

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

Finance Department

MBA 765 Financial Decision Making Syllabus

Course Description and Objectives

This is an introductory course in basic financial management. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the understanding and use of financial analysis and financial logic as well as learning finance terminology.

Course Prerequisite(s):

MBA 761 and admission to M.B.A. program, or approval of the Director of MBA Programs.

Required Text

Financial Management: Theory & Practice by Brigham & Ehrhardt, 14th edition 2014, Cengage Learning. This is a slightly older edition as there is a 15th edition and a 16th edition may have just come out. However, we will be using the 14th edition as it is still quite current and not significantly different than the 15th & 16th editions and will save you lots of money (Hey, this is a finance class)! It is probably best to buy this on the internet. I have seen used versions of the book selling for as little as \$20 at Amazon!

Lecture outlines available on WebCampus.

Required Equipment

Students need a financial calculator. The Department of Finance approved calculators are the Texas Instruments BA II (various models), HP 10b (various models), and the HP 12-C (various models). The visible presence of any other electronic device during examinations is expressly forbidden and will be considered academic dishonesty. I recommend students use one of the Texas Instruments BA II models as the use of this calculator will be explained as part of the course.

Additional Technology Needed

Due to this course being delivered 100% online, you will need to have acceptable technology. For this course you will need:

- A computer/laptop/tablet
- A web browser that is up to date

- Canvas requires the following browser components:
 - Flash is required for media recording, streaming, viewing, and uploading.
 - The Java plug-in is required for several features in Canvas.
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view documents in your browser.

Online Activity Expectations

The key to a successful course is active participation from both the instructor and students. Active participation looks like:

- Class Expectations
 - Keep up with the material covered every week
 - Seek help when you do not understand a topic:
 - Email Instructor,
 - Attend Webex open office hours,
 - Individual Webex sessions can be arranged if individual or intensive help is desired,
 - Attend face-to-face office hours on Wednesday afternoon
- Synchronous Webex Open Office Hours
 - Find a space that is appropriate for joining a video session (quiet, well-lit)
 - Participate in the class discussion when appropriate, either via the chat function or through your video
 - Mute your audio unless instructed to unmute
 - Leave your camera on unless your bandwidth is not sufficiently strong to support your video
 - These are voluntary, not mandatory, but attendance and participation are strongly encouraged

Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives

The following specific learning outcomes will be introduced in this class:

- Explain and apply analytical constructs to business problem solving.
- Use business information to estimate/assess the impact of decisions, behaviors, and external factors on the firm.
- Interpret several different performance measures specific to business outcomes.

Studying for Managerial Finance

Sometimes a class is tightly focused around a textbook. This is **not** the case for MBA 765. This

class is tightly focused around the material presented in class. The textbook provides a source to read about the materials covered in class. It also serves as a reference book with equations, and definitions among other things. We will not cover all topics in the textbook chapters and everything we discuss in class will not be found in the textbook. You will need to pay particularly close attention to the videos and use the textbook as reinforcement and to assist you to understand what is covered in the videos rather than the other way around.

Generally, I will use the same notation, symbols, and abbreviations as the textbook with a few exceptions.

Homework problems will be assigned but not collected. You are strongly encouraged to attempt working problems before viewing the problem-solving videos. Be careful as you solve problems not to memorize the solution. Instead be sure to **understand each step taken in solving the problems**. This will provide much better preparation for exams and quizzes.

Quizzes

Quizzes will always be on material covered on previous class days, although we might still be discussing and reviewing the relevant material on the day of the quiz. Quizzes will never be on material introduced the same day as the quiz. The scores from your lowest two quizzes will be dropped if you take all quizzes. Quizzes missed will count as a quiz with a score of 0

Grades

Your final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Quizzes	20%
Exam I (Thursday, September 23 rd)	25%
Exam II (Thursday, November 4 th)	25%
Final Exam (Thursday, December 9 th from 6 to 8 PM)	30%
Total	100%

Your final grade is determined from your performance as outlined above. There is no way to obtain extra credit. If you have a personal problem that will harm your performance in class, such as an accident, poor health or a death in your family let the instructor know before it leads to a bad grade. If a situation such as this is likely to impact your performance on an exam, we can more than likely reschedule your exam to accommodate the situation. Also an incomplete or withdrawal can be given, but once the bad grade has been earned, it is too late to change it. A withdrawal is **not** permitted by university policy after October 29th for any reasons. An incomplete can be given for emergency situations, but are not given because you are unsatisfied with your grade.

All exams must be taken at the designated time unless prior permission to change the exam time

has been obtained from the professor. A zero will be assigned for exams that are missed without being excused by the instructor prior to the exam.

Grades can **not** be given over the telephone.

Grading Scale

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

	$A \geq 92$	$90 \leq A- < 92$
$88 \leq B+ < 90$	$82 \leq B < 88$	$80 \leq B- < 82$
$78 \leq C+ < 80$	$72 \leq C < 78$	$70 \leq C- < 72$
$68 \leq D+ < 70$	$62 \leq D < 68$	$60 \leq D- < 62$
$F < 60$		

UNLV Policies

Public Health Directives

Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements), <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf), https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in

Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright) is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>,

which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy), <https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy>, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian) website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](https://ask.library.unlv.edu/) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the

[Academic Policies](https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=) webpage,
<https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV’s official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students’ Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

Diversity Statement

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance), <https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance>.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.