

**Printable View of: Course Outline**[Print](#)[Save to File](#)

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**File: Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Yash R. Puri</b>	Office:	PA-320
Telephone:	(978) 934-2807	Office Hrs.:	TR: 9:15 - 11:30 AM
Fax:	(978) 934-3011		and by appointment
		Email:	Please use Blackboard email for course related correspondence.

<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	<b>Vani Valusamy</b>	Office Hrs.:	M, W: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Office:	PA 410		
Telephone:	(978) 934-4269		
		Email:	Vani_Velusamy@student.uml.edu

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**File: Course Description****Description**

This course introduces the students to the finance function in a firm. You will be exposed to a variety of analytical techniques and to theory applied to financial decision making. We will study the effects of major financial decisions such as capital investment, financing, and dividends on the value of a firm, in the light of their risk-return relationship assuming that the goal of the management is to maximize the shareholder's wealth.

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**File: Course Objectives****Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course you should be able to perform basic analysis of key financial decision and their effect on risk, return, and value of the firm. In order to accomplish this objective, you will need to:

- Know the financial methods and techniques presented in the text or in class and be able to apply them to new information;
- Develop conceptual understanding of these methods to know their application to specific situations; and
- Be able to make optimal decisions based on the analytical techniques and computer applications covered during the course.

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**File: Course Website Information****Course Website**

A course website is maintained for this course. Course related information such as course policies, class schedule, examination dates, lecture notes, homework assignments, solutions to practice problems, practice examinations with solution, and any changes to schedule are

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available on this website.

This course is offered in a hybrid form. You are required to complete all homework assignments and exams online at the course web site. You are automatically registered in the online component of this course, but you must confirm your registration and obtain your username and password using the steps described below.

Go to UML Online Learning website <http://continuinged.uml.edu/online/> and click on the "Get your online username & password" link. Follow the on screen instructions carefully. Please refer to Blackboard Vista Access Information for additional information to set up your computer and detailed instructions for completing online assessments such as homework assignments and examinations.

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### File: Getting VISTA Username and Password:



University of  
Massachusetts  
Lowell


Continuing Studies and Corporate Education  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
One University Avenue  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854

Phone: 978-934-2467

Email: [onlinelearning@uml.edu](mailto:onlinelearning@uml.edu)

### Blackboard Vista Access Information

To get your Blackboard Vista username and password:

1. Go to <http://continuinged.uml.edu/online> and click on **Get Your Online Course Username/Password** link.
2. Follow on-screen instructions carefully to enter the information required to retrieve your username and password.
3. Print out the confirmation screen for your records.
4. To access the online supplement for your course, go to <http://continuinged.uml.edu/online>, click  and enter your username and password.

### Important steps to complete when you first login

1. When you first log into Blackboard Vista, pay particular attention to the warning messages that may come up. If you see a warning message about pop-up windows being disabled (similar to the one shown below), **you must turn off all pop-up blockers on your computer in order to use Blackboard Vista or allow pop-ups from the course website.**



2. If you get a **Java Security Certificate Warning** message, make sure to first check the box next to **Always trust content from this publisher**, then click the **Run** button.
3. Do a browser check by clicking on **Check Browser** link at the top right of the screen.
4. Scroll down in the browser check results window and make sure everything is marked with a green check:



5. If you see anything with a red X next to it, scroll down to the bottom of the window and click on **Step-by-step instructions to properly configure your browser** link.

### How to get technical help

If you're having problems with Blackboard Vista, please contact Continuing Education Online Learning technical support:

**Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm EST**

Local Phone Number: 1-978-934-2467

Toll Free Number: 1-800-480-3190

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## **File: General Information**

### ***Course Placement***

This course must be completed before Financial Policy and Strategy (61.631). It is open to students in the MBA program who have completed the following prerequisites:

- Financial Accounting (60.501)

Students must also have a working knowledge of some spreadsheet software such as Excel. Most assignments will require the use of this software. If you do not have a working knowledge of Excel, please visit UMass Lowell's Center for Learning and Academic Support Services

(CLASS) at <http://class.uml.edu/> for a schedule of various tutorial sessions or to contact their staff.

You are not required to purchase the spreadsheet software. The Excel program is installed on many computers in CLASS and the College of Management Computer Laboratory (Phone: 977-934-2859). These computers are available to you for use during the normal schedule for these centers and can be used to complete any required homework. Please contact these centers directly for their schedule.

### ***Supplementary Reading***

You are required to read current materials (e.g. the Wall Street Journal, Business Week, Barron's, Fortune, Forbes, or other such periodicals) dealing with the field of finance. Each student is required to participate in the discussion of news items dealing with the subject matter of this course and highlight the theoretical concept linked to the news.

