RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
School of Business - Camden

# CORPORATE FINANCE AND APPLICATIONS – Spring 2026

52:390:310:01:08609
Mon. & Wed. 2:05 P.M. – 3:25 P.M.
BSB 106

Professor: Mr. Ralph Giraud, MS Office: BSB 409
Phone: (856) 668-4959 Office Hours: by appointment via scheduling through EMAIL
E-mail: ralph.giraud@rutgers.edu

## COURSE SPECIFICS

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will address: cost of capital; capital structure; payout policy; introduction to international aspects of corporate finance; options and corporate finance.

Course material covered is "an extension" of concepts reviewed from your "Principles of Finance" prerequisite course, so it is assumed that you have "built a base of knowledge" of financial concepts such as: financial statements and ratio analysis; time value of money and discounted cash flow valuation; capital budgeting; and risk and return. **Prerequisites:** 52:390:301, 50:640:130, and 50:960:284.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course begins with a "refresher," a review of some important "Principles of Finance" concepts concerning: financial statements and ratio analysis; time value of money and discounted cash flow valuation; capital budgeting; and risk and return. Afterwards, lectures will next concentrate on capital structure, and the challenging decisions surrounding raising money through equity and debt financing. Topics move on to the "optionality" characteristics of stock and bond instruments when funding a business. Credit policies and inventory management, and international corporate finance issues will be discussed.

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Emphasis is placed on understanding corporate financial statements, making capital investment decisions, capital budgeting and capital structure. Capital investment decisions involve Net Present Value (NPV) analysis and operating cash flow approaches. Our course will examine a firm's cost of capital, corporate funding choices, plus the advantages and disadvantages of equity and debt financing.

In the practice of corporate finance, it is important to be able to identify business problems or opportunities that must be defined, quantified, and analyzed. This leads to a variety of potential alternative decisions, a final decision that leads to subsequent actions, and a review of the results of those actions. Making no decision is a decision to do nothing, which is usually but not always the worst decision that can be made. Decision-making involves taking risk, committing to a course of action, and creating a result.

The intent of this course is to allow you demonstrate your skills as a "financial analyst."

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

**Textbook (required):** Stephen A. Ross, Randolph W. Westerfield, Jeffrey Jaffe,Bradford D. Jordan, and Kelly Shue, **Corporate Finance, Evergreen Release,** 2025, McGraw-Hill Irwin.
ISBN13: 9781264112159

**Connect**: **McGraw-Hill's Connect** is a web-based assignment and assessment solution **required** for this course.

http://video.mhhe.com/watch/4q72PpEpzkXAd3hW4o52c8

https://www.mheducation.com/highered/support/connect/first-day-of-class/canvas.html#technical-support

If you have any issues while registering or using Connect, please contact McGraw-Hill's Customer Experience team through http://www.mhhe.com/support or at 800-331-5094. To avoid problems related to unexpected technical issues, you are advised not to wait until the last moment to complete assignments. Please review your "Connect Student Quick Tips" document for further support.

**Calculators and laptops:** A financial calculator is a great tool that will facilitate your computations, which is relatively inexpensive compared to the cost of a laptop. However, **use of a laptop is strongly recommended.** If you choose to use a financial calculator, suggestions may include the Hewlett Packard HP 10BII or Texas Instruments BAII Plus. I will not bear any responsibility of teaching you how to use it.

**TEACHING METHODS:**

Lectures, class discussions, and exams/assigned work will be based mainly on material from course textbooks, supplemented by use of appropriate websites and other resources. It is your responsibility as a student to fulfill all individual AND group course requirements through thorough preparation for each class. This responsibility includes reviewing topics IN ADVANCE of scheduled classes. Additional responsibilities include perfect, timely attendance (in accordance with university policies), active participation, and completion and timely submission of assignments. Ask the professor for help immediately when necessary.

**COMMUNICATION:**

**Canvas**
Our course syllabus, some Word documents, Excel files, Power Point slides, website links, details about Finance and Economics events, and other course information will all be posted through the Canvas LMS (Learning Management System). To access this system, go to http://canvas.Rutgers.edu, log in, click on the course tab, then click on the website link "2026SP - CORPORATE FINANCE 52:390:310:01."

**Rutgers email - USE YOUR RUTGERS EMAIL ADDRESS**
All communications to students will be done using the Rutgers email address provided to you. Please forward your Rutgers email to your personal email if necessary. Not checking your Rutgers email is not an excuse for missing any communications.

**SYLLABUS UPDATES AND OTHER COURSE COMMUNICATION:**
All changes and announcements will be made in class at least once, and/or through the Canvas course website for this course. If you anticipate being absent from class, find a classmate who can pick up handouts etc. for you, as you are responsible for keeping up with this course. Handouts will be brought to class only once, and may not be available in hard copy thereafter. I reserve the right as the Course Instructor to make changes to

stated syllabus information at any time. If you do not use your **rutgers.edu** email domain for your primary email address, please make sure that you forward messages to whatever email address you use. It is YOUR responsibility to "remain current" with course developments. Please check the Canvas course web site on a daily basis.

