

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON -- NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

COLLEGE (check one):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts and Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education
Proposal Submitted By: Rachel Graefe-Anderson	Date Prepared: 3/11/2014		
Course Title: Advanced Corporate Finance			
Department/discipline and course number*: BUAD412			

**This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.*

Number of credits proposed: 3	Prerequisites: BUAD381		
Will this be a new, repeatable "special topics" course? (Do you want students to be able to take this new course more than once if the topic changes?)			<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

Date of first offering of this new course: FALL SEMESTER, year	Fall 2016
Proposed frequency of offering of the course:	Annual
List the faculty who will likely teach the course:	Rachel Graefe-Anderson
Are ANY new resources required?	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <i>Document in attached impact statement</i>

This new course will be (check all that apply):			
Required in the major		General Elective	
Elective in the major	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Education**	

***AFTER the new course is approved, a separate proposal must be sent to the General Education Committee.*

Catalog Description: This course develops the processes of making optimal strategic decision by applying corporate financial theory to cases of financial policy, financial instruments and valuation. The course will focus on six broad topics including cost of capital and capital budgeting, discounted cash flow valuation and financial multiples, payout policy, equity and debt financing, corporate control and recapitalizations, and corporate governance.

COURSE HISTORY			
Was this course taught previously as a topics or experimental course?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
Course Number and Title of Previous Course	Semester Offered	Enrollment	
CHECK HERE if the proposed course is to be equated with the earlier topics or experimental offerings. This means that students who took the earlier "topics" course will only be able to take the new course if they made a C- grade or lower in the earlier course.			
NOTE: If the proposed course has not been previously offered as a topics or experimental course, explain in the attached rationale statement why the course should be adopted even though it has not been tried out.			

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

1. **Rationale Statement** (Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. **Impact Statement** (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course. Include supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. as needed.)
3. **Sample Syllabus**

Department Chair Approval: _____ **Date:** _____

CCC Chair Approval: _____ **Date:** _____

UCC Chair Approval: _____ **Date:** _____

Rationale Statement

This course provides students interested in Finance with an opportunity for further study that has not previously been available. The students study much more advanced topics in the field of Finance with a specific focus on valuation techniques, but also explores many broader issues in the context of Corporate Finance such as ethics (through corporate governance). Students will learn how firms make major strategic decisions regarding what investments to pursue. Those decisions include Merger & Acquisition activity, the decision to go public (IPOs), as well as other major capital budgeting decisions. This course marries well with the College of Business Capstone course in strategy (BUAD 490) that all students take. The specific students interested in more depth in Finance will benefit greatly from taking the two courses at the same time. All of the tasks students will complete build a stronger foundational base in the field of Finance for students interested in careers in that area and add to the students' marketable skill set. Importantly, all of these tasks also enhance students' analytical and critical thinking skills, which are key elements to successful completion of a Liberal Arts curriculum. As further support of the Liberal Arts curriculum at the University, the students are asked to synthesize the results of each task into a report, which enhances written communication skills. Lastly, students will also be required to present their results periodically, which enhances oral communication skills.

Though the course has not been offered previously at the University of Mary Washington, it is a standard offered course at larger universities that have more resources or a full Department of Finance. Offering the course at University of Mary Washington will enhance student choices with respect to the upper-level Business electives they must complete. Offering more Finance courses in general could help to attract more students who may currently rule the University out because they are interested in that area.

I believe that student enrollment between fifteen and thirty students each Fall in this course is achievable. This number is based on the group of students this semester who have indicated they intend to take ECON 322 (Investment Analysis) with me in the Fall of next year and also to take BUAD 411 (currently 471A5 Financial Modeling) with me in the Spring of next year. It is also based on the group of sixteen students who are currently taking my Financial Modeling course.

Impact Statement

There are no new resources required for this course. The College of Business plan is for me to teach one elective each Fall and Spring in the area of Finance. This proposal is being submitted with another new course proposal with the intention of teaching Financial Modeling in the Fall semester each year and Advanced Corporate Finance in the Spring semester each year (starting 2015-2016).

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
BUAD 4XX: Advanced Corporate Finance
Fall 20XX

INSTRUCTOR:	Rachel Graefe-Anderson, Ph.D.
OFFICE:	George Washington 210
OFFICE HOURS:	M/W 2-4pm By Appointment
EMAIL:	rgraefe@umw.edu
PHONE:	540-654-1704 (office) 814-470-1135 (cell) *Emergencies ONLY

CANVAS:

Information about the course including the syllabus, tentative schedule, and class notes can be found on Canvas.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan. Fundamentals of Corporate Finance with Connect Plus

Access to Microsoft Excel 2007 or later edition.