### ***Teaching Method***

This course introduces a large body of knowledge in a relatively short period of time. Therefore, lecture/discussion is the primary means of instruction. You are encouraged to ask questions at any point during the class. You are expected to complete the reading assignments for a given meeting before the class. Although lectures focus on the topic assigned, they do not necessarily repeat the book. Therefore, reading and completing the assignments before the class will help improve your understanding of the topic. The class time will be divided between lecture/discussion and problem solving. You must bring a good financial calculator to class.

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## **File: Assignments**

### ***Assignments***

Most topics covered in this course have associated practice problems and graded homework assignments. You must do all homework assignments by hand first, and then solve them using spreadsheet program. **You must complete all graded work without collaboration with anyone else.**

All graded work by students in this course is completed under the honor system. You must abide by the University policy on "Academic Dishonesty and Prohibited Academic Practice and Behavior." This policy is reproduced in the Honor Code Assessment. You must complete the Honor Code assessment before any other required work in this course.

All homework assignments identified as HW in the schedule are graded and **must be completed using the course website**. These assignments will become available as the course progresses and the due dates will be posted on the course web site. All HW assignments are graded and will count as a part of your course grade. Be sure to submit your completed assignments after completion on the website. Due date for each graded homework assignment is shown in the course web site. Please note that **we do NOT accept homework assignments by email**. Any assignments submitted by email will be discarded.

Practice problems are designed to help you master the course materials and prepare for the examinations. The course schedule lists some practice problems from the required textbook. In addition, the course website contains practice problems for most topics discussed in this course. It is **strongly recommended** that you complete all practice assignments with a spreadsheet program, using cell-references and other spreadsheet features. Practice assignments should not be submitted as they are not graded. Answers or solutions to the practice problems are also posted on the course web site.

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**File: Online Assessment Instructions****Online Assessments: Homework and Examinations**

Homework assignments and examinations in this course are set up as online assessments. You will be required to log into the course and complete these assessments for all graded work in the course.

Links to all homework assignments will be available in a "Homework Assignments" folder. These links become available when homework is assigned and remain active until the homework is due. You should pay careful attention to the assignment due dates as the homework assessment will not be available after that date. Typically, you should have about a week to complete each homework assignment.

Similarly, links to all examinations will be available in the "Examinations" folder. These links become available at the start time announced to the class for each examination. Normally, you will have a 15 minute window to start the examination. Once you start the examination, the system will allow you the allotted time to complete the examinations. If you miss the exam start window or have other problems with the examination after that window, you must come and see the course instructor or graduate assistance to get back into the examination.

**Setting up Your Computer to Avoid Problems during the Online Assessment**

Before beginning your online assessment (or exam), it's critical that you check some settings on your computer to ensure its successful completion.

**Step 1: Turn Off Hibernation**

This step is necessary to make sure that your computer will not go into hibernation during the assessment. It is particularly important for the exams as you are allowed to log into the exam assessment once only during a short time of window. If your computer goes into hibernation after this time window has expired, you will not be able to log back into the examination.

The steps required to turn off hibernation depend on the operating system installed on your computer. Please consult your computer manual to complete this step. Typically, you will find the instructions to turn off hibernation in the power options settings.

**Step 2: Enabling Cookies in Internet Browser**

Next, make sure that the cookies are enabled in internet browser installed on your system. The assessments depend on these for smooth completion. Since the steps required to enable cookies depend on the internet browser you are using, please check your internet browser's instructions to complete this step.

**Step 3: Checking for Multiple Versions of Java**

Multiple, conflicting versions of Java can cause technical problems when taking an online assessment. Therefore, you must check your computer to make sure you don't have multiple versions of Java installed.

1. On your computer, go to the Control Panel and click on Add/Remove Programs.
2. Scroll down in the list of programs to see if multiple versions of J2SE Runtime Environment are listed. Uninstall all of them except the most recent one (it should be version 1.5 or higher)
3. Restart your computer.

## Step 4: Checking Your Computer

Log into Blackboard Vista and click on the Check Browser link on the upper right-hand-side of the screen. The system will perform a basic check of your settings. You should get a green check for each setting.

## Working with Online Assessments

### 1. Starting an Online Assessment

Now you are ready to begin taking your assessment. Log into the course and click on the link to your assessment. You should see something similar to the following screen.

