

Illinois State University
College of Business
Spring 2026
FIL 190 (Section 1) – Finance Fundamentals and Career Choices

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Office: SFHB 330	or by appointment; In-person by request

College of Business Mission

To be a highly respected college of business that develops professionals with the personal dedication, ethics and lifelong learning capabilities needed to succeed professionally and to serve society. We work as a diverse community promoting excellence in learning, teaching, scholarship, and service.

Academic Integrity & Professional Standards

Students enrolled in College of Business classes are expected to maintain high standards of ethical conduct within the classroom and when completing assignments, projects, and/or exams. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating will not be tolerated. Students are expected to provide appropriate citations for non-original writing even if the original work is paraphrased. Penalties for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty may be severe. All students are expected to be familiar with the "College of Business Ethical Standards Booklet"(download from <https://business.illinoisstate.edu/about/facts/>).

Course Description

This is an introductory course in finance where you will be taught the basic principles of finance and their application. The topics covered also provide you with an understanding of how businesses allocate limited financial resources. It is essential that students master several mathematical tools, most importantly Time Value of Money (Chapter 5 covered during the first 2 weeks of this course). There are additional Finance classes for students interested in extending their knowledge in a specialized area in field of finance. This course will also introduce you to various careers in finance.

Course Material

The required text is *Fundamental of Corporate Finance*, by Brealey, Myers and Marcus, McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 9th or 10th or 11th edition. An older edition (7th or 8th) of the book will also suffice as the core material for the course has remained unchanged. The suggested practice problems (not graded) will reference the 11th edition, which may or may not be like the older editions.

For your occasional temporary reference, Milner Library owns a license for Fundamentals of Corporate Finance that allows 3 users to access the book electronically at any given time. This license should not be used as a substitute for a physical textbook. Here is a link to the electronic copy:

https://i-share-isu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_ISU/kt5co6/alma9921494860005845

A financial calculator is required, and you should always have it accessible while studying the course material and taking exams. I recommend the TI-BA II Plus, and I will provide support for it. You may choose to use another calculator or an app on your smart phone with financial calculator functions, but please ensure that it is able to calculate the internal rate of return for a stream of uneven cash flows.

The Canvas course website (<https://canvas.illinoisstate.edu/>) will be the primary mode of communication outside of the classroom and you should log in a regular basis. I have organized your course material into 4 modules. Each module will contain relevant power-point slides, short videos, and suggested end of chapter problems.

Class format

This class will be delivered in a hybrid format. We will typically meet once a week on Mondays in person. Please refer to my updated tentative schedule for details. During our in-person sessions, I will review some key materials and answer any questions you may have. On the days that we do not meet in person, you are expected to self-study, review materials and take your tests (quizzes/exams) online. Please note that all testing and submissions will occur online. To access your course materials, please look up the Modules on Canvas.

Instructor's Statements

The key to gaining a good understanding of the course material is to read the textbook. I will provide power-point slides that condense the material in the textbook to help focus on testable parts of each chapter. Only the topics highlighted in power-point slides are testable. The power-point slides summary are not a substitute to reading the textbook. Please be prepared to spend considerable time solving numerical problems, which could be challenging for some students. For practice, I recommend solving some suggested practice problems from the textbook for which I have posted the solutions. To succeed in future finance courses, it is essential that you have a high level of proficiency in time value of money, which is introduced to you in Module 1.

I request you to closely track the deadlines stated on the tentative course schedule. If needed, I will notify you about any revisions to the course schedule. To provide you considerable flexibility, your exams will remain open for about 1 ½ days. For more details, please reference your course schedule.

I will be available during my Zoom virtual office hours to help you. If needed, you can schedule an in-person meeting with me as well. I look forward to working with you and contributing to your academic and future professional success.

Participation and Attendance

A significant portion of your grade will be related to active participation in class discussions, which includes asking questions of the professor. A pre-requisite for participation is attending class. However, keep in mind that class attendance IS NOT EQUAL to participation. You are strongly encouraged to speak up when you have questions. When assigning your participation grade, I will place heavy emphasis on your active participation in discussions.

Grades

Your course grade will be based on an exams (4), assignments(4) and class participation.

Course letter grades:		Weights used for calculating final grade:			
Grade	Percentage	Item	Weight	Number	Total
A	90%	Exams	19%	4	76%
B	80%	Assignments	3%	4	12%
C	70%	Participation and Attendance	12%		12%
D	60%				100%
F	Below 60%				

If you anticipate being unavailable during a scheduled exam you should either take this course in another semester or transfer to a section with exams dates that are compatible with your schedule. If you miss a quiz or exam, you will not be allowed to make it up at a later time/date. The exams are computer controlled and cannot be released outside the time/date that I specify for you at the beginning of the semester. Documented evidence that you are ill at the scheduled time of an exam or quiz is the only valid excuse for missing the exam or quiz. In the absence of documentation, a missed quiz or exam will result in a zero.

Exams

Provided below is a tentative schedule for the online testing. Any potential changes to the schedule will be communicated via Canvas.

