



University of North Texas
College of Business
FIREL Department
Finance
Fall 2025

COURSE INFORMATION

- FINA 4400, *Financial Markets & Institutions*, Section 501, 3 credit hours
- 12:30pm – 1:50pm Thursday FLRD 354

Instructor Contact Information

- Thomas Williams, Ph. D.
- BLB 325B
- (940)-565-2358
- Thomas.Williams@unt.edu
- Office hours: By appointments via Zoom and 11:30am – 12:30pm Tuesday & Thursday

Course Pre-requisites

Completion of FINA 3770 or equivalent with grades of C or better. The FIREL Department requires completing all prerequisites prior to taking FINA 4400. The FINA 4400 syllabus and the finance textbook are designed around the assumption that students possess the equivalent knowledge of a student that has successfully completed all of its prerequisites.

Course Description

This course discussing various aspects of the U.S financial system, including consideration of monetary standards, the organization and functioning of both depository institutions and the Federal Reserve System. Issues related to the money supply, interest rates, and asset prices are emphasized. Recent banking conditions and trends in financial institutions are also emphasized.

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

1. Describe financial markets and the primary financial instruments in the U.S.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of risk and its role in shaping financial decisions.
3. Explain the role of central banks in a country's financial system.
4. Identify the key means by which the economy can affect interest rates.
5. Explain the theoretical foundations of financial intermediation versus direct finance.
6. Articulate an understanding of current monetary policy and the impact it has on the economy.

Materials

- Money, Banking, and Financial Markets, Stephen G. Cecchetti, McGraw-Hill Irwin, 2024.
- Financial calculator, TI BA-II is recommended (you can download a free app on your phone)
- Suggested Reading: *The Wall Street Journal* (Students can subscribe it from here: <https://www.wsj.com> and go to Subscribe now)

CANVAS

The Canvas website is your primary interface with the course. Access to the course instructions and class materials will be via Canvas. I use it to post grades, upload useful supplemental material on a topic and to send out important announcements. You should be constantly checking Canvas for any such updates.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/ASSISTANCE

UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Hours are:

- Monday-Thursday 8am-midnight
- Friday 8am-8pm
- Saturday 9am-5p
- Sunday 8am-midnight
- Canvas technical requirements: <https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>

Finance Tutor Lab Assistance

Students can access the Finance Tutor Lab. Current lab hours and other information are posted on the Tutor Labs website at this link: <https://cob.unt.edu/students/tutor-labs>.

Student Academic Support Services

- [Code of Student Conduct](#): provides Code of Student Conduct along with other useful links
- [Office of Disability Access](#): exists to prevent discrimination based on disability and to help students reach a higher level of independence
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#): provides counseling services to the UNT community, as well as testing services; such as admissions testing, computer-based testing, career testing, and other tests
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [UNT Learning Center](#): provides a variety of services, including tutoring, to enhance the student academic experience
- [UNT Writing Center](#): offers free writing tutoring to all UNT students, undergraduate and graduate, including online tutoring
- [Succeed at UNT](#): information regarding how to be a successful student at UNT

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Any announcement about the class throughout the semester will be made through Canvas as well as in class. Please make sure your email notification from Canvas is up-to-date. You are encouraged to contact me at your earliest convenience if you have any question and/or concern regarding the class. You can visit me via Zoom virtual meeting by making an appointment. However, the easiest way to reach me is through email. I will be replying your email within the next business day.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Grading

Course grades will be calculated using the following weights:

Homework/In-class assignment	30%
Three exams	70%

The grading scale in this class is as follows:

A	90% or greater
B	80% to 89.99%
C	70% to 79.99%
D	60% to 69.99%
F	Less than 60%

- ✓ Your grades will not be discussed through e-mails or over the phone.
- ✓ Grade appeal will be accepted only in writing within one week after grades become available to students. You are required to specify why the grade needs to be re-evaluated in your writing. Please note that grade re-evaluation may result in a lower grade.
- ✓ The final letter grades may be adjusted based on the distribution of the class at the end of the semester.
- ✓ **No student will be provided with opportunities to earn "extra credit" beyond the assignments described.**

Assessments

Homework/In-class assignments:

Approximately five homeworks/In-class assignments will be given during the semester. In-class Assignments will be designed to take fifteen – twenty minutes and may entail short written answers and/or problem solving. They will be administered anytime during the regular class time.

