

FINA3770: Introduction to Finance

Contact information

Professor: Stephen P. Ferris

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Course Time: Monday/Wednesday, 0930-1050.

Teaching Assistant (TA): Mr. Sergio Gareca

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Teaching Assistant's Help Sessions: By appointment

Finance Tutor Lab

[Finance tutor lab](#) offers free review sessions (In person: BLB 006 and via Zoom)

Email: FinaLab@unt.edu to contact a tutor.

Course Description

FINA 3770 (3 credit hours) is an introduction to the basic principles of finance and the application of these principles to financial decision-making. This class will provide an overview of key financial concepts used by managers: the operations of a financial markets, time value of money and interest rates, financial statements, bond and stock valuation, capital budgeting, cost of capital, and the risk and return trade-off.

Course Structure

This course consists of in-class lectures scheduled during class time. During these lectures, I will cover materials in the textbook and work example problems as necessary. Powerpoint slides and supplementary materials are designed to summarize this material. Applied problems are utilized to assess student understanding and help prepare students for the exams.

Course Learning Objectives

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

1. Understand the advantages and disadvantages of each type of business organization. s
2. Calculate present value, future value, interest rate, periodic payments, and the number of payment periods of different types of cash flows
3. Understand how changes in interest rates affect asset values or the return on an investment.
4. Calculate the value of various financial assets such as stocks and bonds
5. Conceptualize the risk and return trade-off of your investment from both a stand-alone

and a portfolio perspective

6. Select between competing business projects using different capital budgeting methods such as NPV, IRR, and payback.
7. Understand and be able to estimate the cost of capital.

Course Prerequisites or Other Expectations

Completion of pre-business requirements, including ACCT 2010 and 2020 or equivalent, with grades of C or better. FINA 3770 as a course is designed with the assumption that the students have a sound understanding of basic mathematics, algebra, statistics, and accounting (especially balance sheet, income statement, and the statement of cash flows). It is your responsibility to read and review these topics thoroughly so that you are comfortable with these concepts.

Required Materials

1. **Textbook.** *Fundamentals of Corporate Finance*, with WileyPlus, 6th ed by Parrino, Bates, Gillan and Kidwell, Publisher: Wiley.
2. A Texas Instruments' (TI) BA II Plus financial calculator. I

Fall 2025 Course Outline/Schedule

Day	Date	Week	Topic/Assigned Reading	Chapter/Exams
Mon	08/18/2025	1	Module 0: Introduction Module 1: The Financial Manager and the Firm	Chapter 1
Wed	08/20/2025	1	Module 1: The Financial Manager and the Firm	Chapter 1
Mon	08/25/2025	2	Module 2: The Financial System and the Level of Interest Rates	Chapter 2
Wed	08/27/2025	2	Module 2: The Financial System and the Level of Interest Rates	Chapter 2
Mon	09/01/2025	3	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
Wed	09/03/2025	3	Module 3: Financial Statements, Cash Flow and Taxes	Chapter 3/4
Mon	09/08/2025	4	Module 4: Time Value of Money	Chapter 5
Wed	09/10/2025	4	Module 4: Time Value of Money	Chapter 5
Mon	09/15/2025	5	Module 5 Review and Exam Prep	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5
Wed	09/17/2025	5	Module 5: Course Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5
Mon	09/22/2025	6	Module 6: Discounted Cash Flows and Valuation	Chapter 6
Wed	09/24/2025	6	Module 6: Discounted Cash Flows and Valuation	Chapter 6
Mon	09/29/2025	7	Module 6: Discounted Cash Flows and Valuation	Chapter 6
Wed	10/01/2025	7	Module 7: Bond Valuation	Chapter 8
Mon	10/06/2025	8	Module 7: Bond Valuation	Chapter 8
Wed	10/08/2025	8	Module 8: Stock Valuation	Chapter 9
Mon	10/13/2025	9	Module 8: Stock Valuation	Chapter 9
Wed	10/15/2025	9	Module 8: Stock Valuation	Chapter 9
Mon	10/20/2025	10	Module 9: Review and Exam Prep	Chapter 6, 8, 9
Wed	10/22/2025	10	Module 9: Course Exam 2	Chapter 6, 8, 9
Mon	10/27/2025	11	Module 10: Risk and Return	Chapter 7
Wed	10/29/2025	11	Module 10: Risk and Return	Chapter 7
Mon	11/03/2025	12	Module 10 Risk and Return	Chapter 7
Wed	11/05/2025	12	Module 10: Risk and Return	Chapter 7
Mon	11/10/2025	13	Module 11: Fundamentals of Capital Budgeting	Chapter 10
Wed	11/12/2025	13	Module 11: Fundamentals of Capital Budgeting/Exam Prep	Chapter 10
Mon	11/17/2025	14	Module 11: Course Exam 3	Chapter 7, 10
Wed	11/19/2025	14	Module 12: Cost of Capital	Chapter 13
Mon	11/24/2025	15	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Wed	11/26/2025	15	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Mon	12/01/2025	16	Module 12: Cost of Capital	Chapter 13
Wed	12/03/2025	16	Module 13: Review and Final Exam Prep	
TBD	Week of 8-12 Dec 2025	17	Final Exam	Select Chapters