**Professor Communication:**
I will try reply to all emails within 48 hours. Please do not expect an immediate response. If I do not reply to you within 48 hours, please send me another email, in the event that I may be experiencing technological problems. Although I check my emails a few times daily, I may not be able to completely answer all emails immediately upon receiving them. Note that I may also be traveling out of town on some weekends and may not be able respond to weekend emails until Monday.

## GENERAL /ADMINISTRATIVE

### Key Spring 2026 Dates:

| | |
|---|---|
| Spring 2026 classes begin | Tuesday, January 20th |
| Last day to drop classes w/o "W" | Thursday, January 29th |
| Last day to add classes | Thursday, January 29th |
| Spring break | Saturday, March 14th – Sunday March 22nd |
| Last day to withdraw with "W" | Wednesday, April 20th at 5:00 P.M. |
| Regular classes end | Monday, May 4th |
| Reading days (no testing) | Tuesday May 5th and Wednesday May 6th |
| Final exam period | Thursday, May 7th – Wednesday. May 13th |

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

**The Academic Integrity policy can be found at http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/student-conduct-processes/academic-integrity/.**

***Students are responsible for understanding the principles of academic integrity and abiding by them in all aspects of their work at the University.*** Students are also encouraged to help educate fellow students about academic integrity and to bring all alleged violations of academic integrity they encounter to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

Academic Integrity means that you (the student) must:
•properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others,
•properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work,
•make sure that all work submitted as your own in a course activity is your own and not from someone else
•obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately
• treat all other students fairly with no encouragement of academic dishonesty

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that:
•everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments
•all student work is fairly evaluated and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others
•the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered

•the reputation of the University for integrity is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld. Violations are taken seriously and will be handled according to University policy.

**CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

Rutgers University-Camden seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community, including in classroom space.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.
To review the code, go to the Office of Community Standards:
https://deanofstudents.camden.rutgers.edu/student-conduct

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means *"engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."*

**DISABILITY SERVICES/ACCOMMODATIONS**

The University is committed to supporting the learning of all students and faculty will provide accommodations as indicated in a Letter of Accommodation issued by the Office of Disability Services (ODS). If you have already registered with ODS and have your letter of accommodations, please share this with me early in the course. If you have or think you have a disability (learning, sensory, physical, chronic health, mental health or attentional), please contact https://success.camden.rutgers.edu/disability-services.

Accommodations will be provided only for students with a letter of accommodation from ODS. Their services are free and confidential. Letters only provide information about the accommodation, not about the disability or diagnosis.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

**Exam Make-up Policy/Late Policy**
If, for a university approved reason, you cannot take an exam at the scheduled time you must give the professor written notice at least one week in advance so that other arrangements can be made. If the situation does not allow for advance notification (for example, emergency hospitalization), contact the professor as soon as possible after a missed exam. Make-up exams for non-university approved reasons are not guaranteed. The professor reserves the right to request written documentation to support your absence (such as a doctor's note, an obituary, or military orders).

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

It is expected that you will (1) attend class regularly and arrive on time, (2) listen attentively in class, and (3) contribute often to class discussions. Your in-class comments should be thoughtful and should reflect your careful reading of the assigned course material.

Participation and Late Work: lack of participation will be reflected in the final grade. All assignments must be handed in on time; late work will receive reduced or no credit.

Incompletes and Problems: If you find that you are having trouble completing course work or need further explanation of class topics, please schedule an appointment with me immediately. If you need this class for graduation, you should be sure that your performance is up to standard throughout the course. It is too late to wait until the last week of classes to ask for help. I'm available to meet throughout the entire semester if you need help. "Incompletes" will only be given through prior consultation, under extreme circumstances.

**ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:**

- **Cell Phones and Lap-Tops:** Students are required to ***turn off*** their phones, and laptops are allowed only for coursework in class. Please inform me BEFORE CLASS if you are expecting an emergency call and must leave your phone turned on.
- Students should come to class on time. They should **stay** in class throughout the class period.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS (Grade Weight):**

1. **EXAMS:** There will be four Exams:
   Exam #1 covering Chapters 1, 3 – 4 (15%),
   Exam #2 covering Chapters 6 - 7, 9, 11 (20%),
   Exam #3 covering Chapters 12 – 13, 16 - 17 (20%), and
   Exam #4 covering Chapters 18, 19, 22, 28 (25%).

   Material for these exams will be based on financial applications and processes reviewed and employed during course lectures and homework assignments.

2. **"TAKE-HOME" ASSIGNMENTS (10%):** Take-home assignments will be given over the course of the semester through McGraw Hill Connect. Late submissions will not be accepted.

