Course Name & Number: BA 500 - Corporate Finance  
Quarter: Autumn 2022  
Start & End Dates: 15 Sept. 2022 – 4 Dec. 2022  
Grading: Graded  
Credits: 4 credits

**Course Overview**

Finance deals with how individuals make consumption and saving decisions and how firms make investment and financing decisions. Individuals must decide how much to consume today and how much to save for consumption in the future. This decision involves how willing individuals are to wait to consume and how much risk they are willing to take when saving. Firms must decide how much to invest and what to invest in. They must also decide how to allocate the rights to control of the firm and to whom to allocate the firm’s future cash flows. This necessarily involves interacting with individuals who, as part of their savings and consumption decisions, provide the firm with capital to invest and receive cash flow (and control) rights in return.

These interactions between firms and individuals take place in capital markets. Thus, our study of all of these decisions will involve understanding how capital markets function. In the process, we learn some interesting and extremely useful frameworks and techniques that will be of great benefit to you in helping you to develop a competitive advantage over your peers and progress in your career!

**Course Learning Objectives**

The course will help students to:
- Differentiate between the parts of the firm and explain how they relate to one another.
- Compare the concepts of Free Cash Flow (FCF) and Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT) and relate these concepts to the other parts of a firm.
- Relate the concept of Value Add to the concept of competitive advantage.
- Describe how the capital market values expected future cash flows using discount rates.
- Use discount rates to estimate the value that a capital market would place on series of expected future cash flows.
- Explain why the Net Present Value (NPV) rule works and relate it to the concept of Value Add.
- Explain why only incremental FCFs matter in implementing the NPV rule.
- Analyze the NPV of a project using the With/Without rule.
★ Explain how inflation and consumers’ aversion to waiting leads to a positive, risk-free rate.
★ Relate the concepts of risk and standard deviation.
★ Compare and contrast systematic and idiosyncratic risk.
★ Interpret a firm's beta as a measure of systematic risk.
★ Calculate a discount rate using the Capital Asset Pricing Model.
★ Contrast the rights and obligations of equity and debt and their roles in the firm.
★ Estimate the value of a firm's equity in the capital market and explain why these prices change from day to day.
★ Estimate the value of a bond in the capital market and explain why the expected return/discount rate on debt is different from the yield/interest rate.
★ Explain why the value of a firm and its discount rate do not change with the mix of debt and equity in a firm's ticket stack.
★ Calculate the Weighted Average Cost of Capital.

Faculty Info

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Office Hours: TBA

Faculty Bio
I grew up in Washington and received my undergraduate degree in accounting from Washington State University. Upon leaving WSU, I worked for Price Waterhouse for several years doing auditing and corporate turnaround consulting. I received my MBA from the Foster School and my PhD in finance from the Simon School at the University of Rochester. I have been at the Foster School for 19 years. My research interests include asset pricing, market microstructure, and behavioral finance. I teach Entrepreneurial Finance, Core Finance, and Mergers and Acquisitions primarily to MBAs and Executive MBAs.
**Virtual Office Hours**
Virtual office hours will also be held via Zoom Conference. Date and time to be determined after gauging what works best for the majority of the class. You can also make an appointment to meet with me via Zoom.

**Email and Internet**
UW Email and the Canvas Discussion Forums in this course are the official means of communication for this class. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students should check their email regularly along with the Announcements section of this course. All instructor correspondence will be sent to your @uw.edu email account.

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**Course Structure and Format**

**Course Time Commitment**
This 4-credit course requires approximately 8-12 hours of work per module. Please expect to spend more time during those modules that include larger assignments or exams as well as during the Immersion Week.

**Optional Textbook**

Research has shown that people learn in different ways. Most students learn more from videos and discussions, while others also like to read a formal textbook. I intend the textbook to be an optional supplement to our other learning materials to provide interested students with another treatment of the material. However, the textbook is purely optional and is not required nor recommended and will not I refer to it during the course. Be advised that the videos and other materials contain crucial course content (including the schematic diagrams) that is not in the text. Thus, users of the text should be advised that it will not replace the other class materials.

**Delivery Method and Organization**
This course uses Canvas for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, posting course materials and activities, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. Canvas can be accessed at https://canvas.uw.edu/.

The course is organized by modules, which correspond to weeks in the Quarter. The modules and associated due dates for Activities, Cases, Problem Sets, and Assignments. All of this information can be found on Canvas.
**Course Format**
Each module will provide you with a variety of learning experiences. You can expect the following types of activities throughout the Quarter:

**Case Studies**
This course uses five case studies so that we can practice using the tools and frameworks we learn in the course. We will be turning in write-ups of the cases. Please note that each case within a given Canvas module will likely include topics that are relevant to that module along with those that preceded it. The cases are team assignments; each team will turn a single deliverable via Canvas. Individual Canvas modules include instructions on what is required of your team.

