

 	<b>SYLLABUS</b>	
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**PALAZZI FLORENCE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS  
ISB - INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (BU)**

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INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
**COURSE TITLE: CORPORATE FINANCE**  
**COURSE CODE: BUAF300**

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3 Semester Credits

### **1. DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to the theory, methods, and challenges of corporate finance. The main focus is on financing decisions and investment. The following topics are addressed: risk and return, asset markets and market efficiency, valuation, capital structure, capital budgeting, dividend policy, and derivative securities. Some consideration will also be given to financial management issues that multinational firms face, with an emphasis on the effects of currency denomination on financial decisions.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course students will have a general overview of financial topics, theories and techniques. They will be able to read and interpret financial data, to understand the implications of finance in the value of the business, to master specific techniques of financial planning and to assess the importance of leverage in the vision of value creation at business and corporate level.

Course topics include:

- Capital budgeting decisions and investment evaluations
- The financial tradeoff between risk and return
- The cost of capital and its importance in corporate evaluations
- The interactions between taxes, leverage and cost of capital and their impact on financial decisions
- The role of finance in the growth of the business
- The value of the firm and the market for mergers and acquisitions

### **3. REQUIREMENTS**

There are no prerequisites for this course  
An introductory level of accounting could be helpful.

### **4. METHOD**

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, and business cases to be studied in small teams. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

### **5. TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES**

R. Brealey, S. Myers, F. Allen, *Principles of Corporate Finance*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw Hill, 2017 (BMA)

The text book is mandatory for successful completion of the course.  
Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

### **FURTHER READINGS**

Aswath Damodaran (NYU) online materials are strongly recommended.

### **LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE**

The FUA library is located in Corso Tintori 21. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Also, note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

#### **Biblioteca Palagio di Parte Guelfa**

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:  
[http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca\\_palagio\\_di\\_parte\\_guelfa/](http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/)

#### **Biblioteca delle Oblate**

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:  
[www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it](http://www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it)

#### **The Harold Acton Library at the British Institute of Florence**

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information:  
[www.britishinstitute.it/en](http://www.britishinstitute.it/en)

## **6. FIELD LEARNING**

This course may include a field learning activity.

## **7. COURSE MATERIALS**

No additional course materials are necessary.

## **8. COURSE FEES**

Course fees cover all course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The instructor will communicate the exact amount on the first day of class.

## **9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM**

10% Attendance

15% Class Participation, Homework and Reading

15% Assignments

20% Mid Term Exam (Special/Research project in intensive sessions)

15 % Final Project

25 % Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C-=70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

## **10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION**

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the FUA academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

On the **second absence**, the attendance and participation grade will be impacted. Please note that missing certain field learning activities may count for more than one absence.

On the **third absence**, the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade. (Example: Final grade average of 93% or A will become a B).

**The fourth absence constitutes automatic failure of the course. Students with excessive absences will be asked to withdraw with a W (if before the deadline) or leave the course with a WF.**

### **Late Arrival and Early Departure**

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

**Travel (or delays due to travel) is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.**

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences he or she has in a course. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

## **11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS**

### **Attendance and participation**

Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work and in-class activities, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed.

### Reading and quizzes

Along with participation, reading accounts for 15% of the final course grade. Reading of the text book is mandatory for successful completion of the course, further reading is highly recommended. Regular reading quizzes have been designed to ensure that you are completing the reading and engaging in active learning and critical thinking about course concepts outside of class. They are also designed to help you prepare for the final exam in manageable increments. Quizzes may be open-note, which means you may use your notes to assist you in taking the quiz. Notes must be originals (not photocopied) and in your own handwriting. Quizzes will NOT be open book.

### Exams

Both the **Midterm** exam and the **Final** exam account each for 25% of the final course grade

Format (for both exams): the exam is divided into four sections:

- Multiple choice questions.
- True-false questions
- Short-answer questions (concise explanations, main ideas, key words, names, etc.)
- Essay questions

Please note, the instructor may use a different format for the exam. TBA on the first lesson.

