communicated via Canvas.

Student Success: FINA 5310 has frequent deliverables and challenging goals. My experience is that students who keep up with the material from the beginning of class typically do very well. Do not procrastinate! Make sure that you can relate the relevant points in the text to the learning objectives. Based on your review of the class PowerPoint slides, your reading of the text, and your attempts at solving the quizzes and homework, come to the office hour with a list of questions (areas of confusion, etc.). If you follow this approach, you will transform a passive activity of reading the lecture into an active task of seeking specific knowledge or skills that align with the learning objectives.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be referred to the Dean of Students for consideration of whether the student's conduct has violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [Student Conduct and Community Standards | Division of Student Affairs](#).

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to act in an honest and forthright manner in this class and with all class assignments, exams, and quizzes. Students are expected to complete their own work individually, unless otherwise specified in an assignment. Students caught cheating in any manner will receive a zero for the assignment, exam, or quiz in question, and the issue will be referred to the Executive Associate Dean of the College for potential additional penalties, up to and including expulsion from the College and/or the University. The University has a very specific policy regarding honesty. You are expected to know and follow this policy. See [Second Draft For Review: Student Academic Integrity](#). Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

Cheating. “Cheating” means the use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:

- a. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes, or other assessments;
- b. use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
- c. use, without permission, of tests, notes, or other academic materials belonging to instructors, staff members, or other students of the University;
- d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
- e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

Plagiarism. “Plagiarism” means use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to:

- a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation, or
- b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials

Artificial Intelligence: In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools such as Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy. Additionally, tools like Grammarly, spellcheck, predictive text, speech-to-text, and translation tools are not allowed as they blur authorship and misrepresent your independent work. All work must be your own.

Accommodation for Disability: Please inform me during the first week of class if you have any conditions that may limit or affect your ability to participate in this course so that we can make necessary arrangements. You may also contact [the Office of Disability Access](#) for more information.

Religious Accommodations: It is University policy to excuse absences of students resulting from religious observances and to provide, without penalty, for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required coursework that may fall on religious holidays. Students who plan to observe such a holiday are requested to notify the instructor as soon as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements for class work or rescheduling of examinations. Please consult [UNT list of major religious Holidays](#).

Access to Information - Eagle Connect: Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward an email to [Eagle Connect](#).

Emergency Plan: Every campus building has emergency shelter and evacuation plans. Please familiarize yourself with the plans of each building in which you take classes or attend meetings. Be sure to note the routes to the lowest level of the buildings for shelter during inclement weather, as well as the exits from the buildings in the event of a fire or other emergency. For more information see [Emergency Floor Plans | Emergency Management & Safety Services](#).

Syllabus Change Policy: The Instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus, if needed. Announcements will be made in Canvas.

Students' Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT): Student feedback is an important and essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available late in the semester, providing you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. You will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](#) or email spot@unt.edu.

Retention of Student Records: Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of records. All records, including exams and assignments submitted during the course, are retained for at least one calendar year after course completion. Coursework completed via Canvas, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual records; however, information about students' records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws, and the University's policy. Refer to UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention, for further details.

Sexual Assault Prevention: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist students who have been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other available resources both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565- 2759.

Use of Student Work: Student owns the copyright for all work (e.g., software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) they create within a class, and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all the following criteria are met:

- ✓ The work is used only once.
- ✓ The work is not used in its entirety.

- ✓ Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- ✓ The student is not identified.
- ✓ The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Help and Support: If you feel that you are struggling to understand the material, please contact me as soon as possible. To ensure that I can help you, be specific about what you do not understand – that is, section of the notes, text, or a particular problem that you are struggling with (For example, if it is a numerical problem, email me, or bring to office hours, a copy of the question and your attempt to solve it such as a picture of your handwritten note).

Technical Assistance: Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustrations that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT, we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UNT Help Desk: [UNT Student Help Desk site](#)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8 am-9 pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8 am-midnight
- Friday: 8 am-8 pm
- Saturday: 9 am-5 pm

Laptop Checkout: 8 am-7 pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Academic Support Services:

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (https://library.unt.edu/)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)

Student Support Services:

Mental Health Services

UNT provides mental health resources to students to ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and support students in need, regardless of the nature or severity of the issue.

Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)