



COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Information about the programme

1.1 Institution of higher education	Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
1.3 Department	Department of Finance, Money and Public Administration
1.4 Field of study	Finance
1.5 Level	Master
1.6 Study programme/ Qualification	Finance and Risk Management

2. Information about the course

2.1 Course name	Corporate Finance and Analysis						
2.2 Course coordinator	Silviu Ursu (Conf. dr.)						
2.3 Seminar coordinator	Silviu Ursu (Conf. dr.)						
2.4 Year of study	1	2.5 Semester	2	2.6 Type of assessment	E	2.7 Course status	C

* C – Compulsory / E - Elective

3. Total estimated time (hours allotted to teaching activities per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	4	of which: 3.2 lecture	2	3.3 seminar/lab	2	
3.4 Number of hours in the curriculum	56	of which: 3.5 lecture	28	3.6 seminar/lab	28	
Time distribution						hrs
Study of the textbook, coursebook, bibliography and lecture notes						70
Additional research in the library, online and on the field						42
Preparation of seminars/labs, homework, projects, portfolios and essays						56
Tutorials						14
Assessment						12
Other activities.....						-
3.7 Total number of self-study hours						194
3.8 Total number of hours per semester						250
3.9 Number of credits						10

4. Prerequisites (if applicable)

4.1 Curriculum-based	Asset Pricing and Financial Markets (recommended)
4.2 Competence-based	-

5. Conditions (if applicable)

5.1 For lectures	▪ Attendance is strongly encouraged.
5.2 For seminars / labs	▪ Attendance is strongly encouraged.





6. Specific competencies

Professional competencies	<p>C1. Analysis of the theoretical and practical aspects of financial markets, models, instruments that are used in the management of risks.</p> <p>C2. Adequate use of mathematical and statistical concepts, methods and techniques in assessing risks and performing independent research in finance.</p> <p>C3. Evaluation of the main risk factors for organizations and financial systems.</p> <p>C4. Implementing effective financial management and reporting within the business environment to ensure value creation.</p> <p>C5. Ensuring effective and appropriate governance and management of risk within an organization, in the context of an overall ethical framework.</p>
Transversal competencies	<p>CT1. Application of the professional ethical norms and values in decision-making and undertaking of complex professional tasks, independently or within a team.</p> <p>CT2. Human resources planning within a group or organization, in the context of awareness of own responsibility for professional outcomes.</p> <p>CT3. Assuming the need for continuous development to create prerequisites for career progression and adapt own professional and managerial competencies to the economic dynamics.</p>

7. Course objectives (provided by the specific competencies grid)

7.1. Main objective	<p>This course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of the financial decisions of corporations and how to use these to answer relatively complex questions of corporate strategy.</p> <p>On successful completion of the course, students will possess the knowledge and skills required to analyse, evaluate and implement or recommend investment, financing and dividend policy decisions to ensure the creation of value in a corporation.</p>
7.2. Specific objectives	<p>On completion of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Demonstrate an understanding of the reasons for valuing real assets and a business.▪ Evaluate the performance of a firm based on its financial statements, and use accounting and other information to derive an overview of the expected cash flows of capital budgeting projects.▪ Describe, explain and compare in considerable detail various real assets valuation techniques.▪ Calculate the weighted average cost of capital (WACC) for a corporation.▪ Describe and explain in considerable detail theories of capital structure and dividend policy.▪ Explain how investment, financing and dividend decisions of a corporation affect its stock price.▪ Demonstrate an understanding of the motivation and process of mergers and acquisitions and how they may create value.▪ Create and use a financial Excel model to evaluate investment and financing decisions of a company working in a team, communicate subsequent findings, and reflect on the work of others.▪ Work in teams, elaborate papers on case studies and present own results orally.▪ Reflect critically on own paper and papers of other groups.





