



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Illinois State University

Department of Finance, Insurance and Law Course Syllabus

College of Business Mission

Through our shared commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service, we prepare students to be skilled and ethical business professionals who will make significant positive contributions to organizations, to communities, and to our larger society.

Academic Integrity

In this online course, using AI or browsing the web during proctored exams, working with others on exams or assignments, or sharing information about practice or proctored exam questions is considered cheating. You may use scratch paper, a calculator, and whatever else is specified in the exam instructions when taking proctored exams. Formulas will be provided in Canvas on exams.

Professional Standards

You should be familiar with and adhere to the [College of Business Professional Standards](#).

COURSE & INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Course number & title	FIL 240 Business Finance
Classes meet:	online, asynchronous, Canvas
Credit hours:	3
Prerequisite:	ECO 101 or 105; MQM 100; ACC 131
Instructor:	Dr. Vladimir Kotomin, CFA email vkotomi@ilstu.edu
Student hours:	in person: MW 11:30-12:30 & 1:50-2:20 (SFHB 309, facing the quad); Zoom: email for an appointment

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- 1) **Your time:** Expect to spend 8-10 hours per week to complete the course activities.
- 2) **Text:** *Fundamentals of Finance*, Kotomin; housed on Top Hat (you will receive an invite), \$75.
- 3) **Financial calculator or another tool with time value of money (TVM) functions:** If you use a financial calculator, I recommend Texas Instruments BAII+. Many non-financial calculators have TVM functions. **It is your responsibility** to become familiar with the workings of the tool(s) you choose (how to enter the data, what settings to use, etc.). There are plenty of tutorials online.
- 4) **Access to a computer with internet and Microsoft Office:** You must have reliable internet access and Microsoft Office. If you do not have these programs on your machine, Office 365 is accessible for free through the university (Copilot will appear; click on the nine-dot square in the top right corner of the navigation pane—the App launcher).

- 5) **Proctortrack** exam monitoring software: Proctored exams will be given using Proctortrack (PT). You will start by taking an onboarding quiz to make sure your identity is verified by PT. You will need to use the same computer and browser you will use to take proctored exams. The information for students on how to install and use PT is [here](#). PT works in Chrome (best) or Firefox only. If clicking the Proctortrack tab in Canvas results in an error message, try allowing third-party cookies in your browser (chrome://settings/content/cookies in Chrome).
- If you have trouble getting Proctortrack to work, please contact Proctortrack IT support at (844) 753-2020 (preferred) or use [this link](#).
 - *If you have concerns about using Proctortrack, you may request an alternative proctoring option. For an alternative proctoring option to be considered, you must contact the instructor at least **seven** days before the exam. Alternative options will include a human proctor and will be limited to business hours and proctor availability.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

FIL 240 is an introductory finance course for all business majors. It covers major areas of corporate finance and provides training in analytical tools and concepts that will help you understand and interact with your future colleagues in finance or, if you choose the finance major, in subsequent finance courses and your professional career. Many of these principles are also useful in our personal financial lives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Extract relevant information from financial statements, compute and interpret financial ratios as part of financial analysis.
2. Apply time value of money concepts in financial decision making.
3. Compute and interpret measures of risk and return and apply them to value bonds and stocks.
4. Compute a firm's cost of capital and evaluate capital budgeting projects by applying basic capital budgeting decision criteria.
5. Evaluate financial decisions in the context of shareholder wealth maximization.
6. Learn about career opportunities in the field of finance.

INSTRUCTOR'S PHILOSOPHY

I aim to make finance accessible and relevant to all students, regardless of major. In this course, we'll focus on essential financial concepts and skills that will benefit you in both personal and professional contexts. You'll learn to interpret financial statements, understand time value of money, evaluate investment opportunities, and grasp basic risk management principles. These skills will empower you to make informed financial decisions and communicate effectively with finance professionals in your future careers. While the course may challenge you at times, I'm committed to providing a supportive learning environment where questions are encouraged and real-world applications are emphasized. My goal is not just to teach you finance, but to help you develop critical thinking and analytical skills that will serve you well in any field.

COURSE NAVIGATION

- Top Hat platform (www.tophat.com): Textbook, including in-chapter questions
- Canvas Modules tab: Syllabus, handouts with examples, PowerPoint slides, other materials; Quizzes, assignments with instructions, reminders
- Canvas Proctortrack tab: Onboarding quiz, proctored unit exams, proctored final exam

GRADED COURSE COMPONENTS

Top Hat in-chapter questions: 150 points	12%
Assignments and Quizzes: 260 points	20.8%
Proctored Unit Exams (5): 600 points	48%
Proctored Comprehensive Final Exam: 240 points	19.2%
Total: 1250 points	100%

- 1) Assignments** (*throughout the semester*)
 - Modules tab on Canvas (detailed instructions and submissions)
 - Due dates
- 2) Top Hat Questions** (*weekly*)
 - In-chapter questions in the textbook on the Top Hat platform (www.tophat.com).
 - Three attempts, highest score counts
 - Intended to ensure careful reading and exam preparation
 - **Due weekly on Fridays** (in the last week of classes due on Wednesday)
 - Points transferred to Canvas grade book on December 6
- 3) Quizzes** (*weekly*)
 - Modules tab on Canvas
 - MC and open-ended problems (three attempts, highest score counts)
 - Occasional video quizzes (unlimited attempts)
 - **Due on Saturdays** (in the last week of classes due on Thursday)
- 4) Proctored Unit Exams** (*every three weeks*)
 - Proctortrack tab on Canvas
 - **Due on Sundays** every three weeks (Unit 5 Exam in the last week of classes due on Friday); 75-minute time limit
 - Formulas will be provided
- 5) Comprehensive Final Exam** (*finals week*)
 - Proctortrack tab on Canvas
 - Accessible during finals week; **due on Friday, Dec 11**; 150-minute time limit
 - MC questions & open-ended problems
 - Worth two unit exams; its score counts for grade (i.e., it is mandatory, not optional). **In addition**, if your final exam score exceeds the sum of your lowest two unit exam scores, the difference will be credited to you as a bonus.
 - Formulas will be provided