Midterm Exam	
Available starting:	October 5, 2006 11:14 AM
Available until:	Unlimited
Duration:	10 Minute(s) <small>Note: your completion time is measured from when you click <b>Begin Assessment</b> to when you click <b>Finish</b>. Once the allotted time has expired, you will not be able to save any more questions.</small>
Question delivery:	All at once <small>Note: questions can be answered in any order. You can revisit questions after you have answered them.</small>
Attempts allowed:	1
Attempts completed:	0
Grade:	-/35
<input type="button" value="Begin Assessment"/> <input type="button" value="Instructions and Troubleshooting"/>	

The Available starting date is the earliest you can start the assessment.

The Available until date is the due date before which you must complete the assessment.

The Duration refers to the amount of time that you have to complete the assessment. In this example, you will have 10 minutes to complete the assessment once you have clicked on **Begin Assessment**.

Attempts allowed shows that the number of attempts you have for this assessment (1 in this example).

Attempts completed shows how many attempts you have completed (in this case, none).

And the Grade shows your grade for the assessment (- in this case since the assessment has not been completed).

So, once you are ready to start taking the exam, click on **Begin Assessment** and you will be given the time specified in Duration to complete the exam.

### 2. Taking the Online Assessment

Once you click the **Begin Assessment** button, Vista recognizes that you have begun taking the assessment and if it is a timed assessment, then the clock will begin ticking down. Even if you haven't answered any questions, the clock will continue to count down.

As you answer the assessment questions, click on the **Save Answer** button to ensure that Vista has saved the answer for that particular question. When you click **Save Answer**, a check mark replaces the yellow circle in the question status area. See the following image.

**Midterm exam**  
 Demo Student 28936416  
 Started: January 25, 2007 4:14 PM | 2 Questions

Time 16:15:10  
 Allowed 01:00:00  
 Remaining 00:59:46

Question Status  
 Unanswered  
 Answered

1. q1  
 (10 point(s))  
 What color is the sky today?

a. Chartreuse  
 b. Black  
 c. Blue  
 d. Yellow

Save Answer

After you have answered all the assessment questions and saved all the answers, you **must** then click the **Finish** button. The **Finish** button submits the assessment so that it can be graded. If you do not click on the **Finish** button after you have saved all your answers, the assessment **will not** be recorded as having been completed it and thus, it **will not** be submitted or graded. Refer to the following image.

**Midterm exam**  
 Demo Student 28936416  
 Started: January 25, 2007 4:14 PM | 2 Questions

Time 16:19:09  
 Allowed 01:00:00  
 Remaining 00:55:47

Question Status  
 Unanswered  
 Answered

1. q1  
 (10 point(s))  
 What color is the sky today?

a. Chartreuse  
 b. Black  
 c. Blue  
 d. Yellow

Save Answer

2. q2  
 (10 point(s))  
 The New England Patriots have won how many Super Bowls?

### 3. Printing the Assessment


You may want to have a paper copy of the assessment to work on first, and then record your answers online. To print out a copy of the assessment, put the cursor somewhere within the assessment frame. Then right-click on your mouse button. A popup menu will appear. One of the options is **Print**. Click **Print** to choose your printer and print out the assessment. Refer to the following image.

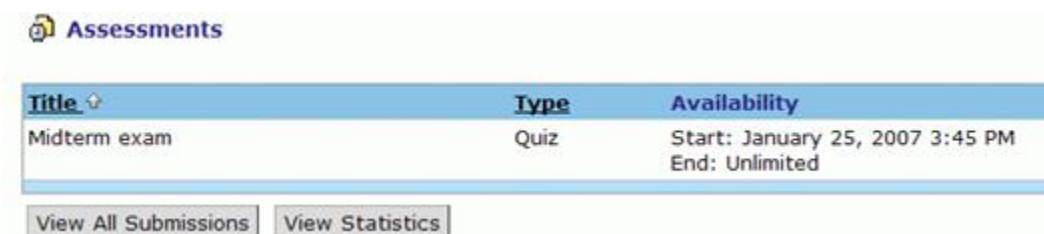


**Note:** Once you start the assessment in Vista, the clock will continue to click down. When completing the answers on the paper copy of your online assessment, don't forget to leave enough time to submit your answers online!

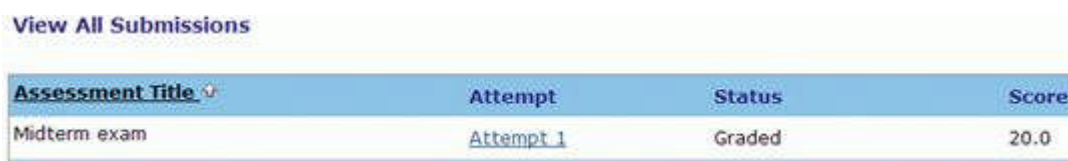
#### 4. Viewing Your Completed Assessment

After you have finished your assessment and it has been graded, you can view your submission to see how you did.