**Remember that the date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason, so please organize your personal activities accordingly and consult the course calendar.**

## 12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Course overview, assignments and expectations. Introduction to Corporate Finance. Corporate Investment and Financing Decisions. The financial goal of the corporation. How to calculate present values. The financial value of time.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate an understanding of the course content, objectives, assignments and expectations</li> <li>- Understand the financial goals of a corporation</li> <li>- Calculate future values, present values, evaluate an investment opportunity</li> <li>- Calculate NPV</li> <li>- Be familiar with perpetuities and annuities</li> </ul>

Reading	Textbook, Chapter 1; Chapter 2.1-2.4
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Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Valuing bonds using the present value formula. The term structure of interest rates. Real and nominal interest rates. Corporate bonds and default risk. Sovereign bonds and default risk.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply the PV formula to price bonds</li> <li>- Understand the term structure of interest rates</li> <li>- Understand the difference between interest rate risk and default risk</li> </ul>
Homework/ Assignments	Assignment #1 (Review MyFua)
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 3

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Net Present Value and other investment criteria. Payback period. Discounted payback. Internal Rate of Return. The IRR rule. Capital budgeting: investing with limited resources.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compare different investment criteria</li> <li>- Understand the dynamics of IRR</li> <li>- Choose among competing investment projects</li> </ul>
Homework/ Assignments	Assignment #2 (Review MyFua)
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 5

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Estimating cash flows for the NPV rule. A practical case
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build the relevant cash flows that will be used for capital budgeting decisions</li> <li>- Understand the difference between monetary and non-monetary items</li> <li>- Become familiar with the concept of net working capital</li> </ul>

Homework/ Assignments	Assignment #3 (Review MyFua)
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Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Risk, return and the cost of capital. Measuring portfolio risk: the benefit of diversification. Market risk and the concept of beta. Portfolio theory and CAPM: building the efficient portfolio. Class discussion of assigned case.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fully understand the tradeoff between risk and return in finance</li> <li>- Master the concept of diversification and the benefit in terms of risk reduction</li> <li>- Make efficient investment decisions choosing among competing portfolios of financial assets</li> </ul>
Homework/ Assignments	Case study (group assignment)

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Valuing common stocks. Price/earning (P/E) ratio. Price to book value. Estimating the cost of equity capital. The link between stock price and earnings per share (EPS). Calculating the present value of growth opportunities. Valuing a business by discounted cash flows. Estimating horizon value
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Master the concept of P/E ratio and price to book value</li> <li>- Understand the equity cost of capital</li> <li>- Value a business by discounted cash flow</li> <li>- Understand the horizon value</li> </ul>
Homework/ Assignments	Assignment #4 (Review MyFua)
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 4

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Mid-term exam

Lesson 8	
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Meet	In class
Lecture	Academic break

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Financial analysis: reading financial statements and working out financial ratios. The balance sheet and the income statement with a financial perspective. Measuring efficiency, performance, leverage from financial statements. Financial planning: link between short-term and long-term decisions. Cash planning.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate familiarity with the most common financial ratio</li> <li>- Assess efficiency, performance, leverage, and liquidity from financial statements</li> <li>- Demonstrate an understanding of the mechanism of cash planning, be able to read and possibly prepare a financial plan</li> </ul>

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Cash flow estimate and projection. The statement of cash flows. From accounting to finance. Projection cash flows to estimate the value of the firm.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate and understand the statement of cash flow</li> <li>- Build a projection of financial flows</li> </ul>

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introducing the company cost of capital. Estimating cost of equity using beta. What beta conceptually is. The effect of financial leverage: does debt matter? Modigliani-Miller I and II. Calculating WACC and tax-adjusted WACC
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of WACC</li> <li>- Display knowledge of Modigliani-Miller I and II</li> <li>- Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of financial leverage</li> </ul>
Homework/	Assignment #6 (Review MyFua)

Assignments	
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Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Financial structure and the value of the firm. Splitting corporate value into business units. Valuing the firm Case discussion: the Walt Disney case.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate familiarity with corporate valuation</li> <li>- Assess the value of the business units by discounting future cash flows</li> <li>- Value a multi-business corporation</li> </ul>

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Mergers, acquisitions and corporate restructuring. Sensible motives and dubious motives for mergers. Estimating mergers gains and costs. Right and wrong ways to estimate gains and costs. Proxy fights, takeovers and the market for corporate control. Leveraged buyouts and restructuring. Private equity.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate an understanding of the rationale behind mergers and acquisitions</li> <li>- Estimate merger gains and costs</li> <li>- Display familiarity with the concept of leveraged buyouts</li> <li>- Explain how private equity and venture capital work</li> <li>- Display knowledge of corporate restructuring</li> </ul>
Homework/ Assignments	Assignment #7 (Review MyFua)

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Orangina-Lion case (Harvard Business Review): case study discussion. Students will discuss in group a previously assigned business case regarding a real example of corporate acquisition from a private equity investor.
Objectives	By the end of this class students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply evaluation techniques to a real case</li> <li>- Demonstrate an understanding of the logic of private equity</li> </ul>



Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Final exam