

**FINA 3340. CORPORATE FINANCE**

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**Online (Teams) office hours:** Email me to make an appointment.

**Credit Hours/Time Dedicated** (per week): 3 credits/9 hours of time commitment (class time, reading, quizzes, studying)

**Classroom/Time:** Tuesday & Thursday 8.00 AM to 9.15 AM, online scheduled in Collaborate via Blackboard Ultra.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Required Class Materials**

We are going to use an ebook and the **Connect** platform from McGraw-Hill.

Ross, Westerfield, and Jaffe (2025). Corporate Finance, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw Hill.

**Students must buy the E-Book and Connect access through the link in Blackboard (click on Connect Registration).**

**Course Description**

This course provides an in-depth understanding of the principles and practices of corporate finance, focusing on how financial managers make decisions that maximize firm value. It covers the essential concepts of financial management, including capital budgeting, capital structure, cost of capital, dividend policy, working capital management, and valuation of financial assets.

Students will learn how to apply financial tools and techniques to evaluate investment opportunities, assess financing options, and manage the firm's short-term and long-term financial needs. The course emphasizes the time value of money, risk-return trade-offs, and the role of financial markets in corporate decision-making.

By integrating theoretical knowledge with practical applications, case studies, and real-world examples, the course prepares students to make informed financial decisions in a corporate

environment. It is essential for students aspiring to careers in finance, investment banking, consulting, or corporate strategy.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the key elements of the financial environment in which a company operates, including the role of markets, institutions, and regulations.
- Read and analyze financial statements and cash flow
- Explain the concept of time value of money and apply it to simple financial decisions like valuing investments and understanding interest rates.
- Compute the Net Present Value and the Internal Rate of Return and evaluate investment opportunities based on their profitability.
- Explain the relationship between risk and return and how this relationship affects investment decisions.
- Calculate the cost of capital and explain its uses to evaluate business projects and make financing decisions.

### **Marketable Skills for the Business Administration program**

Students will:

- Students will apply the principles of business to the management of existing businesses or the creation of new businesses.
- Students will use appropriate information from research and analysis to make informed decisions.
- Students will be able to write business correspondence, including letters, emails, reports, and resumes.
- Students will be able to make effective oral presentations to both professional and general audiences.

### **Library Resources**

The **Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library** and **Archives of the Big Bend** in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting [library.sulross.edu/texshare](http://library.sulross.edu/texshare) or ask a librarian by emailing [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu).

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan, ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

### **Attendance**

The attendance policy, as outlined in the Sul Ross Student Handbook, page 9, will be followed.

### **Teaching Methods/Course Format**

This is an online course. With my guide, I hope you can work on the different activities, submit them before their deadlines, and reach the learning objectives of the course.

### **Assessment strategy**

<b>Exams</b> 2 online exams (midterm and the final exam)	<b>50% (25% each)</b>
<b>Pre-class activities</b> Chapter and videos (some). Due before the start of the chapter.	<b>25%</b>
<b>After-class activities</b> Homework is due by midnight the day before the start of the next chapter	<b>25%</b>

Each online exam covers 6 chapters of the material. Each exam comprises a mixture of definitions, multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, quantitative problems, and graph analysis. You are expected to identify a problem within a given context through a graph, apply the concepts, and determine the outcome of such a problem.

All readings, quizzes, and homework assignments assigned each week are due on Sundays (before 11:59 pm CST). Each assignment is worth 100 points turned in before the deadline; otherwise, it gets a zero score. In addition, at the end of the term, I will drop the two lowest

scores from reading/quizzes and homework, respectively. This implies that you can skip up to 2 assignments of each group.