The grading scale is a simple 90-80-70-60 scale.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

1. *Disciplined practice.* **Procrastination** is costly in a challenging course like this one. If you want to succeed, you will likely need to spend **8-10** hours per week distributed over at least three days studying and working on course activities. You should log in to Canvas several times a week to complete assessments, check announcements, ask questions, download handouts, etc.
2. *Staying on top of things.* All course materials, including this syllabus, handouts with examples, videos, PowerPoint slides, etc. are in Canvas under Modules. Each handout comes in two versions: a “blank” one (with no solutions to example problems) and one with worked-up solutions. Many students find it helpful to first go over the solutions, then attempt the same problems on a blank version. Quizzes are not proctored, which means you may use AI assistance to complete them. View them as practice and use all attempts even if you score 100% on the first one. That way, you will draw more different questions and will have more to review when preparing for exams.
3. *Take advantage of easy points.* Make sure you get 100% or close to it on quizzes and Top Hat in-chapter questions (they have three attempts, with the highest one counting for grade). The sooner you start working on these assessments, the better. You will see correct answers with feedback after submitting each attempt. Reviewing these submissions is a powerful study tool.
 - When working on or reviewing MC questions, your goal is to *clearly explain why the right choice is right and why the wrong choices are wrong* for each question.
 - With the problems, your goal is to be able to *clearly explain what each step accomplishes*.
4. *Getting stuck.* If you have difficulty with the material, email me your questions, stop by during office hours (if you are on campus), or request a Zoom meeting by sending me an email. If possible, identify several time slots that work for you.

STUDENT SUPPORT/RESOURCES**Technical Support, Canvas issues, and ISU Alerts**

Canvas is a user-friendly system and is easy to navigate. The University Technology Support Center is the primary unit to help students with Canvas questions and other technology-related problems – call 438-4357. Do not contact the instructor to resolve technology-related problems. ISU tech alerts (incl. scheduled maintenance) are [here](#). ISU emergency alerts (incl. instructions to sign up for) are [here](#).

Student Access and Accommodation Services

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, (309) 438-5853, or visit StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu. If you have quiz/exam accommodations such as extended time, please contact the instructor ASAP!

Mental Health

Life at college can get complicated. If you're feeling stressed, overwhelmed, lost, anxious, depressed or are struggling with personal issues, do not hesitate to call or visit Student Counseling Services (SCS), 320 Student Services Building, 309-438-3655. These services are free and completely confidential.

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion are core values at Illinois State. We aim to foster an inclusive environment characterized by cultural understanding, respect, and social justice. [ISU's Diversity & Inclusion page](#) has various resources, including student support and various communities.

Links to Other Resources & Services

[Parking & Transportation](#)

[Redbird Card Office](#)

[Student Conduct](#) (a unit of the Dean of Students Office)

[TechZone](#) (ISU computer repair center)

[Transcripts](#)

[Class Drops or Withdrawals](#)

[Your Privacy \(FERPA\)](#)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE†

Wk. #	Dates	Topics & Assignments	TH Qs. Due*	Quizzes Due*	Exam Due*
1	Aug 17-23	Ch. 1 Introduction; <i>Self-reflection 1 due Aug 23</i>	Aug 21	Aug 22	
2	Aug 24-30	Ch. 2 Fin Statements	Aug 28	Aug 29	
3	Aug 31-Sep 6	Ch. 3 Financial Analysis	Sep 4	Sep 5**	Sep 6**
4	Sep 7-13	Ch. 4 Time Value of Money, Part 1 <i>Finance designations assignment due Sep 13</i>	Sep 11	Sep 12	
5	Sep 14-20	Ch. 4 Time Value of Money, Part 2 <i>Finance designations peer grades due Sep 17</i>	Sep 18	Sep 19	
6	Sep 21-27	Ch. 5 Risk and Return	Sep 25	Sep 26	Sep 27
7	Sep 28 – Oct 4	Ch. 6 Bonds	Oct 2	Oct 3	
8	Oct 5-11	Ch. 7 Stocks	Oct 9	Oct 10	
9	Oct 12-18	Ch. 8 Cost of Capital	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18
10	Oct 19-25	Ch. 9 Capital Budgeting Techniques, Part 1	Oct 23	Oct 24	
11	Oct 26 – Nov 1	Ch. 9 Capital Budgeting Techniques, Part 2	Oct 30	Oct 31	
12	Nov 2-8	Ch. 10 Capital Budgeting Cash Flows	Nov 6	Nov 7	Nov 8
13	Nov 9-15	Ch. 11 Leverage, Part 1	Nov 13	Nov 14	
14	Nov 16-22	Ch. 11 Leverage, Part 2	Nov 20	Nov 21	
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15	Nov 30 – Dec 4	Ch. 12 Short-term Financial Management	Wed, Dec 2	Thu, Dec 3	Fri, Dec 4
16	Dec 7-11	<i>Final Exam (Cumulative)</i>			<i>Dec 11</i>

† While I will do my best to adhere to the schedule, both the schedule and the topics are subject to change on short notice.

* TH Qs. stands for Top Hat questions. Everything is due on specified dates at 11:59 PM Central U.S. time.

** Due to a long weekend, quizzes will be accepted without a penalty through September 7, and the exam—through September 8.

Shading separates different course units. Each unit lasts three weeks and concludes with an exam. The final exam is mandatory.