Exam #	Modules Covered	OPEN Date & Time	CLOSE Date & Time
Exam 1	1	11 Feb (Wed) at 6:00 AM	12 Feb (Thurs) at 6:00 PM
Exam 2	2	4 Mar (Wed) at 6:00 AM	5 Mar (Thurs) at 6:00 PM
Exam 3	3	15 April (Wed) at 6:00 AM	15 April (Thurs) at 6:00 PM
Exam 4	4 & Chapter 5	<i>Tentative: From 5/4 (Mon) at 6 am to 5/5 (Tues) at 6 pm</i>	

There will be four exams during the semester, each covering a module with multiple topics. Each exam will have multiple-choice or true/false questions with a time limit between 45 mins to 1 hour approx. and you will be allowed only a single attempt. The exams will be available under the Quizzes tab on Canvas on the dates specified in your course schedule (refer last page of this syllabus). I have created question banks from which questions will be randomly assigned. The tests will be unique for each student, although the broader content will be similar. While I encourage you to prepare notes to assist you during the quiz, they cannot substitute for being well prepared given the time constraint on quizzes. We will be using either the Respondus LockDown browser or Proctortrak for testing, I will keep you informed via Canvas.

Assignments

Becoming acquainted with careers in finance is a significant component of this course. You will be required to complete four assignments to accomplish this. Each assignment will require you to gather information and data related to a specific area in finance.

Office Hours – Zoom (MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm Or by appointment)

I will have Zoom office hours on Mon/Wed from 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm. Outside of these times you can also schedule appointments with me over email. I will be holding regular office hours over Zoom. An in-person meeting can also be requested by email. Here are some more details about my office hours on Zoom:

- **JOINING THE MEETING:** Please click on the “Zoom” tab on Canvas to access my office hours or go to following link: <https://illinoissstate.zoom.us/j/839736777>. You could join our meeting over your mobile as well, though it may work better to do it over your PC or Mac.
- **PRIVACY:** This is an open chat room wherein other students could join in. Should you desire confidentiality in our discussion, please let me know and I will setup a private chat for you.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 308 Fell Hall, Office Phone (309) 438-5853, Video Phone (309) 319-7682 or visit the website at StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu

HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!

FIL 190: Tentative Course Schedule (As of 1/6/2026)

Date	Meet in class	Module	Content
12-Jan	✓	1	Chapter 1: Goals and Governance of the Corporation (Old Editions: "The Corp and Financial Manager")
14-Jan		1	Chapter 2: Financial Markets and Intermediaries Chapter 3: Accounting and Finance
19-Jan			<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</i>
21-Jan		1	Chapter 5.1 - 5.5: Time Value of Money Assignment 1 due by 6 pm on 1/23 (Fri)
26-Jan	✓	1	Chapter 5.1 - 5.5: Time Value of Money
28-Jan			Chapter 5.1 - 5.5: Time Value of Money
2-Feb	✓	1	Chapter 5.1 - 5.5: Time Value of Money
4-Feb		1	Chapter 5.1 - 5.5: Time Value of Money Assignment 2 due by 6 pm on 2/6 (Fri)
9-Feb	✓	2	Chapter 5.5 - 5.7: Time Value of Money
11-Feb		2	Exam 1 (Based on Module 1): <u>Opens at 6 am on 2/11 (Wed); Closes on 2/12 (Thurs) at 6 pm</u>
16-Feb	✓	2	Chapter 5.5 - 5.7: Time Value of Money
18-Feb		2	Chapter 6: Valuing Bonds
23-Feb	✓	2	Chapter 6: Valuing Bonds
25-Feb		2	Chapter 7: Valuing Stocks
2-Mar	✓	2	Chapter 7: Valuing Stocks
4-Mar			Exam 2 (Based on Module 2): <u>Opens at 6 am on 3/4 (Wed); Closes on 3/5 (Thurs) at 6 pm</u>
9-Mar			<i>Spring Break</i>
11-Mar			<i>Spring Break</i>
16-Mar	✓	3	Chapter 4: Measuring Corporate Performance
18-Mar		3	Chapter 4: Measuring Corporate Performance Assignment 3 due by 6 pm on 3/20 (Fri)
23-Mar	✓	3	Chapter 8: NPV and Other Investment Criteria
25-Mar		3	Chapter 8: NPV and Other Investment Criteria
30-Mar	✓	3	Chapter 9: Using DCF to Make Investment Decisions
1-Apr		3	Chapter 9: Using DCF to Make Investment Decisions Assignment 4 due by 6 pm on 4/3 (Fri)
6-Apr	✓	3	Chapter 11: Intro Risk, Return and Opp Cost Capital
8-Apr		3	Chapter 11: Intro Risk, Return and Opp Cost Capital
13-Apr	✓	4	Chapter 12: Risk, Return & Capital Budgeting
15-Apr			Exam 3 (Based on Module 3): <u>Opens at 6 am on 4/15 (Wed); Closes on 4/16 (Thurs) at 6 pm</u>

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Date	Meet in class	Module	Topic
20-Apr	✓	4	Chapter 12: Risk, Return & Capital Budgeting
22-Apr		4	Chapter 13: The WACC and Company Valuation
27-Apr	✓	4	Chapter 13: The WACC and Company Valuation
29-Apr			Review Chapter 5 materials spread between Modules 1 & 2
Finals Week			Exam 4 (Based on Modules 4 & all contents from Chapter 5: Time Value of Money): (During Finals Week - Will be confirmed closer towards the semester end; <i>Tentatively</i> Opens at 6 am on 5/4 (Mon); Closes on 5/5(Tues) at 6 pm

I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule when required (e.g. class cancellations). Please look up the Canvas website (<https://canvas.illinoisstate.edu/>) updates.