

# University of North Texas at Dallas

## Spring 2012

### SYLLABUS

<b>FINA 4400D-090: Financial Markets and Institutions 3 Hrs</b>	
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Business</b>
<b>Division of</b>	<b>Urban and Professional Studies</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	<i>Dr. Sammy Alahmad</i>
<b>Office Location:</b>	
<b>Office Phone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:sammy.alahmad@unt.edu">sammy.alahmad@unt.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:profalahmad@hotmail.com">profalahmad@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Thursday: 6:00pm – 7:00 pm or by appointment</b>
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	<b>Dallas 2 Room 213</b>
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	<b>Thursday 7:00pm to 9:50pm</b>
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Studies in the operations, mechanics, and structure of the U.S. financial system. Topics include commercial banking, nonbank financial institutions, money and capital markets, the impact of monetary policy on financial institutions and markets, and an introduction to the international financial system.
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	FINA 3770 with a grade of C or better.
<b>Required Text:</b>	Financial Markets and Institutions: Saunders and Cornett, 4th ed.
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	Calculator: BA II PLUS by Texas Instruments (Recommended) or any calculator capable of time-value-of-money calculations.
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: web: <a href="http://untdallas.bkstr.com">http://untdallas.bkstr.com</a> Blackboard Textbook's website: <a href="http://www.mhhe.com/sc4e">http://www.mhhe.com/sc4e</a>
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>	
	Students will develop and demonstrate a working understanding of the financial marketplace: theory, risk versus expected return, participants, instruments, pricing of financial instruments, and how money is created and controlled.
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Be able to understand the operations, mechanics, and structure of the U.S. and the world financial system. In addition to that to understand the cultures, religions and the financial system as a whole.
2	Demonstrate the ability to use the essential quantitative tools and theoretical models employed in valuation and risk assessment and the ability to apply economic and financial theory when evaluating regulations and the operations/activities of market participants
3	Define the effects of financial market conditions on investment, financing, and valuation
4	Identify how various institutions, regulations, and activities contribute to achieving the overall objective of a financial system – getting adequate funds to the right party in a timely manner and at a low cost
5	Student Learning Outcomes Students will identify the core concepts of financial markets, financial instruments, and financial institutions, including the role and function of the Federal Reserve.

## Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Over the course of the semester, activities and items may be added, removed, or rescheduled in order to provide more information, improve accuracy, enhance learning, or correct errors. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by instructions in class, announcements in Blackboard, and/or Blackboard email to students.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
Introduction Ch. 1: Introduction and Overview of Financial Markets	Week 1: 01/16/12
Ch. 3: Interest Rates and Security Valuation Ch. 4: The Federal Reserve System, Monetary Policy, and Interest Rates	Week 2: 01/23/12
<b>Quiz 1: Ch. 1, 3, 4.</b> Ch. 5: Money Markets Ch. 6: Bond Markets	Week 3: 01/30/12
<b>Quiz 2: Ch. 5, 6.</b> Ch. 7: Mortgage Markets <b>Review for Exam 1</b>	Week 4: 02/06/12
<b>Exam 1: Ch. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.</b>	<b>Week 5: 02/13/12</b>
Ch. 8: Stock Markets Ch. 9: Foreign Exchange Markets	Week 6: 02/20/12
<b>Quiz 3: Ch. 8, 9.</b> Ch. 10: Derivative Securities Markets	Week 7: 02/27/12
Ch. 11: Commercial Banks: Industry Overview Ch. 13: Regulation of Commercial Banks	Week 8: 03/05/12
<b>Review for Exam 2</b> <b>Exam 2: Ch. 8, 9, 10, 11, 13.</b>	<b>Week 9: 03/12/12</b>
<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>Week 10: 03/19/12</i>
Ch. 12: Commercial banks' Financial Statements and Analysis	Week 11: 03/26/12
<b>Quiz 4: Ch. 12</b> Ch. 14: Other Lending Institutions Ch. 15: Insurance Companies	Week 12: 04/02/12
Ch. 16: Securities Firms and Investment Banks Ch. 19: Types of Risks Incurred by Financial Institutions	Week 13: 04/19/12
<b>Quiz 5: Ch. 16, 19.</b> Ch. 20: Managing Credit Risk on the Balance Sheet	Week 14: 04/16/12
<b>Review for Final Exam</b>	Week 15: 04/23/12
<b>Presentation</b>	Week 16: 04/30/12
<b>Final Exam - Comprehensive</b>	<b>Week 17: 05/07/12</b>

## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

**Exams:** In-class exams will consist of written tests designed to measure students' knowledge and understanding of course material. Exam questions will consist of primarily of short-answer questions and include some problems and essay-type questions. Exams will generally cover the topics discussed or presented in class, however, other material may be identified as exam material when appropriate. There will be two regular exams and a final exam. The final exam is cumulative.

**Assignments and Quizzes:** These activities are intended to supplement and reinforce course material. A student may be responsible for completing an activity in or outside of class.

**Group Presentation and Written report (total 50 points):** The class will be divided into groups of 2 students each. Each group will be assigned a financial institution. All members of the group will receive the same base grade based on the presentation and the report, adjusted by a peer evaluation by the other members of the group.

**1. Present and Discuss current news events that related to your assigned financial institution. (20 points)**

You and your team should read at least ten news articles that related to your assigned financial institution (most recent news is preferred). There will be one group presentation each week except for exam week.

**2. On the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012, present a 30 minutes report. (30 points)**

The report must consist of the following elements: a concise description of the institution, an account of a recent conflict of interest or other ethical issue related to the institution, and a description of how the institution has been affected by the ongoing financial crisis. The **written report** should be approximately **10 pages** with sources fully cited and is due in class on the day of your presentation in the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012..

### Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Quizzes and assignments	at 10 points each	100
Exam 1	75	75
Exam 2	75	75
Final Exam	100	100
Presentation and written report	50	50
<b>Total:</b>		<b>400</b>

### Grade Determination: Subject to change by the Instructor

A = 400 – 360 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 320 – 359 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 280 – 319 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 240 – 279 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 239 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

## University Policies and Procedures

### Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

### Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

### Assignment Policy:

**You must submit assignments when they are due.** If you must be absent, you will still be expected to submit assignments on time. It is your responsibility to contact someone (either your instructor or a classmate) to find out what you missed when you are absent.

### Exam Policy:

Exams and quizzes should be taken as scheduled. **No makeup examinations or quizzes will be allowed** except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). The student should make every effort to contact the instructor prior to the exam or class missed; however, a student who fails to make arrangements prior to the beginning of the next scheduled class forfeits the right to make-up credit.

### Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at [http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

### Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

### Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

### Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.