

Corporate Finance

INSTRUCTOR

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CIMBA Faculty Office 1

CLASS MEETING TIMES

A3 Classes, Room 18

DROP-IN HOURS

Drop-In HOURS Time:

MWF 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM (Weeks 1–6);

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM (Week 7 – End of Semester).

Location: CIMBA Faculty Office 11

Purpose: These hours are specifically reserved to support your success in this course. I encourage you to stop by during these times to ask questions about course material, clarify assignments, or discuss your expectations for the class. In addition to reviewing course content, this time allows us to get to know one another better and provides a space for me to offer any extra help you may need throughout the semester.

COURSE SITE

To access the course site, [log into Iowa Courses Online \(ICON\)](https://icon.uiowa.edu/index.shtml) (<https://icon.uiowa.edu/index.shtml>) using your Hawk ID and password.

ACADEMIC COURSE HOME

CIMBA Italy

Faculty Head: Zach Linge

Phone: +39-0423-932120

Email: zach-linge@uiowa.edu

PROGRAM GOALS

The Tippie College of Business Undergraduate Program has learning goals that drive decisions about curriculum and assignments within courses.

Program Goal 1: Graduates will use analytical, creative and collaborative approaches to solving complex, ambiguous problems

Program Goal 2: Graduates will demonstrate effective written, spoken and visual communication

Program Goal 3: Graduates will obtain global awareness and understanding

Program Goal 4: Graduates will demonstrate ethical reasoning

Program Goal 5: Graduates will obtain professional preparation

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to corporate finance, covering the fundamental principles that guide financial decision-making within firms. Students will learn how managers make investment decisions, financing choices, and working capital management decisions to maximize shareholder value. The course emphasizes practical application of financial theory through problem sets, case analysis, and real-world examples.

Topics include time value of money, bond and stock valuation, risk and return, cost of capital estimation, capital budgeting techniques, capital structure decisions, dividend policy, and multinational financial management. The Italian setting provides direct context for understanding how corporate finance principles apply across different institutional and regulatory environments.

Objective 1: Apply time value of money concepts to value bonds, stocks, and investment projects

Objective 2: Measure risk and return for individual securities and portfolios using CAPM and related frameworks

Objective 3: Estimate a firm's cost of capital and apply it to capital budgeting decisions

Objective 4: Evaluate investment projects using NPV, IRR, and other capital budgeting techniques

Objective 5: Analyze capital structure and dividend policy decisions and their impact on firm value

Objective 6: Apply corporate finance principles in multinational and global contexts

MEDIA/SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Technical requirements for completing this class include:

- Student-provided personal computer with reliable Internet access.
- If you need assistive technologies that has different computer and technology requirements, then you will be responsible for making those arrangements. Please check with [Student Disability Services](https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu): (<https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu>) to determine the requirements for specific technologies and for assistance if necessary.

TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS

There is a required textbook:

Required: Ehrhardt & Brigham, *Corporate Finance: A Focused Approach*, 3rd Edition, South-Western Cengage, ISBN: 978-0-324-65568-1

GRADING CRITERIA

Final course grades will be assessed based on the student's performance in the following activities:

| Graded Item | Points | % of Final Grade |
|---------------|--------|------------------|
| Daily Quizzes | 100 | 10% |
| Homework | 200 | 20% |
| Presentation | 200 | 20% |
| Midterm Exam | 200 | 20% |
| Final Exam | 300 | 30% |

| Grade Scale | Points |
|-------------|------------|
| A | 900 – 1000 |
| B | 800 – 899 |
| C | 700 – 799 |
| D | 600 – 699 |
| F | Below 600 |

COURSE WORK

Quizzes: There will be daily quizzes given each class period covering the previous class as well as the assigned readings.

Homework Assignments (4): Students are required to complete and submit 4 homework assignments.

Presentation (1): Students will work in teams to prepare and deliver a hypothetical earnings call for a publicly traded company of their choice. Each team will act as the executive leadership (CEO, CFO) presenting quarterly financial results to analysts and investors. The presentation should include an overview of financial performance, discussion of key operating metrics, capital allocation decisions, and forward guidance. Following the presentation, team members must field Q&A from classmates acting as sell-side analysts. Students will be evaluated on their understanding of financial statements, clarity of communication, and ability to articulate the company's strategic and financial position.

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Exams (2): Students are required to take one midterm and one final exam. Each exam will be cumulative of the material covered to that point.

STUDENT SUPPORT RESOURCES

If you require additional resources for academic support, basic need fulfillment, wellness, finding community, and professional development, please contact Jayme Ringleb at jayme-ringleb@uiowa.edu.

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Technology Policy: Cell phones and other mobile devices are not permitted during class and must be silenced and stored out of sight (in a bag or pocket) for the duration of each session. Laptops and tablets are permitted only during designated times as announced by the instructor. Outside of these designated times, laptops must remain closed. Research consistently shows that device use during lectures impairs learning for both the user and surrounding students. If you have a documented accommodation requiring device use, please speak with me privately.

AI Policy: Use of AI tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To be consistent with our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work and use quotation marks or other appropriate indicators of quoted material when appropriate. Students should indicate how AI tools informed their process and the final product, including how you validated any AI-generated citations, which may be invented by the AI. Assignment guidelines will provide additional guidance as to how these tools might be part of your process for each assessment this semester and how to provide transparency about their use in your work.