8. Content

8.1	Lectures	Teaching methods	Observations (hours & readings)
1.	Introduction to Corporate Issuers, Corporate Finance and Analysis	Interactive lecture, Brainstorming	2hrs: CFA, Handouts
2.	Capital Investments	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
3.	Cost of Capital	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
4.	Working Capital & Liquidity	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	2hrs: CFA, Handouts
5.	Capital Structure	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
6.	Dividends and Share Repurchases	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
7.	Financial Statement Analysis	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
8.	Corporate Restructurings	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts

Bibliography

Main reading:

- CFA Institute Investment Series' Books published by Wiley – available at <https://www.wiley.com/learn/cfashowcase/#portfolio> (CFA)

Additional readings:

- HILLIER, D., M. GRINBLATT, and S. TITMAN (2012). *Financial Markets and Corporate Strategy*, Second European Edition. London: McGraw-Hill (HGT)
 - BERK, J. and P. DEMARZO (2019). *Corporate Finance*. Fifth Global Edition, Pearson (BD)
- Cases, simulations, journal papers, press articles and other reading materials will be provided periodically throughout the course via FEAA eLearning platform, e-mail or handed-in in class.

8.2	Seminars / Labs	Teaching methods	Observations (hours & readings)
1.	Corporate Structures, Ownership, Models and Risks	Interactive lecture, Brainstorming	2hrs: CFA, Handouts
2.	Capital Allocation Process and Methods	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
3.	Calculation and Interpretation of the Weighted Average Cost of Capital	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
4.	Financing Working Capital & Sources of Liquidity	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	2hrs: CFA, Handouts
5.	Capital Structure Theories	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
6.	Dividends and Share Repurchases	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts





7.	Financial Analysis Techniques	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts
8.	Corporate Restructurings: M&A	Interactive lecture, Invention activities, Random calling	4hrs: CFA, Handouts

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9. Corroboration of the course content with the expectations of community representatives, professional associations and representative employers from the programme's related field

This course provides students with the core knowledge, skills, and abilities that are generally accepted and applied by finance and accounting professionals throughout the world.

Topics are selected in accordance to the requirements of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) world-leading certifications for finance and accounting, to offer the adequate preparation for CFA and ACCA exams.

The content is correlated to that of the *Corporate Finance* course taught at the University of Groningen in the *Pre-MSc Finance* programme and is continuously updated based on the feedback of students and alumni.

Moreover, this is a student-centered course that follows the best practices of learning and teaching in graduate education through the adoption of a variety of active-learning instructional methods.

10. Assessment

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria (based on the course learning objectives)	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Weight in final grade (%)
10.4 Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarity of explanation of the reasons for valuing real assets and a business ▪ Depth of description, explanation and comparison of various real assets valuation techniques. ▪ Accuracy of calculation of the weighted average cost of capital. ▪ Depth of explanation of capital structure and dividend policy theories. ▪ Clarity of explanation of how investment, financing and dividend decisions of a corporation affect its stock price. ▪ Clarity of explanation of motivation and process of mergers and acquisitions and how they may create value. 	Final exam (multiple-choice, true-false and open questions)	50%





10.5 Seminar/ Labs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Accuracy of evaluation of the performance of a firm based on its financial statements.▪ Accuracy of using accounting and other information to derive an overview of the expected cash flows of capital budgeting projects.▪ Quality of a financial Excel model to evaluate investment and financing decisions of a company.▪ Clarity and depth of analysis of cases on capital structure choices and M&A▪ Quality of work in a team of students▪ Clarity of speech and ideas and quality of argument, introduction and conclusion in the presentation of the group reports.	Group papers on event and case studies and their oral presentation	50%
10.6 Minimum performance standard			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Demonstration of the knowledge and skills to identify, analyze and interpret the theoretical and practical aspects of corporate finance and to apply the financial management techniques for planning, control and evaluation of investment, financing and dividend policy decisions.▪ Correct answers provided to at least half of questions in the final written examination.▪ A minimum passing grade of 5, computed as $F = 0.5 \times G + 0.5 \times E$, where F – final grade, G – group coursework grades, E – final exam grade.			

Date
20.09.2023

Course Coordinator
Conf. dr. Silviu Ursu

Seminar Coordinator
Conf. dr. Silviu Ursu

Date of approval
26.09.2023

Head of Department
Prof. dr. Ovidiu STOICA

