

# WEMBA FNCE 611/614: Corporate Finance

## Syllabus

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**Overview:** This course will introduce students to the practice of finance by applying finance theory to a wide range of applications including personal finance, corporate finance, banking, and asset management. This is a challenging but rewarding course that requires students keep pace and engage with the material.

### Objectives:

1. Improve decision-making in your personal and professional lives by equipping you with the knowledge and tools needed to tackle financial challenges.
2. Develop your financial communication skills to better engage with senior leadership and finance professionals.
3. Provide a foundation for advanced coursework and applications.

**Classroom:** Class time will be spent introducing new concepts through illustrative and real-life applications. You are expected to come to class having completed the required reading. If you don't complete the readings prior to class, you will likely find class quite confusing.

**Assessment:** Your course grade is based on three components:

1. Engagement (10%):
  - Engagement is critical to the success of the course. I'm not there to talk at you. I'm there to lead and moderate a discussion. There are two channels through which you may participate in the course by asking and answering questions, making comments, sharing experiences, etc.
    1. In-class: I constantly encourage engagement in the classroom. I don't care if you know the correct answer. I only care that you participate.
    2. Office hours: Stop by and say hi. We can spend as much time as you need on anything you wish to discuss.
2. Exams (90%):
  - There are three in-class exams, each of which will be held at the start of class. The schedule below indicates the days on which each exam will take place.
    - Exam 1 (20%): 30 minutes, Chapters 1-2.
    - Exam 2 (30%): 1 hour, Chapters 1-5.
    - Exam 3 (40%): 2 hours, Chapters 1-6.

- You may use any resource (books, notes, Excel, Sheets, calculators, etc.) on the exam *except* help from another human, AI, or cybernetic organism.

### Resources:

- *Financial Decision-Making (FDM)*. This text, available in draft form on Canvas, is required for the course. Assigned readings detailed in the schedule should be completed prior to class. There are end of chapter exercises for practice. **If you find any typos or errors, notify me of them and this will count towards class participation and your course grade.**
- *Office hours*: All office hours can be accessed at this Zoom link. Stop by! I am there to help.

Zoom Office hours (PM, Eastern Daylight time)			
Date	Time	Date	Time
Thurs, Feb 2	5:30-6:30	Tues, Mar 7	5:30-6:30
Thurs, Feb 9	7:00-8:00	Thurs, Mar 9	5:30-6:30
Wed, Feb 22	5:30-6:30		
Thurs, Feb 23	5:30-6:30		

- *Classmates*: Your classmates are an invaluable resource. Many have worked in Finance and have a strong grasp on different aspects of the material. You should study together in teams.
- *Canvas*: Grades and course materials (e.g., syllabus, cases, practice exams) will be posted here.

### Expectations:

- *Prepared*: Everyone should be prepared to engage in each class, including the first, by completing the required readings.
- *Communicate*: Please let me know (email) if you are having any trouble or concerns regarding the course, which while challenging should *not* be stressful.
- *Equality and Respect*: Everyone is treated equally and with respect in and out of the classroom.
- *Intellectual Property*: All the materials (slides, cases, texts, etc.) associated with this class are under copyright. No part of any material may be reproduced, digitized, photocopied, stored in a retrieval system, used in a spreadsheet, or otherwise reproduced, posted, or transmitted in any form or by any means without my permission.
- *Conduct*: Your enrolment in the course signifies your agreement with the course expectations and to the [University of Pennsylvania Code of Student Conduct](#).

**Schedule:** The exam dates are fixed and non-negotiable. Topic dates are approximate, subject to variation in the class pace. Our goal is to master material, not stuff as much as possible into the course. As such, the topics are organized in decreasing order of importance.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Concepts</b>	<b>FDM** Chapters</b>	<b>Exams (Coverage)</b>
Sat, Jan 14	9:00 - 10:30	Saving for retirement	Time value of money, annuity, perpetuity, inflation, taxes	1; 2.1-2.5	
Sat, Jan 14	10:30 - 12:00	Value of an MBA	Opportunity cost, Net present value	2.6-2.8	
Fri, Feb 10*	2:00 - 3:30	Financing a home	Compound interest, amortization table, opportunity cost	3.1-3.4	Exam 1 (Ch 1-2)
Fri, Feb 10*	3:30 - 5:00	Financing a car	Compound interest, amortization table, opportunity cost	3.5-3.9	
Sat, Feb 11*	1:00 - 2:30	MSFT financials	Decision criteria, free cash flow	4; 5.1-5.2	
Sat, Feb 11*	2:30 - 4:00	Dell tablet	Discounted cash flow analysis, sensitivity/breakeven/scenario analysis	5.3-5.6	
Fri, Feb 24	9:00 - 10:30	Vanguard IT overhaul	Project selection (mutually exclusive projects)	6.1	Exam 2 (Ch 1-5)
Fri, Feb 24	10:30 - 12:00	Rix router	Project selection with constraints, projects with different lifetimes	6.2-6.5	
Fri, Mar 10*	9:00 - 10:30	Exam review	Personal finance	1-3	
Fri, Mar 10*	10:30 - 12:00	Exam review	Business decision-making	4-6	
Sat, Mar 11	9:00 - 11:00		<i>Exam</i>		Exam 3 (Ch 1-6)

\* Both sections

\*\* Financial Decision-Making text available on Canvas