Communications: Students can expect to receive weekly communications from the instructor (via course “Announcements” in ICON). Students are also responsible for all official correspondence sent through their University of Iowa email address. Students can expect to receive responses to email inquiries within 24-48 hours. Privacy considerations, such as federal law, may apply when using an address other than the standard University e-mail address.

Exams: Students are expected to take the exams at the regularly scheduled times, unless permission has been granted by the instructor at least 2 weeks in advance in writing. All exams are **INDIVIDUAL WORK** and collaboration on exams is not permitted under any circumstance.

Attendance: CIMBA is an immersive academic study-abroad program, and regular attendance is essential to student learning and program integrity. Students are subject to CIMBA's program-wide policies, which establishes attendance as a condition of program participation. Three cumulative unexcused absences from a course may result in program-level consequences, up to and including dismissal from the program, independent of course grades. This course's attendance expectations and the impact of absences on grading are described below. Additionally, excused absences for this course align with CIMBA policy and include documented illness, approved academic or program activities, religious observances, and approved accommodations. Students should communicate with the instructor as soon as possible regarding any absence.

Late Work: Because I regard this class as I would any job responsibility, I hold you to strict standards of timeliness and ethics. In this regard, late work is unprofessional and will be penalized. Assignments that are late will not be accepted

Inclement Weather/Class Cancellation: Although it is our intent to offer every class at its assigned time, on rare occasion there are weather or other emergency events that require that alternative arrangements are made for class delivery. If that happens, please stay alert for an email from me indicating how the class will be handled. This may include: 1) cancelling the class completely – all reading and work that was due is expected to be completed and turned in on time through ICON; 2); holding an online version of the class (i.e., via Zoom)– you will receive an email invitation to join the session remotely from a computer with an internet connection – headphones are recommended; 3) using recorded videos and presenting other materials to you through ICON so we can cover the course materials asynchronously.

Class Recording Policy: Some of the sessions in this course will be recorded or live-streamed. Such recordings/streaming will only be available to students registered for this class. These recordings are the intellectual property of the faculty, and they may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit, written consent of the faculty member. Further, students may not share these sessions with those not in the class or upload them to any other online environment. Doing so would be a breach of the Code of Student Conduct, and, in some cases, a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

COLLEGIATE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The administrative home of this course is the Tippie College of Business, which governs academic matters relating to the course, such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, issues concerning [academic misconduct](#), and how credits are applied for various graduation requirements. Different colleges might have different policies.

Students at Tippie adhere to an honor code that emphasizes the importance of honesty and integrity. Student concerns about this class or your performance in it can be discussed directly with the instructor. If you do not feel that your concern has been resolved satisfactorily, you should first contact the CIMBA Italy faculty head (contact information provided at the top of page one of this syllabus). More details about these and other policies are available on the [Tippie website](#).

The University of Iowa is committed to the [protection of freedom of speech and the principles of academic and artistic freedom, to accommodating students with disabilities, and to accommodating absences due to religious holidays and military obligations](#). In addition, students are expected to comply with the University's Code of Student Life. The University is also committed to non-discrimination and prohibits all forms of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and related retaliation. The University also provides resources for student mental health as well as for the basic needs and support of students.

Students are expected to comply with University policies regarding appropriate classroom behavior as outlined in the [Code of Student Life](#). While students have the right to express themselves and participate freely in class, it is expected that students will behave with the same level of courtesy and respect in the virtual class setting (whether asynchronous or synchronous) as they would in an in-person classroom. Failure to follow behavior expectations as outlined in the [Code of Student Life](#) may be addressed by the instructor and may also result in discipline under the [Code of Student Life](#) policies governing E.5 Disruptive Behavior or E.6 Failure to Comply with University Directive.



COURSE CALENDAR

Note: This is a tentative course outline and subject to change. Specific readings for each week will be posted on ICON. All readings are provided—no textbook purchase required.

| | Assignment Dates | Topics |
|---------------|---|---|
| Week 1/Week 2 | | Chapter 1: An Overview of Financial Management and the Financial Environment Chapter 2: Financial Statements, Cash Flow, and Taxes |
| Week 1/Week 2 | | Chapter 3: Analysis of Financial Statements |
| Week 3 | HW 1 Due: Feb. 13 th | Chapter 4: Time Value of Money |
| Week 4 | | Chapter 5: Bonds, Bond Valuation, and Interest Rates |
| Week 5 | | Chapter 6: Risk and Return |
| Week 6 | HW 2: Due March 3 rd | Chapter 7: Corporate Valuation and Stock Valuation |
| | Midterm Exam: March 5 th | |
| Week 7 | | Chapter 8: Financial Options and Applications in Corporate Finance |
| Week 8 | | Chapter 9: The Cost of Capital |
| Week 9 | HW 3 Due: March 26 th | Chapter 10: The Basics of Capital Budgeting |
| Week 10 | | Chapter 11: Cash Flow Estimation and Risk Analysis Chapter 12: Corporate Valuation and Financial Planning Chapter 13: Corporate Governance |
| Week 11 | Class Presentations | Chapter 14: Distributions to Shareholders: Dividends and Repurchases Chapter 15: Capital Structure Decisions |
| Week 12 | HW 4 Due: April 14 th | Chapter 16: Supply Chains and Working Capital Management Chapter 17: Multinational Financial Management |
| | Final Exam: April 15 th – April 17 th | |