Financial Institutions and Markets
FINN 3221
Section #001
Fall 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Monday & Wednesday
Instructor: Dr. Tony Plath
Friday Building, Room #250-C
Office Hours: 4:45 - 6:00 p.m. Monday & Wednesday
and by appointment
UNCC: 704-687-7626 (voice)
704-687-6987 (fax)
Internet: daplath@uncc.edu

Location: Room #106 Friday
Office Hours:
UNCC: 4:45 - 6:00 p.m. Monday & Wednesday
and by appointment

Phone Numbers:
UNCC: 704-687-7626 (voice)
704-687-6987 (fax)
Internet: daplath@uncc.edu

Texts


Course Prerequisites
MATH 1101 College Algebra,
MATH 1120 College Calculus,
MATH 1220 Statistics I,
ECON 2101 Macroeconomics,
ECON 2102 Microeconomics,
ACCT 2121 Financial Accounting,
ACCT 2122 Managerial Accounting,
INFO 2130 Introduction to Business Computing, and
FINN 3120 Financial Management.

Course Description
This course examines the form and function of various financial markets and the manner in which financial institutions seek to use these markets to accomplish strategic corporate objectives. Our attention will focus on the behavior of major financial institutions, including commercial banks, and their role in the intermediation process as suppliers of funds to the money and capital markets. In addition, we will examine how financial institutions trade various financial claims within the capital market to tailor their risk-return profile in order to enhance franchise value.

Course Objective
To provide students with an introduction to the markets in which financial assets are traded, the various institutions which represent major participants in these markets, and dominant factors within the financial environment which affect financial markets and institutions. Our attention will focus on:

1. Developing the ability to differentiate between different financial markets and different financial institutions;
2. Understanding how the economic and regulatory environments affect the morphology of financial markets and the operation of financial institutions;
3. Examining how and why domestic financial markets and institutions have changed through time;
4. Identifying major contemporary issues which challenge managers within financial institutions; and
5. Acquiring a working knowledge of how financial managers are responding to these contemporary issues, and how managerial responses are likely to change the nature of financial markets and institutions in the future.

Accessing Course Resources and Supplemental Reading Material
on the University’s Moodle Web Site
As discussed in class, the supplemental readings that accompany the course are available for download and/or computer viewing from your password-protected Moodle account at UNC: Charlotte, accessible at https://moodle.uncc.edu for all students registered in the course. To make it easy to locate different assigned readings available on Moodle, the material is organized into a series of different topics, with each topic corresponding to the original source in which the reading was first published (i.e., the Wall Street Journal, Business Week, Federal Reserve Publications, and Other Publication Sources). Within each topical area of the Moodle site, each course reading is available in Adobe’s Acrobat format as a PDF file. To make it easy to identify and locate each assigned article shown in Table 1 below, the title of each article represents the file name of the specific PDF file containing that particular article.
1. The dates shown in Table 1 below are subject to change. This schedule, however, should serve as a guide so that you can maintain an appropriate reading pace. Students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss it PRIOR to the date each topic is covered in class. In addition, students are expected to review on a regular basis current business events which involve financial markets and institutions. The best way to develop an awareness of current financial events is by reading *The Wall Street Journal* and/or *Business Week*.

2. This course is an applications-oriented course. Lectures are based on the material in the text, the assigned articles, and current events drawn from *The Wall Street Journal* and *Business Week*. Throughout the semester we will relate the textbook material to real financial problems in an effort to understand and evaluate current events occurring within financial markets and institutions. Exams are based on the assigned reading materials and lecture notes (including current events).

3. Given the limited number of hours allocated for class meetings, class time is not sufficient to cover all of the material presented in the assigned readings. However, students are responsible for all assigned material, whether or not it is discussed in class. We will devote class time to (1) discussion of the more difficult conceptual material contained in the readings, and (2) analysis of current events. The more descriptive material contained in the course readings can be assimilated easily by students outside the classroom, and therefore, this material will be frequently discussed in class in a cursory fashion.

### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>October 29th</td>
<td>Last Drop Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 10th</td>
<td>Comprehensive Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Time to be announced in class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Valuable Information

1. **1.** The dates shown in Table 1 below are subject to change. This schedule, however, should serve as a guide so that you can maintain an appropriate reading pace. Students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss it PRIOR to the date each topic is covered in class. In addition, students are expected to review on a regular basis current business events which involve financial markets and institutions. The best way to develop an awareness of current financial events is by reading *The Wall Street Journal* and/or *Business Week*.

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### Important University and/or College Policies

1. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.** All UNCC students have the responsibility to be familiar with and to observe the requirements of The UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity (see the Catalog). This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials (such as Library books on reserve), and complicity in academic dishonesty (helping others to violate the code). Any further specific requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor, and are also binding on the students in this course. Students who violate the code can be punished to the extent of being permanently expelled from UNCC and having this fact recorded on their official transcripts. The normal penalty is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to “F”. If you do not have a copy of the code, you can obtain one from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty they become aware of to the course instructor who is responsible for dealing with them.

2. **ATTENDANCE.** Students are expected to attend punctually all scheduled sessions in the courses for which they are registered and are responsible for completing the work from all of the class meetings. Absences from class may be excused by the instructor for such reasons as personal illness, religious holidays, participating as an authorized University representative in an out-of-town event, or unavoidable professional responsibilities that require missing a class. Whenever possible, students are expected to seek the permission of the instructor prior to absences.

3. **DISENROLLMENT.** At the discretion of the department offering a course, a student may be disenrolled from a course section if he or she does not attend the first scheduled meeting of the section. The department chair has the responsibility for providing timely notification to the student who is disenrolled.

4. **COURSE WITHDRAWAL.** Under the UNCC Course Withdrawal Policy, students may withdraw from a course until the withdrawal deadline and the mark of “W” will be assigned. No withdrawals will be permitted after the course withdrawal deadline. It is the student's responsibility to determine by the withdrawal deadline whether to withdraw from the course or stay in for a grade. The last day to withdraw is Monday, October 29th.

5. **DIVERSITY.** The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to, ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

### Examinations

1. Exams will cover the assigned reading materials, lecture notes, and current events topics discussed in class. Exam questions will include essay questions, short answer questions, and problem solving opportunities; and the final exam will include a series of extended answer and/or more lengthy problem-solving exercises. Because many questions will require arithmetic computations, you should bring a calculator on exam days.

2. Three examinations will be given in this course: Two midterm exams covering the material indicated in the course outline, and a comprehensive final exam. The midterm exams include ten short answer and/or problem-solving questions, and students are required to complete all of the questions/problems on these midterm exams. The final exam includes (1) ten short answer and/or brief problem-solving questions, and (2) three essay and/or extended problems. While students are required to complete all of the short answer questions on the final exam, students need only complete ONE of the THREE essay/extended problems provided on the final.

3. Students will be permitted to bring ONE 8 ½”-by-11” sheet of paper containing notes, formulae, etc. into each examination session during the semester. Given the use of a cheat sheet, it is not necessary for students to memorize equations, names, dates, places, etc. when preparing for course examinations. Rather, students should emphasize understanding financial concepts and relationships when preparing for exams.

4. Students who are unable to attend a scheduled examination must (1) notify the instructor in advance of the examination date that will be missed and arrange to take the exam early, or (2) present the instructor with documentation of a valid medical, family, or personal emergency to obtain permission to make-up the missed examination. In this circumstance, all make-up exams will be given on Wednesday afternoon, December 5th, at 6:00 p.m. Note that this is AFTER the last drop day for the semester. Students who fail to make-up a missed examination, or fail to attend the scheduled final exam, will receive a score of zero for all missed work.
Grading

Final course grades will be determined according to the following schedule. While the point-grade assignment may be subject to downward revision, it will never be increased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Weighted Total Points</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination I</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination II</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>80 - 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>70 - 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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