



95-719 Accounting and Finance Analytics

Course Syllabus, Spring 2024 (Mini 3)

Instructor

Jillian Stephenson

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Office: HBH 3011

Office Hours

Tuesdays - 12:30pm-1:30pm (via Zoom),

Thursday/Friday - by appointment only

Lecture

Section B – Monday and Wednesday 9:30am – 10:50am – Hamburg Hall 1204

Teaching Assistants

TBD

TA Office Hours

TBD

Required Text

We will be using 3 textbooks for this course. All textbooks are available on OpenStax.com. Each class session will have required reading that is to be completed before the lecture that is a subset of the full text. The links to the reading will be included in Canvas in the Modules for the course. We will be only using portions of each textbook, the required reading is only directly from the pages linked in Canvas.

Dahlquist, J., & Knight, R. (2022). *Principles of Finance*. OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/books/principles-finance/pages/1-why-it-matters>

Franklin, M., Graybeal, P., & Cooper, D. (2019). *Principles of Accounting, Volume 1: Financial Accounting*. OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/books/principles-financial-accounting/pages/1-why-it-matters>

Franklin, M., Graybeal, P., & Cooper, D. (2019). *Principles of Accounting, Volume 2: Managerial Accounting*. OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/books/principles-managerial-accounting/pages/1-why-it-matters>

Additional Resources

Investopedia.com has a lot of useful finance and accounting information that is relevant to the course. Make sure for any calculations and ratios that we do during class, you need to use the formula from

class in your assignments and quizzes. There are variations of formulas that will give you a different answer and you will not get credit if you do not use the versions from class.

[Prerequisites/Required Software](#) - The course uses Microsoft Excel for assignments and in class exercises. You will need to have access to Excel during class, however if this is an issue, please let me know at the beginning of the course. If you are not comfortable with Excel, you should work through some Excel tutorials before the course begins to be familiar with formulas and functions in Excel and navigating through spreadsheets.

[Course Description](#)

The main objective of this course is to gain expertise in analyzing an organization's financial statements and related disclosures, in order to evaluate its performance. Students will learn about the key components of financial statements and then apply ratio and variance analysis to determine the financial position of a company. By extracting data and analyzing financial statements, students will improve their ability to make informed decisions about an organization's financial health. Toward the end of the course, students will also learn about capital investment decisions and discounted cash flow analysis, which can be used to support management decisions in various businesses.

[Course Objectives](#)

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe core accounting principles as well as locate financial information for publicly traded companies.
- Define and classify accounts on the balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement.
- Perform ratio and variance analysis on financial statements to identify trends and areas of concern for a company.
- Evaluate capital budgeting techniques to determine financial viability of a project.

[Course Organization](#)

[Canvas](#)

The course will utilize Canvas for all material needed. All dates for assignments and exams are included in Canvas. Class material is contained within the Modules tab in Canvas and organized by class session. Important class information will be communicated via Canvas, including class being moved to a remote environment, through announcements so please make sure to check frequently.

(<https://canvas.cmu.edu>)

[Reading Materials](#)

There will be assigned reading for each class which is expected to be completed prior to lecture. Since this class is only 7 weeks, we have a lot of material to go through during that time. The reading is primarily to help with your understanding of overall concepts and terminology. If you have questions

from the reading, please ask as we review that section during lecture so topics can be clarified to help with your understanding.

Grading Summary

Class Participation/Attendance – 10%

Group Project – 30%

Assignments – 20%

Exams – 40%

I will be using the following grading scale based on the weighting above:

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| A+ 98-100% | B+ 88-89 | C+ 78-79% | R 69% and below |
| A 95-97% | B 84-87% | C 74-77% | |
| A- 90-94% | B- 80-83% | C- 70-73% | |

The TA's and I will work quickly to return assignments and exams via Gradescope/Canvas. If you have a grading dispute, this must be communicated via Gradescope for assignments and to the Professor for the Exams. You have **one week** from receiving your grade to submit a dispute. You will need to provide specific details/questions on the dispute and to which question it relates.

Attendance & Participation

Attendance for the course will be tracked via in class questions that will be turned in at the end of class on a notecard. You will be expected to write your name as well as the answer to the problem/question on your notecard and turn it in. These questions will be graded for completeness not correctness, but make your best effort as these are designed to benefit you.

You may miss 2 classes for any reason (job interview, sickness, deadlines, etc) and you have the option to notify me or the TA's if you will miss, however it is not required.

As an interactive class, you are expected to participate (e.g., engage with the professor and classmates during class). As a note, these points are completely at the professor's discretion and based on direct observations during class and will be assigned during final grading.

Classroom Behavior

It is expected that you will arrive on time for class. Situations occur where you may need to arrive late, however please come in quietly to not disturb the lecture and your fellow students. Laptops/ipads are allowed to be used during class, however you should not be working on other classes or messaging with friends. It is very apparent if this is occurring, and this will be reflected in your participation grade.

Assignments

There will be individual assignments during the course which be submitted in both Canvas and Gradescope. You will be required to use Microsoft Excel for your assignments and will turn in the spreadsheet as support. Any questions related to the assignments should be addressed during lecture, office hours or via email so please do not wait until the last minute to look at the assignment.

Your work is to be completed individually on the assignments, your answers should be in your own words excluding calculations. You are welcome to ask other students questions but completing the assignments together is not permitted. Having possession of another students' assignment in any form is considered an Academic Integrity violation and will not be tolerated. Assignments will be checked for plagiarism using the Turnitin application.

Assignments turned in after the due date will be eligible for a maximum of 90% of the original grade. You have a late grace period of 24 hours past the due date to turn in the assignment for the reduced grade. Past the late grace period of 24 hours, assignments will not be accepted.