**Activities**
This course includes five activities. The activities are similar to case studies in that we will use them to illustrate and practice with the tools and frameworks we learn in the course. **However, we will not be turning in our responses to Activities.** We will simply use them as a basis for our class discussions. Work on the activities in class will count for your participation grade.

**Video**
Most modules will include several short video segments that cover important topics in the Module.

**Assignments**
The course includes four assignments. They will be due at the end of Modules 4, 7, 9 and 10. While you are welcome to study for the assignments with other students, you are prohibited from seeking guidance online, from previous students, or from any source **other** than a single sheet of 8-½ x 11 paper with anything you choose to write on it (e.g., notes, definitions, formulas).

**Problem Sets**
The course includes 8 problem sets. The problem sets are meant to be practice for the assignments. They will be scored on a ‘completed’ or ‘not completed’ basis.

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**Grading Policies**
Submitting Assignments
Instructions for submitting assignments are included with the assignment descriptions within the Canvas course site. Due dates for all graded work are included in the Course Calendar below and on Canvas Module Overview pages.

Late or Missed Assignments
Notify the instructor BEFORE an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and the assignment can't be submitted by the due date. Published assignment due dates (Pacific Standard Time - PST) are firm. Please follow the appropriate University policies to request an accommodation for religious observances.

Grading Procedure
Grades reflect your performance on assignments and adherence to deadlines. The grading turnaround time will be one week. Grades will be posted in the gradebook on the course site.

Rubrics
Most of the graded work in this course includes a grading rubric, which should help you understand the requirements of the assignment and give you detailed feedback about your grade / performance. Rubrics will be included within the assignment description.

Class Participation
Class participation (synchronous and asynchronous) is extremely important. The class should be a common learning experience. Thus, we want you to take ownership and initiative for the success of the class.

It is critical that you arrive for each class fully prepared to lead the discussion of the activity or case if called upon. You should be able to demonstrate your understanding of the relevant issues and problems in the cases and activities. Share your knowledge and help others understand your point of view.

Some of the criteria we will use to judge the effectiveness of your participation include:

★ Are you willing to participate?
★ Do your comments show evidence of appropriate, insightful analysis of the case?
★ Are your comments relevant to the class discussion?
★ Are you a good listener as well as speaker? Can you play off of the comments of others?
★ Are you willing to test new ideas? Or are all of your comments “safe”?
★ Do you work well with others during group projects?
Graded Material Overview

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<td>Problem Sets</td>
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<td>Discussions &amp; Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
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Incompletes
An Incomplete may be given only when the student has been in attendance and has done satisfactory work to within two weeks of the end of the quarter and has furnished proof satisfactory to the instructor that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student’s control.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct
This program employs the principles and procedures espoused by the University of Washington Community Standards and Student Conduct guidelines to maintain academic integrity in the course. The Code establishes the expectation that students will practice high standards of professional honesty and integrity.

In particular, implementation of the Code at the Foster School of Business prohibits cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism—including improper citations of source material—as it pertains to academic work. Suspected violations will be handled in compliance with the University of Washington Student Conduct Code as outlined in Washington Administrative Code 478-121.
Copyright
The course content is for class purposes only and are to be used only by the student enrolled in the course. All rights reserved. No part of this course may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photography, video recordings, screenshots, or other electronic or digital methods, without the prior written permission of the instructor.

Access and Accommodations
Your experience in this class is important. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s), and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at:

Website: http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/
Guide: Getting Started / Accessing Resources
Email: uwdrs@uw.edu
Phone: 206-543-8924
Fax: 206-616-8379

Course Evaluation
Course evaluations are done toward the end of the quarter during a predetermined time period. Students will have 24-48 hours to complete their course evaluation, which is delivered digitally from the UW Office of Educational Assessment.

All evaluations are anonymous and are used to make improvements to the course, and are included in a faculty member’s annual review. It is important to complete the evaluations and provide your honest assessment both in the quantitative and qualitative measures.
Tech Support

Technology Requirements
This course requires Internet access and the following:
★ A web browser (use only Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox)
★ Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
★ Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus (free for students & staff)

Network Use Policies
Please read the University of Washington’s Student Use of UW Computing Resources Policy.

Technical Support
Please email hmbahelp@uw.edu if you have issues with playback or downloading of any media, or Canvas issues. Please provide us with your operating system and browser, in addition to a screenshot of any error message that might help us troubleshoot.

Network Outages
To monitor the status of campus networks and services, visit the ITConnect eOutage Alert page at: https://eoutage.uw.edu/

Canvas Support
https://itconnect.uw.edu/learn/tools/canvas/canvas-help-for-students/

Syllabus Purpose and Disclaimer:
This syllabus serves as a guideline for what to expect in this class and an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student.

Before contacting the instructional staff, please review these documents first to see if your question is addressed. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but adjustments may be necessary to accommodate errors, omissions, or unforeseen events (such as weather events).

In the event changes are made to the syllabus, students will be informed during class, on the course website, and via email. It is your responsibility to be aware of these changes, so please check your email and the course site often.