A homework assignment can be comprised of problems or short answer questions that will be graded on correctness and must be turned in on the **due date** to receive full credit. Late homework will be marked down one letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Missing an In-class assignment:

There will be **no make-up**. However, students will be allowed to **drop the lowest homework/in-class assignment grade** in determining their average.

Exam Policy

You are expected to take the exams as scheduled. **Make-up exams will not be offered.** However, if you must miss an exam due to university approved excuses, you can make arrangements with me to take it **prior to** the scheduled date.

Generally, no cell phone, tablet, or any other electronic device that has an internet connectivity is allowed during the exam.

	Proposed Schedule
Aug 19	Chapter 1: An Introduction to Money and the Financial System
Aug 26	Chapter 2: Money and the Payments System Information Asymmetries Chapter 8: Market Efficiency
Sept 2	Chapter 3: Financial Instruments, Financial Markets, and Financial Institutions Chapter 7: The Risk and Term Structure of Interest Rates
Sept 9	Chapter 3: Financial Instruments, Financial Markets, and Financial Institutions
Sept 16	Exam #1 – Ch 1 – 3, 7, 8
Sept 23	Chapter 15 & 16: Central Banking
Sept 30	Chapter 17 & 18: Central Bank Balance Sheet and Monetary Policy
Oct 7	Chapter 19: Exchange rate policy
Oct 14	
Oct 21	Exam #2 – Ch 15 – 19
Oct 28	Chapter 11 & 12: Financial Intermediaries & Depository Institutions
Nov 4	Chapter 13 & 14: Financial Industry and Regulation
Nov 11	Modern Monetary Economics
Nov 18	Modern Monetary Economics
Nov 25	Thanksgiving Week
Dec 2	Review
Dec 9	Exam #3 – Ch 13, 14 & Modern Monetary Economics

This course outline is tentative and is subject to change during the semester. Any changes in schedule will be announced via Canvas and in class.

COURSE POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

Any changes related to this class schedule will be announced in the class as soon as possible. After the class announcement, Canvas announcement will be posted for the changes. Please keep your email registered on Canvas current.

Attendance:

Attendance will not be taken and will not figure directly into determining grades. However, as In-class assignments will count toward your final grade. Additionally, class time will be spent discussing the Wall Street Journal and current financial market conditions, not dealt with in the text, so students should make every effort to attend class. **I assume that when you are not in class that you deriving more utility from some other activity. Therefore, don't ask me "Is there anything that I need to go over?" but rather get brought up to speed by one of your classmates.**

UNT POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

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 directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student 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, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

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: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an 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 during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at <http://spot.unt.edu/> or email spot@unt.edu.

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.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Business Leadership Building:

- **Severe Weather** In the event of severe weather, all building occupants should immediately seek shelter in the designated shelter-in-place area in the building. If unable to safely move to the designated shelter-in-place area, seek shelter in a windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building. All building occupants should take shelter in rooms 055, 070, 090, and the restrooms on the basement level or in rooms 170, 155, and restrooms 122, 182 or 183 on the first floor.
- **Bomb Threat/Fire** In the event of a bomb threat or fire in the building, all building occupants should immediately evacuate the building using the nearest exit. Once outside, proceed to the designated assembly area. If unable to safely move to the designated assembly area, contact one or more members of your department or unit to let them know you are safe and inform them of your whereabouts. Persons with mobility impairments who are unable to safely exit the building should move to a designated area of refuge and await assistance from emergency responders. All building occupants should immediately evacuate the building and proceed to the south side of Crumley Hall in the grassy area, west of parking lot 24.