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course focuses on financial decision making in business. Emphasis is placed on the application of financial data to a wide range of management decisions designed to develop a conceptual and analytical understanding of financial management. Topics include valuation, financial analysis, financial planning and forecasting, financial investments and capital markets, capital investment (budgeting) techniques, payout policy, financing decisions and capital structure, corporate control, and corporate governance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Analyze financial statements and create a report regarding the financial health of an organization based on this analysis.
- Determine cash flows for a corporation from financial statements.
- Determine relevant cash flows for potential investment opportunities.
- Perform valuation of investment opportunities incorporating time-value of money.
- Identify the appropriate return for an investment opportunity or set of cash flows and apply it in valuing such cash flows.
- Evaluate and compare capital investment opportunities.
- Evaluate and compare financing decisions and discuss the impact of different corporate structure regimes.
- Evaluate payout policies and discuss the impact of different policies.
- Discuss existing corporate governance mechanisms, how they work, and their limitations.

CONDUCT OF COURSE: The material will be covered through lecture, discussion, problem solving, and computer simulation. Student comprehension and understanding of the material will be measured through exams.

GRADING:

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Homework	10
Participation/In class Exercises	10
In Class Exams (2 x 10)	20
Case Studies	40
Take Home Exam	20
Total	100

GRADING SCALE:

The following grading scale will be used as a guideline in assigning grades.

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+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	less than 60%

PARTICIPATION/IN-CLASS EXERCISES:

I will monitor class participation and attendance on a daily basis. An in-class activity will be assigned in every class. For each in-class activity, you will be graded out of 2 points. If I find that you made satisfactory progress in the class, you will earn full 2 points. If not, you will earn 1 point. You earn zero points if you are absent for the class. To accommodate for extraordinary circumstances that may prevent you from attending a few classes, I will drop three of your lowest scores. The total points of all class activities will be scaled down to 10% of your final grade.

CASE STUDIES:

This class will involve multiple case studies designed to enhance understanding of the subject matter. The tasks required for the case studies will be done in groups, to be determined the first week of class. A detailed outline of instructions and case study requirements will be provided within the first few weeks of class.

EXAMS:

Exams are intended to measure your understanding of the topic areas and subject matter in the field being studied. Your ability to solve problems similar to those found in the text represents only a small, but important, portion of this understanding. Concepts and theories are an integral part of your education. When you are working in business and industry, you will rarely encounter problems presented precisely as they are in class or in the textbook. Therefore, the ability to transfer knowledge is essential. This ability is tested on exams. Exams are only to be taken by students who are enrolled in the course. Any student who drops the class or is not enrolled in the class should not sit for an exam. Violations of this policy will be reported to the Honor Court.

There will one comprehensive take-home final exam in this class.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES FOR EXAMS:

- Attendance at tests is mandatory.
- **There will be no makeup exams. If you miss a test due to an excused absence, the grade on your final examination will be considered your grade for the missed test. An absence is considered unexcused unless and until it is classified as excused through the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. If you miss any test due to an unexcused absence, a grade of zero (“0”) will be assigned for that test.**
- During the exam, I will only answer clarification questions.
- Cell phones must be turned off and put away in book bags, back packs, or purses.

HOMEWORK:

Tasks will be assigned with specific requirements for completion throughout the course. **Students are encouraged to work together on the homework problems. However, it is unacceptable to have another student complete your assignment for you or to submit a copy of another student’s homework.**

HONOR SYSTEM:

The following policy is an expansion of my support for the honor system and is offered as a reminder to the student.

- Study groups are encouraged for chapter coverage and problem solving.
- Students should not discuss examinations until after examinations are covered in class. Telling students in other classes or section what is covered on an exam is considered helping improve the grades of others and will be treated as an honor violation.

- Unpledged work will not be graded.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

The Office of Disability Resources has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through the Office of Disability Services and require accommodations for this class, make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you have not made contact with the Office of Disability Services and need accommodations, (note taking assistance, extended time for tests, etc.), I will be happy to refer you. The office will require appropriate documentation of disability. Their phone number is 540-654-1266.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES:

- Always bring your books to class. I will refer to figures or questions in the book during class.
- Please turn off your cell phones at the beginning of class.
- I **will** schedule appointments with students outside of my regularly scheduled office hours if they have a conflict with my scheduled hours, as long as I will be on campus and don't have a scheduling conflict. The more notice I have for an appointment, the better the chance that I can be available.
- I will not provide scores for any assignment, exam, or quiz via the telephone or by email. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OII/fpco/ferpa/>) prohibits me from discussing your grades in this course with your parents, with other members of your family, or with your friends.
- No "extra credit" assignments will be given. All grades will be based on the grading criteria established in this syllabus.
- This class will contribute to you becoming a respected professional; therefore, I fully expect you to behave professionally. Do not sleep in class, talk in class, monopolize class time or make disrespectful comments. I do not expect you to be perfect, but if your behavior is obvious enough to distract me, then it is obvious enough to distract others.

REMINDER:

This syllabus may be changed at any time by sole discretion of the instructor.