

# ARE 4217 Syllabus

## Business Finance in Food and Resource Industries

*Fall 2018*

**Instructor:** Tim Murray

**Office:** Young 318

**Email:** [timothy.murray@uconn.edu](mailto:timothy.murray@uconn.edu)

### **Textbook (Not Required)**

*Brigham, E., & Ehrhardt, M. (2012). Financial Management: Theory and Practice (14 ed.). South-Western Cengage Learning*

A textbook will not be required, all homework and exams will come from in-class notes, this book is a nice supplement to the class if you want extra practice or want to delve deeper into topics in Finance we will not have time to cover this semester.

### **Office Hours**

I do not schedule regular office hours. People schedules vary, and it can be difficult to make them. I am a graduate student and am on campus pretty much every day and can be very flexible with meeting around you schedule. If you need to meet to talk about anything just email me and we can find a time that works best.

I also am available via email. If you are stuck on a problem, you can send me your questions via email along with a picture of the question and the work and many times I can point you in the right direction and save you the trip to the office. I usually am pretty good about responding to emails even late at night.

### **Course Objectives**

This course places emphasis on the financial decision making of small-businesses. We will make use of lectures to learn general principals of finance that can be applied to any small business. We will use current events, sports, and pop-culture to relate topics to the real world.

The topics covered in the course will include:

- Interpreting the financial statements of small firms and calculating various financial ratios
- Choosing an appropriate capital structure for a firm
- Various approaches to risk management
- Various techniques of capital budgeting
- Inflation and risk in budgeting decisions
- Leasing and owning assets
- Estimating the market value of an ongoing business
- Bankruptcy and reorganization
- Green Accounting

By the end of the course you will have a better understanding of how managers make decisions. This course will teach you to ask say “We should pursue project X because of the following metrics...” as oppose to “We should pursue project X because I think...”

## **Grading and Assignments**

Homework	20%
3 Exams	26.67% each

### Grading Scale

<b>A</b>	93-100	<b>C</b>	73-76
<b>A-</b>	90-92	<b>C-</b>	70-72
<b>B+</b>	87-89	<b>D+</b>	67-69
<b>B</b>	83-86	<b>D</b>	63-66
<b>B-</b>	80-82	<b>D-</b>	60-62
<b>C+</b>	77-79	<b>F</b>	0-59

### Homework

Homework will be assigned throughout the semester and handed out in class. You will have one week to complete the assignments and we will go over select problems in class. Homework is due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances. One homework assignment will be dropped. Homework will be graded for completeness and thoroughness (e.g. Showing work and making a valid attempt at each problem). Answer keys will be posted on HuskyCT after the assignment has been turned in. You are welcome to work in groups on homework, but each student must turn in their own original work.

### Exams

You will be allowed one notes sheet for each exam. One side of a sheet of paper which you will turn in with your exam. This sheet is to put formulas and metrics on or whatever else you might find useful. The point of this class and the exams is not to test your memorization ability, you will always have Google, books, and the internet at your disposal while working. Exams are designed to test your ability to apply the correct metric to a problem and be able to know how to solve a problem not regurgitate a formula you spend the night before trying to memorize.

I am flexible, I know you take many classes, play sports, and have things going on. In the event you must miss an exam, you must speak with me prior to the exam and we can arrange a make-up date. Any excuses after the exam date must come from the Office of Student Services and Advocacy. For more information please see [www.ossa.uconn.edu](http://www.ossa.uconn.edu)

### **Course Topics**

The following is a *tentative* list of concepts and topics that will be discussed throughout the course along with the corresponding chapter in the book. Occasionally there will be additional readings from the Wall Street Journal and other relevant sources that may be assigned and discussed that will add real world value to the topics discussed in the textbook. Any changes be announced on HuskyCT.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Textbook</b>
Introduction to Financial Management	Chapter 1
Financial Statements and Cash Flow	Chapter 2
Analysis of Financial Statements	Chapter 3
Supply Chains and Working Capital Management	Chapter 16
<b>Exam 1</b>	
The Time Value of Money	Chapter 4
Bond, Bond Valuation, and Interest Rates	Chapter 5
Capital Budgeting and Cash Flows	Chapter 10
Bankruptcy and Reorganization	Chapter 24
<b>Exam 2</b>	
Risk and Return	Chapter 6
Risk and Project Evaluation	
Valuation of a Business	Chapter 12
Agency Conflicts and Corporate Governance	Chapter 13
Green Accounting	
<b>Final Exam</b>	

### **Communication and Email**

Students should make sure they are familiar with HuskyCT and all communication should be sent via your official UConn email account. Students are responsible for checking HuskyCT and their email for official class communication and updates.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students who think that they may need accommodations because of a disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester. Students should also contact the Center for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For more information, please go to [www.csd.uconn.edu](http://www.csd.uconn.edu)

### **Academic Integrity**

I follow all policies and procedures of the “Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code.” Students are required to do the same. Appropriate action will be taken when necessary. For more information, please go to [www.community.uconn.edu/student\\_code.html](http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html). The student should also be familiar with the definition of plagiarism as this issue will be taken seriously.

### **Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships**

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate Romantic relationships can undermine the University’s mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. More information is available at <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884>.

### **Sexual Assault Reporting Policy**

To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the Office of Diversity & Equity under the Sexual Assault Response Policy. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. More information is available at <http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/>.