Exams

There will be two exams in this course. One will be during our scheduled class session and the other will be scheduled during the final exam timeslots. The exams will be given in person using Canvas with Respondus Lockdown Browser and will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false and matching questions. Non-messaging calculators will be permitted as well as 1 note sheet and scratch paper. Anything discussed in lecture, required reading or assignments is possible to be on the exam. If you miss a exam or take the exam remotely without prior permission from the professor, you will receive a zero.

Group Project

During the second half of the course, you will be assigned a group project that will be completed by the end of the course. The project will require you to select companies to analyze and provide a written report on the trends you have identified on each of the company's financial statements. More information will be provided after the first exam.

Academic Integrity

All assignments that you are submitting should be in your own words, not classmates and not directly taken from the book or online resources. You may work with classmates to discuss assignments and ask questions, but the assignments are to be completed individually. I will be checking for plagiarism amongst assignments which includes having the same sentences as a classmate. Cheating on assignments or quizzes will not be tolerated and will be communicated to Your Program Director, The Associate Dean and The Dean of Student Affairs at the University. If you are caught cheating, your final grade will be reduced by 2 letter grades.

<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/academic-integrity.html>

You may use generative AI programs like ChatGPT during the class and/or assignments to help you understand course content but not to generate answers to assignment problems. Generative AI programs rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct, but has been shown to sometimes be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and / or biased. You are ultimately responsible for the content of the information you submit. However, you may not attempt to pass off any work generated by an AI program as your own.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and have an accommodations letter from the Disability Resources office, you need to contact me to discuss your accommodations and requirements as early in the semester as possible. I will work with you to ensure that accommodations are provided as appropriate. If you suspect that you may have a disability and would benefit from accommodations but are not yet registered with the Office of Disability Resources, I encourage you to contact them at access@andrew.cmu.edu.

Additional Course/University Information:

Student Wellness

Please make it a priority to take care of yourself during the semester. Focus on a healthy lifestyle to help you achieve your goals and what you are hoping to accomplish during your time here. There are a variety of resources available to ask for help. Don't wait and get help if you feel that you need it.

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) is here to help: call 412-268-2922 and visit their website at <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for help getting connected to the support that can help.

If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal or in danger of self-harm, call someone immediately, day or night:

CaPS: 412-268-2922

Re:solve Crisis Network: 888-796-8226

If the situation is life threatening, call the police

On campus: CMU Police: 412-268-2323

Off campus: 911

Diversity

We are diverse in many ways, and this diversity is fundamental to building and maintaining an equitable and inclusive campus community. Diversity can refer to multiple ways that we identify ourselves, including but not limited to race, color, national origin, language, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, ancestry, belief, veteran status, or genetic information. Each of these diverse identities, along with many others not mentioned here, shape the perspectives our students, faculty, and staff bring to our campus. We, at CMU, will work to promote diversity, equity and inclusion not only because diversity fuels excellence and innovation, but because we want to pursue justice. We acknowledge our imperfections while we also fully commit to the work, inside and outside of our classrooms, of building and sustaining a campus community that increasingly embraces these core values. Each of us is responsible for creating a safer, more inclusive environment.

Unfortunately, incidents of bias or discrimination do occur, whether intentional or unintentional. They contribute to creating an unwelcoming environment for individuals and groups at the university. Therefore, the university encourages anyone who experiences or observes unfair or hostile treatment

on the basis of identity to speak out for justice and support, within the moment of the incident or after the incident has passed. Anyone can share these experiences using the following resources:

Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion: csdi@andrew.cmu.edu, (412) 268-2150

Report-It online anonymous reporting platform: reportit.net username: *tartans* password: *plaid*

All reports will be documented and deliberated to determine if there should be any following actions. Regardless of incident type, the university will use all shared experiences to transform our campus climate to be more equitable and just.

Food Insecurity

If you are worried about affording food or feeling insecure about food, there are resources on campus that can help. Email the CMU Food Pantry Coordinator to schedule an appointment:

Pantry Coordinator:
cmu-pantry@andrew.cmu.edu
412-268-8704 (SLICE office)

Student Academic Success Center

The Student Academic Success Center offers a wide variety of opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of who they are as learner, communicator, and ultimately scholar. They support student success by providing academic coaching, communication consulting and workshops, accommodations and support for students with disabilities, and language support for English language learners. The program offerings are free and open to all students. You can access the center here:

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-success/programs/index.html>

The following is a tentative schedule for the Mini. Any changes will be announced in class and through Canvas:

| Date | Lecture Topic | Due Dates/Exams |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1/17/2024 | Corporate Structure & Governance | |
| | | |
| 1/22/2024 | Financial Statements & Accounting Principles | |
| | | |
| 1/24/2024 | Balance Sheet - Current Assets | Assignment #1 Due |
| | | |
| 1/29/2024 | Balance Sheet - NonCurrent Assets | |
| | | |
| 1/31/2024 | Balance Sheet - Liabilities | Assignment #2 Due |
| | | |
| 2/5/2024 | Balance Sheet - Stockholders' Equity | |
| | | |
| 2/7/2024 | Exam 1 (In Class) | |
| | | |
| 2/12/2024 | Income Statement | |
| | | |
| 2/14/2024 | Cash Flow Statement | |
| | | |
| 2/19/2024 | Investment Decision Making | Part 1 - Group Project Due |
| | | |
| 2/21/2024 | Investment Analysis Methods | |
| | | |
| 2/26/2024 | Overall Trend Analysis | Part 2 - Group Project Due |
| | | |
| 2/28/2024 | Trend Analysis & Ratio Class Activity | |
| | | |
| 3/1/2024 | Exam 2 (Time TBD) | |