1. On the course tool bar, click on the **Assessments** icon (  [Assessments](#) ). If you don't see this icon, click on **More Tools** and you should then see the Assessments icon.
2. Click on the icon. At the next screen, click on **View All Submissions**.



3. At the next screen, you will see all the assessments that have been completed and submitted.





4. Click on the **Attempt** link to see the results of your completed exam.

### 5. Avoiding Problems during the Examinations

If you open other links in Vista that open in pop up windows after starting the exam, the link you opened may open in the exam window and replace the exam. If this happens, and you are beyond the exam start time window set by your instructor, you will lose access to the exam and will not be able to get back in. Therefore, open any links you wish to access during the examination before you start the examination.

### 6. Getting Help during the Examinations

If you miss the exam start window or have other technical problems during the exam which log you out, you must see your instructor or the graduate assistant to resume to the exam.

For hybrid courses which have regular lecture classes but online assessments, the graduate assistant is available in the College of Management computer lab in PA 305 and the instructor is available in the faculty office.

For online course, the graduate assistant and the instructor monitor the exams online and can be contacted through a "chat window" of mail message through Vista.

### How to get technical help

If you're having technical problems with Blackboard Vista, please contact Continuing Education Online Learning technical support:

**Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm EST**

Local Phone Number: 1-978-934-2467

Toll Free Number: 1-800-480-3190

**Email: [onlinelearning@uml.edu](mailto:onlinelearning@uml.edu)**

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## File: Examination Information

### *Examinations and Grading*

There will be one mid-term and a final examination. The dates for these examinations are indicated on the attached tentative schedule. The final examination will cover all course materials included in the assigned chapters of the book and posted on the course web site.

All examinations are comprehensive in nature and will include all course materials covered up to that date. All subject content materials in the book and those presented in the class lectures and/or posted on the course website are included in the examinations.

The following policies apply to each examination:

- The examinations will be held online. You may take the examination at any location of your choice where you have access to the course materials posted on the course web site. The examinations are administered under the Honor Code available in the Homework Assignments folder.
- All examinations are timed. The time allocated for each exam varies with the number of

problems and will be indicated on the examination. There will be no class on the day of the scheduled exam.

- During the examination, please be sure to save your answers frequently and click on the “Finish” button before the examination time is over. For your convenience, the course web site will show you a countdown times indicating how much time is remaining.
- You may consult any materials such as textbook, materials on the course website, or your own notes during the examination. You may NOT consult any other individual during the examination.
- You may use a calculator during examinations, but are **not** allowed to borrow one from another student during examinations. Please have fresh batteries or a back-up calculator available for emergency use.
- It is strongly recommended that you prepare a note card with key information for use during each examination. While you have access to all course materials during the examination, a note card will help you focus on key formulae/facts and save you time during the examination.
- Use of any text-messaging devices/mobile phones is prohibited during the examination.

Make-up for a missed examination is normally not allowed unless prior arrangements are made with the course instructor. In case of a medical emergency, make-up for a missed examination may be allowed at the discretion of the instructor upon presentation of appropriate documentation. If it is necessary to miss an examination for any other reason, prior consent of the instructor must be obtained to be eligible for a make-up. In all cases, however, the instructor reserves the right to refuse the make-up opportunity without specifying a cause. If permitted, make-up must be taken within 24 hours of the scheduled examination. No makeup is allowed after the exam grades have been released to the class.

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## **File: Grading**

### ***Grading***

The following weights will be used to determine your final course grade:

Examination I	40%
Examination II	40%
Assignments and Participation	20%
TOTAL	100%

Normal university criteria will be used in assessing a letter grade based on the total of all evaluations.

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## **File: Textbook**

### ***Required Text***

The required textbook for this course is:

Frank M. Werner and James A.F. Stoner, Fundamentals of Financial Managing, Second Edition (2007), St. Paul, MN: Freeload Press.

This is an online book. Instructions for ordering the book are attached.

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**File: Textbook Ordering Information****TEXTBOOK ORDERING INFORMATION**

The required book for the course is:

Frank M. Werner and James A.F. Stoner, Fundamentals of Financial Managing, Second Edition (2007), St. Paul, MN: Freeload Press.

This book is available through Textbook Media. Please follow the following instructions to get the book.

**HOW TO FIND YOUR STUDYBREAK OR AD-FREE BOOK**

Go to [www.textbookmedia.com](http://www.textbookmedia.com). Register. It will take about 60 seconds. You will be taken to My Books. You will see "You currently have no books to view." To find your book, click on Booklist. The entries can be ordered by title, author, or subject or you can search by typing the title of the book in the search box.