## Course Schedule and Contents

Session	Concept / Topic to Teach	Session Objectives	Chapter Reading and Quiz Deadlines	Homework Deadlines
	<b>Getting Started.</b> Read the syllabus and get familiar with both Blackboard and Connect platforms	Begin the course by introducing myself, reading the syllabus, and becoming familiar with both Blackboard and Connect platforms.	No chapter reading or homework is assigned, as this is only an introduction class.	
1	<b>CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION TO CORPORATE FINANCE</b> - Introduction to Corporate Finance - Role of the Financial Manager and Goal of Financial Management, Forms of Business Organization, The Agency Problem and Control of the Corporation, Financial Markets and The Corporation.	To provide a foundational understanding of corporate finance principles, focusing on how businesses make investment, financing, and dividend decisions to maximize firm value while managing risk and return.	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2025	
2	Continue...		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep 2025	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025
3	<b>CHAPTER 2 - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, TAXES, AND CASH FLOW</b> - The Balance Sheet, The Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement and Taxes.	To understand the structure and interpretation of financial statements, the impact of taxes, and the calculation of cash flows for informed financial decision-making.	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	
4	Continue...		9 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025
5	<b>CHAPTER 3 - WORKING WITH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b> - Cash Flow and Financial Statements: A Closer Look, Standardized Financial Statements, Ratio Analysis and The Du Pont Identity.	To develop skills in analyzing, interpreting, and using financial statements for evaluating a firm's performance and financial health.	11 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	
6	Continue...		16 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2025
7	<b>CHAPTER 4 - LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING AND GROWTH</b> - What Is Financial Planning? Financial Planning Models: A First Look, The Percentage of Sales Approach, External Financing and Growth.	To understand the process of long-term financial planning and its role in sustaining business growth and value creation.	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	
8	Continue...		23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep 2025	
9	Continue...		25 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025
10	<b>CHAPTER 5 - INTRODUCTION TO VALUATION: THE TIME VALUE OF MONEY</b> - Future Value and Compounding, Present Value and Discounting and More on Present and Future Values.	To learn the concept of time value of money and apply it in valuing cash flows for financial decision-making.	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	
11	Continue...		2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2025	
12	Continue...		7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025

13	<b>CHAPTER 6 - DISCOUNTED CASH FLOW VALUATION</b> - Future and Present Values Of Multiple Cash Flows, Valuing Level Cash Flows: Annuities and Perpetuities, Comparing Rates: The Effect of Compounding, Loan Types and Loan Amortization.	To apply discounted cash flow techniques for valuing assets, projects, and firms based on future cash flows.	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025	
14	Continue...		14 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025	
15	Continue...		16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025	
16	Continue...		21 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2025	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025
17	<b>Review and Midterm. Chapters: 1 to 6</b>		<b>23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025</b>	
18	<b>CHAPTER 7 - INTEREST RATES AND BOND VALUATION</b> - Bonds and Bond Valuation, More on Bond Features, Bond Ratings and Some Different Types of Bonds, Bond Markets, Inflation and Interest Rates and Determinants of Bond Yields.	To understand the determinants of interest rates and apply bond valuation techniques for pricing and investment decisions.	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025	
19	Continue...		30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2025
20	<b>CHAPTER 8 - STOCK VALUATION</b> - Common Stock Valuation, Some Features Of Common and Preferred Stocks and The Stock Markets.	To learn the methods of valuing stocks and assessing their role in investment and corporate finance decisions.	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025	
21	Continue...		6 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025
22	<b>CHAPTER 9 - NET PRESENT VALUE AND OTHER INVESTMENT CRITERIA</b> - Net Present Value (NPV), The Payback Rule, The Discounted Payback, The Average Accounting Return, The Internal Rate of Return (IRR) and The Profitability Index.	To evaluate investment projects using net present value and other decision criteria for effective capital budgeting.	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025	
23	Continue...		13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025	
24	Continue...		18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025	23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 2025
25	<b>CHAPTER 10 - MAKING CAPITAL INVESTMENT DECISIONS</b> - Project Cash Flows: A First Look, Incremental Cash Flows, Pro Forma Financial Statements and Project Cash Flows, More on Project Cash Flow, Alternative Definitions of Operating Cash Flow and Some Special Cases of Discounted Cash Flow Analysis.	To develop the ability to make informed capital investment decisions that maximize firm value.	20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025	
26	Continue...		25 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025	30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025
27	<b>CHAPTER 11 - PROJECT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION</b>	To analyze and evaluate projects systematically for profitability, risk, and strategic alignment with business goals.	27 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2025	
28	Continue...		2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2025	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2025
	<b>Final exam. Chapters 7 – 11</b>		<b>TBA</b>	

## **Grading Policies and Procedures**

If you believe there has been an error in your grading, please email me to request a review. Requests for changes to exam or assignment grades must be submitted no later than one week after the respective deadline and before the last day of class.

