

**BCOR 3410: Fundamentals of Finance (4 credits)**  
**Loyola Marymount University**  
**Fall 2020**

**Time and Location:** Tuesday and Thursday

3 – 3:45 pm: <https://lmu.zoom.us/j/96590933922>

3:50 - 4:35pm: <https://lmu.zoom.us/j/94297090562> (and for exams)

(Open Q&A session, Sundays, 4:30 - 5pm, optional, <https://lmu.zoom.us/j/6727306348>)

**Instructor Name:** Hai Tran

**Email:** hai.tran@lmu.edu

**Office Hours:** Mon-Wed: 1-4pm, Thursday: 9am-noon, Sunday: 2-4pm. Need to schedule individual appointments in advance through <https://calendly.com/haitranv/15min>. Use this Zoom link <https://lmu.zoom.us/j/6727306348> for individual meetings

**Required Materials:**

1) Ross, Westerfield, and Jordan, Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, McGraw-Hill Irwin, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.

2) Schill, Michael J., “Ben & Jerry's Homemade,” available for download (at a cost of \$4.25) at: <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/754108>

**Course Prerequisites:**

ACCT 2110; ECON 1050 (or ECON 1100 and ECON 1200), ECON 2300 or ECON 2350 or MATH 104; MATH 112 or MATH 131, each with a minimum grade of C.

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to finance, primarily from a corporate perspective. The principal objective of the course is for students to develop an understanding of the basic tools of financial analysis and how to use them to make decisions. Students will learn how to incorporate time value of money and financial projections into their analyses.

**Learning Outcomes:**

This course contributes to student achievement of the following CBA core learning outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify and resolve ethical dilemmas in business situations.
- Students will be able to integrate core concepts from different disciplines and apply them to a business situation.
- Students will be able to frame a business problem and collect, organize and analyze qualitative and quantitative data to report and communicate insights for decision-making.
- Students will be able to create, read and use financial reports for decision-making.
- Students will describe corporate structures and legal responsibilities for different business frameworks.
- Students will be able to analyze business processes to better serve stakeholders.

Upon completion of this course, students should successfully demonstrate the following finance course learning outcomes:

- Value a stream of cash flows, whether from a corporate project or a financial instrument, such as a stock or bond.
- Build a model that includes the relevant cash flows to evaluate an investment opportunity.

### **Course structure**

This course will be taught online synchronously. The class will be split in half and each half will meet for 45 minutes during scheduled class times.

### **Homework and assignments**

There will be a total of 20 homework sets and 5 assignments. Each homework set and assignment will be posted and must be submitted within Brightspace. Each homework set is worth 10 points and each assignment is worth 20 points towards your final grade, for a total of 300 points. Late homework assignments will incur a 50% point penalty.

### **Attendance and participation**

Attendance and active participation is important in understanding and retaining class materials. You will be graded on the quantity and quality of your participation. I will keep track of attendance and participation for each class.

Note: students may need to miss class because of illness, quarantine, isolation or other related reasons. Please communicate with me for accommodations based on your specific situation.

### **Exams**

There will be three exams in this course, two midterms and one final. All exams are open book and open notes. Since exam dates are set in advance, if you anticipate a conflict with a religious holiday or a university officially-sanctioned activity, you should notify me at least one week in advance for a rescheduling. If you miss a midterm exam for LMU-approved reasons, you will have to take a comprehensive final exam, and replace your missed mid-term exam grade with your final exam grade. Missing an exam for non-LMU approved reasons will result in a grade of zero for that exam. You will be required to turn on your webcam during the exams.

### **Workload expectations**

This is a 4 credit course. As such, you are expected to complete at least 9 hours of work outside of class per week. Even though these hours will vary from week to week, on average you will spend 5 hours on homework and assignments, 2 hours on reviewing the previous class materials, and 2 hours on preparing for the next class.

### **Individual meetings**

I would like to meet with each of you individually during the first five weeks of class. Each meeting will last 15 minutes, and its purpose is for me to get to know you better and answer any questions you may have about the class. Please schedule a time through my Calendly link.