Course Site (Canvas)

PowerPoint slides and other supplementary course materials are available through course website on Canvas at canvas.unt.edu/. You can use Canvas to access New WileyPlus homeworks and quizzes. All grades will be available on Canvas so that you can 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 (10 assignments)	30%
Course Exams (3 exams, lowest one dropped)	40%
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

There will be 10 graded homework assignments. You have one attempt to complete each individual homework, however, you are allowed 3 attempts *per question*. Your best score will be kept as the question score. You have unlimited time (before the deadline) to complete each homework. Each homework assignment is worth 3% of your course grade for a total of 30%. Please watch a short video in Canvas under Module 1- “Questions about WileyPLUS” if you want to know more about how to take the homework.

Homework assignments are administered via New Wiley Plus. All homework assignments are to be completed by 11:59 pm (Central time) of the due date unless the student has a university-excused absence and provides documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline. Any unsubmitted homework 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 your homework.

The homework assignments are designed to give you an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to 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 to work on your assignments. I suggest that you begin working on the homework assignment 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.

Course and Final Exams Policy

FINA3770 has a total of four exams consisting of three course exams and a final exam. I will drop the lowest course exam. Each course exam counts for 20% of your course grade for a total of 40%. The final exam is cumulative and worth 30% of your course grade. The final exam is mandatory and cannot be dropped. A missed final exam will be graded as a zero.

All exams have similar formats and are closed books and closed notes. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions – both conceptual and numerical. Any material discussed in this course (including but not limited to course notes and supplementary materials posted on canvas, class lecture, assigned text book chapters, problems assigned as homework assignments) are potentially test material. I will provide an exam formula sheet for each exam.

All course exams are administered in-class during regular class time. Final exam is in-class during the university administered time. Exam dates are posted in Canvas calendar and the Course Outline/Schedule included below.

Makeup Exam Policy

Exam dates are fixed, and everyone is required to take exams at these pre-specified time slots. Make sure you arrange other appointments (including work, job interview, doctor's appointment, 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 let me know in writing (email) one week before the exam date, provide appropriate supporting documentation, and obtain confirmation from me prior to the exam. If such extreme circumstances are unforeseeable (i.e., 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 that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. If you would still like to meet, email me to set up an online meeting (I cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than 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 of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Change of Recorded Grades

Components of your grades will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester. You need to check your grade book carefully to make sure that all items of your grade are recorded correctly. If, however, any item is incorrectly recorded, I need to be informed in writing (email with evidence to support your case) 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 grade is made within that time frame, all graded items are finalized, and no further correction 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 in time or being out of town during a test are inadequate reasons for requesting or granting an “I”.

Add/Drop Deadlines

If you are currently not enrolled in this course, you need to add it by the appropriate 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 [Office of the Registrar](#).

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. Students are responsible for turning in graded assignments 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 per this syllabus, help you grow and learn, provide clear instructions for the 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 I (the instructor). Please read it carefully. Your enrollment in this course constitutes agreement to these terms for the length of the course. I look forward to working with you in achieving the goals set forth in this syllabus.

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. Also, sometimes emails go missing – if it seems 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 who you can email with questions.

Students are expected to use appropriate and professional etiquette when communicating via email. As business students, you should exhibit a high level of care as to whether your message is communicated clearly and in an appropriate manner, so the recipient can understand. You want your email to reflect well on you and your intelligence. Check for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Despite the fact that most of us compose emails on our cell phones, emails are not 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 3770 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 back to the learning objectives. Based on your review of the class power points, your reading of the text, and your attempt at solving the quizzes and homeworks, come to the office hour with a list of questions (areas of confusion, etc.). If you follow this approach, you will turn a passive activity of reading the lecture into an active task of seeking specific knowledge or skills that are consistent 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 to consider whether the student's conduct 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 do their own work individually unless otherwise stated in an assignment. Students caught cheating in any manner will be given a zero for the assignment, exam or quiz in question and the issue will go before the Executive Associate Dean of the College for the potential of additional penalties up to and including expulsion from the College and/or University. The University has a very specific honesty policy. You are expected to know and to follow this policy. See [Second Draft For Review: Student Academic Integrity](#). Examples of academic dishonesty include but 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

Accommodations 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 that result from religious observances and to provide, without penalty, for rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work 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 e-mail [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. Make sure to note the routes to the lowest level of the buildings for shelter during inclement weather, as well as exits from the buildings in the event of fire or other emergencies. 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 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 to provide 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 record. All records such as exams, assignments submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work 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 record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

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 a student who has 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 resources available 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 of 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 of 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 sooner rather than later. 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 frustration 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: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

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

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

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 help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. 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)