Locate the book and click on Pricing Details. At that point you will have several options, the StudyBreak Book, the Ad-free Book, the Paperback book and the pdf. The price for the book depends on the medium you choose. There is also one option for free online book. Read the descriptions and make your choice.

Click on Add to Cart, then Checkout. Then you'll see a page for Review Order. If you are getting the StudyBreak Book, there is no charge. If you are purchasing an upgrade to an ad-free book, you will need to go thru PayPal processing of credit card or electronic check. Once processed, the book will be listed in your Account Info. Click Read Now for the StudyBreak Book. The other options will continue to be available to you if you decide you want them later.

**HOW TO USE YOUR BOOK**

Your book will automatically open up to the first section. Once you're in your book, click View Table of Contents next to title of the book. Click on the desired chapter. You'll see a video ad (unless you've upgraded to an ad-free version of the book) and then a SMALL version of the first page with navigation buttons. Once you've navigated to the exact page you want, click on the page itself to enlarge it for reading. Move cursor to move page. If you want to navigate again, click anywhere on the page to return to the navigation view. Another tip: when you're in the navigation view, you can turn the pages by clicking on any page corner (forward or back).

When in enlarged mode, a print button will appear at bottom left of page. Note that the page to be printed is the page number that appears in the URL at the top of the screen.

Finally, all the page ads are clickable and provide more information from the sponsor.

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**File: Other Course Policies****Attendance Policy**

Attendance is not taken. However, the course materials are such that each segment builds on the

previous segments. Your ability to perform well on the course will be seriously impaired if any missed work is not made-up before the next class. Frequent absence may also affect class participation.

### **Other Policies**

If necessary, the instructor reserves the right to change any course component by announcing the change in a regularly scheduled class. This includes nature and number of evaluations, weight assigned to each evaluation, sequence of topics, and any other course related item.

Please turn off cell phones and pagers during class and examinations.

## **File: Planned Schedule**

### **PLANNED SCHEDULE**

NOTE: Only those assignments listed as “HW” on the following schedule are required to be turned in for grading purposes. These assignments will be available online, and must be completed online. Please see the course web site for due dates of these assignments. You must complete the Honor Code before beginning any assignments.

The practice problems listed in the assignments section refer to problems at the end of the listed chapter and are for your practice to improve your understanding of the course materials. Solutions to most of the practice problems will be posted on the course website.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Week 1 Jan. 25	Introduction The Goal of Financial Management	1	
	Financial Statements Analysis	2	Practice Prob.: 2, 3, 5, 8, 14, 21, 24 HW1: See web assessment for due date.
Week 2 Feb. 1	The Time Value of Money	3	Practice Prob.: 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23, 27, 33 HW2: See web assessment for due date.
Week 3 Feb. 8	Interest Rates	4	Practice Prob.: 1-3, 5, 6 HW3: See web assessment for due date.
	Financial Planning	5	Practice Prob.: 1, 3, 5-7 HW4: See web assessment for due date.
Week 4 Feb. 15	<b>Online Examination I February 16, 2010 at 6:00 PM</b>		Chapters 1-4
Week 5 Feb. 22	Security Valuation: Bonds	6, 9	Practice Prob. 1-3, 6, 10 HW5: See web assessment for due date.
Week 6 Mar. 1	Security Valuation: Stocks	6, 9	Practice Prob. 13, 15, 18, 19 HW6: See web assessment for due date.
	Cost of Capital	10	Practice Prob.: 1, 3, 5-8, 11, 12 HW7: See web assessment for due date.
Week 7 Mar. 8	Capital Budgeting Techniques	11	Practice Prob. 1, 3, 5, 10, 12 HW8: See web assessment for due date.
	Risk and Return Analysis	8	Practice Prob. 1-3, 5, 8, 16

Week 8 Mar. 15	<b>Online Final Examination March 16, 2010 at 6:00 PM</b>	Chapters 1-11 (Except 7)
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**File: Chat Schedule**

61.501 031 Business Finance

**Chat Schedule**

Please note that participation in chat is not mandatory. A log is maintained for all chat sessions. If you miss the chat, please review the log as many course-related questions are answered during the chat session

<b>Chat Date</b>	<b>Chat Time</b>
Tuesday, January 26	8:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday, February 2	8:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday, February 9	8:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday, February 16 NO CHAT	EXAM I starting 6:00 PM
Tuesday, February 23	8:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday, March 2	8:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday, March 9	8:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday, March 16 NO CHAT	EXAM II starting 6:00 PM

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