Students who miss an exam due to required participation in a university activity, the death of an immediate family member, or a serious illness (note: COVID quarantine without a positive test does **not** qualify) may request a make-up exam. Such requests must be made within two weeks of the incident. To be eligible for a make-up exam, you must contact the instructor within 48 hours (approximately two days) after missing the exam. The instructor reserves the right to determine the format of any make-up exam.

Please note that students who miss an exam for any other reason will receive a score of zero for that exam.

Finally, keep in mind that Connect registers all your activities. It registers when you enter the system, when you begin to work on an activity (reading, quizzes, and homework), and when you complete it. If you do not work, Connect will not register any activity. So, if you see a zero in any of your activities in Connect, it means that you:

- Did not complete an assignment before the deadline(failed), including late submission
- Did not work at all on the assignment.

## **Grading Scale**

<b>Percent Range (Final Score)</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 and below	F

## **Course Expectations**

### **What you should expect from me**

1. The instructor will treat each one of you with respect and as an individual with his/her own beliefs, thoughts, and needs.
2. The instructor will provide weekly communication with the class through announcements (video and text), email notifications, and virtual office hours.

3. The instructor will respond to emails within 24 hours of receipt during the hours of 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday.
4. The instructor will be available to answer questions from students during virtual office hours.
5. The instructor will grade assignments and projects according to the specific rubric within two weeks of the submission date.
6. The instructor will provide feedback on journals and discussion boards as needed every week.
7. The instructor will provide clear and concise instructions on how to complete the online course requirements or any other activity.
8. And, finally, but not least importantly, the instructor will not change the deadline for the assignments unless something of major force happens.

### **My expectations from students**

1. Positive, proactive, or successful students should be diligent in using both oral and written communication, showing respect for each one individual's opinion.
2. Positive, proactive, or successful students will familiarize themselves with the course syllabus, policies, assessments, evaluation, grading criteria, and course design.
3. Positive, proactive, or successful students will complete all coursework on the assigned due date.
4. Positive, proactive, or successful students will engage in the course, with their peers, and the instructor, and with open communication and active participation.
5. Students should respond to instructor's communication requests regarding course progress and general inquiries on time.
6. Positive, proactive, or successful students will not plagiarize the work of others or use the work of their peers and claim it as their own.
7. Positive, proactive, or successful students will use the American Psychological Association (APA) system of referencing when submitting a paper.
8. Positive, proactive, or successful students will pre-plan for testing situations and ensure they can access the internet to complete the exam during its assigned date and time.
9. Students will be proactive and resourceful to solve problems in case of internet or technical issues.

## **Sul Ross State University Important Information**

### **1. Official Communications**

Official outside-of-class meeting communications will be delivered to the students via their SRSU e-mail. Students are responsible for checking their e-mail daily. Not having checked

messages is not a valid excuse for missing coursework. Communication can also be done by appointment. IT support regarding blackboards is listed in the image below.



**Who should I contact?**

Online Support Desk	Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)
☎ 888.837.6055 ✉ <a href="mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu">blackboardsupport@sulross.edu</a> Available: 24/7	☎ 888.837.2882 ✉ <a href="mailto:techassist@sulross.edu">techassist@sulross.edu</a> Available: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logging into Blackboard</li><li>• Questions about Blackboard tools/software</li><li>• Trouble with tests/quizzes/assignments</li><li>• Error messages on Blackboard</li><li>• Online course video problems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logging into your mySRSU/Banner/SRSU email</li><li>• Campus computer, computer lab, or campus Wi-Fi issues</li><li>• Security concerns with your SRSU or VPN account</li><li>• Questions about Office 365 or OneDrive</li></ul>



Or by clicking at <https://www.sulross.edu/bb/>.

## 2. Policy on Academic Misconduct

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

Students should familiarize themselves with the SRSU Student Code of Conduct. Cheating, plagiarism, and/or other form of academic misconduct are NOT TOLERATED in class. Any student found guilty of such misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, **zero** scores on his/her class activities.

## 3. Special Needs

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in **Counseling and Accessibility Services**, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: [mschwartze@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartze@sulross.edu). **All medical information is treated confidentially.**

#### **4. Use of AI**

All assignments should be fully prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in the skills associated with this course, from student-based brainstorming to project development, will prepare you for success in your degree pathway and, ultimately, a competitive career. Therefore, the use of generative AI tools to complete any aspect of assignments for this course is not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes a violation of this statement, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.