3. **CLASS PARTICIPATION (10%):** Punctual attendance for complete, regularly scheduled class sessions is MANDATORY, in accordance with university policy (50%). True class participation involves attentiveness, active "engagement" with course material, and contributing to class discussions (50%). Your questions and comments concerning course topics should be focused and relevant. Do not hesitate to ask any and all questions as may be necessary. Please read **CLASS PARTICIPATION** section of **CLASSROOM POLICIES** for further details!

4. **OPTIONAL BONUS OPPORTUNITY ("Extra Credit," worth 10%):** Those students who successfully pass (at 70%) the first four Bloomberg Market Concepts Exams ("Core Concepts"), email their exam scores to me, and email their Acknowledgement of Completion Certificate to me at ralph.giraud@rutgers.edu, and to Bloomberg.Certificates@camden.rutgers.edu, will be awarded ten (10) points (i.e. : 10%) which will be added to the calculation of their final grade.

   **To increase your chances of earning up to an additional 10 percent (10%) credit towards the calculation of your final grade, it is strongly suggested that you attend Bloomberg Market Concepts Training lectures. Visit http://fmlab.camden.rutgers.edu/ for further information.**

**GRADING:**

For the assignment of final grades, the course requirements will be weighted approximately as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Exam # 1 | 15% |
| Exam # 2 | 20% |
| Exam # 3 | 20% |
| Exam # 4 - FINAL | 25% |
| Assignments | 10% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Optional Extra Credit (Bloomberg Market Concepts, "BMC") | 10% |

**LETTER GRADES:**

90-100%…A
85-89%….B+
80-84%….B
75-79%….C+
70-74%….C
60-69%.....D
Less than 60%….F

**COURSE OUTLINE: TOPICS / EXAMS (subject to change)**

Class 1: 1/21/2026
Course Introduction
CHAPTER 1 – Introduction to Corporate Finance

Class 2: 1/26/2026
CHAPTER 1 – Introduction to Corporate Finance

Class 3: 1/28/2026
CHAPTER 1 – Introduction to Corporate Finance

Class 4: 2/02/2026
CHAPTER 3 - Financial Statements Analysis and Financial Models

Class 5: 2/04/2026
CHAPTER 3 - Financial Statements Analysis and Financial Models
CHAPTER 4 – Discounted Cash Flow Valuation

Class 6: 2/09/2026
CHAPTER 4 – Discounted Cash Flow Valuation

Class 7: 2/11/2026
EXAM # 1 prep.: CHAPTERS 1, 3 - 4

Class 8: 2/16/2026
EXAM # 1: CHAPTERS 1, 3 - 4

Class 9: 2/18/2026
CHAPTER 6 - Making Capital Investment Decisions

Class 10: 2/23/2026
CHAPTER 7 - Risk Analysis, Real Options, and Capital Budgeting

Class 11: 02/25/2026
CHAPTER 7 - Risk Analysis, Real Options, and Capital Budgeting
CHAPTER 9 – Stock Valuation

Class 12: 03/02/2026
CHAPTER 9 – Stock Valuation
CHAPTER 11 - Return, Risk, and the Capital Asset Pricing Model

Class 13: 03/04/2026
CHAPTER 11 - Return, Risk, and the Capital Asset Pricing Model

Class 14: 03/09/2026
EXAM # 2 prep.: CHAPTERS 6 - 7, 9, 11

Class 15: 03/11/2026
EXAM # 2: CHAPTERS 6 - 7, 9, 11

Class 16: 03/23/2026
CHAPTER 12 – An Alternative View of Risk and Return

Class 17: 03/25/2026
CHAPTER 12 – An Alternative View of Risk and Return
CHAPTER 13 – Risk, Cost of Capital, and Valuation

Class 18: 03/30/2026
CHAPTER 13 – Risk, Cost of Capital, and Valuation
CHAPTER 16 – Capital Structure: Basic Concepts

Class 19: 04/01/2026
CHAPTER 16 – Capital Structure: Basic Concepts
CHAPTER 17 – Capital Structure: Limits to the Use of Debt

Class 20: 04/06/2026
CHAPTER 17 – Capital Structure: Limits to the Use of Debt

Class 21: 04/08/2026
EXAM # 3 prep.: CHAPTERS 12 – 13, 16, 17

Class 22: 04/13/2026
EXAM # 3: CHAPTERS 12 – 13, 16, 17

Class 23: 04/15/2026
CHAPTER 18 – Valuation and Capital Budgeting for the Levered Firm

Class 24: 04/20/2026
CHAPTER 18 – Valuation and Capital Budgeting for the Levered Firm
CHAPTER 19 – Dividends and Other Payouts

Class 25: 04/22/2026
CHAPTER 19 – Dividends and Other Payouts
CHAPTER 22: Options and Corporate Finance

Class 26: 04/27/2026
CHAPTER 22: Options and Corporate Finance

Class 27: 04/29/2026
CHAPTER 28: Credit and Inventory Management

Class 28: 05/04/2026
EXAM # 4 prep.: CHAPTERS 18, 19, 22, 28

Class 29: 05/11/2026
EXAM # 4: CHAPTERS 18, 19, 22, 28 **(2:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.)**