### **Grading components**

Your final grade will be based on the following component weights:

Midterm exam 1	150 pts
Midterm exam 2	150 pts
Final exam	200 pts
Attendance and participation	200 pts
Homework	200 pts
Assignments	100 pts

### **Extra credit**

Extra credit opportunities are available for attending Finance Society events and other Finance-related events. They will be announced on Brightspace. You will earn 2 points for each event with a maximum of 20 points total.

### **Grading scheme**

Total points for the course will be 1,000 points. Course grades will be assigned based on percentage grades in the class, according to the following scheme (with no rounding):

A: 93% and above	C+: Between 77% and 80%
A-: Between 90% and 93%	C: Between 73% and 77%
B+: Between 87% and 90%	C-: Between 70% and 73%
B: Between 83% and 87%	D: Between 60% and 70%
B-: Between 80% and 83%	F: Below 60%

## **Course Policies**

### **E-mails**

All e-mails to the professor must be written in a proper, professional manner. If your e-mail message is unprofessional or contains grammatical or spelling mistakes, it will be returned to you with a request that you correct the message and resend it. Before sending an e-mail, you should read it over one time.

### **Class attendance**

Students are expected to attend the live Zoom synchronous sessions and actively participate in class discussions. Below are the expectations for your participation in the Zoom class sessions:

- “Show up” to class in the same way you would for an in-person class
- Be virtually present through audio and video. Communicate with us if this is not possible.
- Treat others with the same respect as you would in a classroom setting. Do not use the Zoom platform for communication unrelated to coursework.
- Do not share any class content without permission.

### **Online pledge**

In order to respect and maintain the privacy of my peers and instructor, I pledge to refrain from sharing any of our class materials on other platforms or any unauthorized use, disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this course, including but not limited to videos, assignment sheets, student comments, instructor and student posts, any identifying information for my peers or instructor. To do so would be disruptive to the course and violate the expected code of conduct. I will act in accordance with honoring the intended audiences of the work produced. I will treat class material as privileged in order to create a supportive and productive classroom.

### **Academic honesty**

Loyola Marymount University is a community dedicated to academic excellence, student-centered education and the Jesuit and Marymount traditions. As such, the University expects all members of its community to act with honesty and integrity at all times, especially in their academic work. Academic honesty respects the intellectual and creative work of others, flows from dedication and pride in performing one's own best work, and is essential if true learning is to take place. As an LMU Lion, by the Lion's Code, you are pledged to join the discourse of the academy with honesty of voice and integrity of scholarship.

Academic dishonesty will be treated as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that can range from receiving no credit for assignments/tests to expulsion.

- It is never permissible to turn in any work that has been copied from another student or copied from a source (including Internet) without properly acknowledging/citing the source.
- It is never permissible to work on an assignment, exam, quiz or any project with another person unless your instructor has indicated so in the written instructions/guidelines.
- It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the "LMU Honor Code and Process." The LMU Academic Honor Code and Process can be found at: <https://academics.lmu.edu/honesty/>

### **Americans with Disabilities Act - Special accommodations:**

Students with special needs who require reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Learning, Physical, or Psychiatric) needing academic accommodations should contact the DSS Office (Daum Hall 2nd floor, 310-338-4216) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit <http://www.lmu.edu/dss> for additional information. Please ask for help as early in the semester as possible!

Students should also keep in mind that resources are available through the Library (<https://library.lmu.edu>) and Information Technology Services (<https://its.lmu.edu>). The DSS Office can help students connect with the appropriate person at the Library and ITS

### **Tentative nature of the syllabus:**

If necessary, this syllabus and its contents are subject to revision. Students are responsible for any changes or modifications announced or distributed in class, emailed to students' LMU Lion accounts or posted on LMU's course management system, Brightspace. If you are absent from an in-person or online class meeting, it is the student's responsibility to check Brightspace and with the professor to see if you missed any important class announcements. Students should not rely on word-of-mouth from classmates.