Course Description:
This class is the lead-in course for BFIN 681, Financial Management. If you have only had one undergraduate finance course or are rusty using a financial calculator this course will prepare you for more in-depth graduate courses in finance. We will discuss corporate structure, agency issues, financial statements and models, discounted cash flow, and time value of money.

*If you feel uncomfortable with finance or would like to strengthen your knowledge about finance, this class is for you!*

Text Book:
Special edition paperback book that will be used for this class and BFIN 681 is available at the UM book store. The 10-digit ISBN is: 1308810679. The 13 digit ISBN is: 9781308810676 and comes with Connect. This book also comes in an electronic version with Connect available on the McGraw-Hill web site for our class:


Financial Press:
The Wall Street Journal is required for this class. You can use the link below to sign up the print and/or digital edition for 15 weeks for $15 or 1 year for $49.

https://store.wsj.com/v2/shop/60616004?campaignid=32370&mbsy_source=59222e82-a6ad-48ab-828b-216436b08ba8&mbsy=j3L76&trackingCode=aqqpqa7w&cid=WSJ_AFF_OPP_ACQ_DSM

Financial calculator (required):
I recommend that students learn to use the Texas Instruments BAII PLUS financial calculator. Becoming familiar with a financial calculator will help you to solve real world problems and prepare you using Excel in more complex problems. This is the calculator that I will be using for the course.

CoB Mission Statement
The University of Montana’s College of Business enhances lives and benefits society by providing a world-class business education in a supportive, collegial environment. We accomplish this mission by acting on our shared core values of creating significant experiences, building relationships, researching and teaching relevant topics, behaving ethically, and inspiring individuals to thrive.
Master of Business Administration Mission Statement
The University of Montana MBA Program’s mission is to serve our region by developing leaders to effectively manage organizations in a global business environment

Master of Business Administration Assessment and Assurance of Learning
As part of our assessment process and assurance-of-learning standards, the MBA program has adopted six learning goals for our students. These are as follows:
UM MBA Graduates will demonstrate:
1. Integrated knowledge of business functions
2. Communication skills and teamwork ability
3. Ethical conduct, social responsibility, and professional leadership
4. Analytical and innovative thinking in business problem solving
5. Knowledge and application of current trends in information technology
6. Ability to evaluate the implications of operating in the global business environment

Course Objective:
We will review corporate structure, agency issues, financial statements and models, discounted cash flow, and time values of money and how to use a financial calculator.

Exams & Quizzes:
There will be two exams and fives quizzes (Chapter 1 is for practice only), all done online via Connect. Due dates for the exams and quizzes are posted in the schedule and on Connect. Each quiz may be taken twice before the due date; only the highest score will be used in determining your grade. Exams may be only taken once and must be completed by the due date and time noted on the schedule. Results for each exam will be available on Connect after the due date. You may use your notes and book for the exams and quizzes. Please note, all exams are scheduled for a Sunday evening, there will be a 3-hour window to complete the 2-hour exam.

Connect page:
You can purchase access to Connect at the link below and take the quizzes, exams, and Learn Smart. You can also purchase an electronic version of the book there.


Learn Smart:
Each chapter will have a Learn Smart assignment associated with it. Learn Smart tests your knowledge of key concepts and pinpoints the topics on which you need to focus your study time. There will be four graded assignments, (Chapter 1 is for practice) that must be completed by 5PM on Wednesday before our lecture for that chapter. In order to get credit for the assignment you must have it completed by the due date/time.
Problems:
I have listed question and problems in class schedule that you should work. Answers for these problems are on the class Moodle site. We will also work problems in class to reinforce the concepts covered in class.

Grading and Participation:
Attending, coming prepared and participating in class discussion is expected of all students. I expect you to have read the chapter prior to us covering it in class and completed the Learn Smart assignment.

Grade Scale:
I will use a modified “+” and “−” system along with the standard letter grades to report your final grade.

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Course grades are non-negotiable, I do not give out “extra credit” assignments to improve final grades and incompletes are not given due to a failing grade.

Grade Weighting:
Learn Smart (4 required) 10%
Exams (2) 65%
Quizzes (4 total) 25%

Email:
Faculty may only communicate with students regarding academic issues via official UM email accounts. Accordingly, students must use their UMontana accounts. Email from non-UM accounts may be flagged as spam and deleted without further response. Due to security issues, confidential information (including grades and course performance) will not be discussed via email.

Student Code of Conduct:
All students are expected to be familiar with University of Montana’s Student Code of Conduct. Specifically, you should read Section IV, Academic Conduct. You can download a copy at:

Professional Conduct:
For those coming to class, class will start on time, so please don’t be late and don’t be using or checking your cell phone during class. If you are late, I would much rather have you show up than not come at all, so please open the door quietly and take a seat in the classroom, we will be recording the class so all can view it later.

Classroom Philosophy:
My Role: My role will be to act as a facilitator. I will provide opportunity, structure and direction to facilitate your learning of fundamental concepts centered on the concepts of financial management. I will also provide you opportunities to begin developing skills and experience useful to a teamwork approach utilized in many of today’s corporations.

Your Role: Your role is to engage in active learning, both individually and collectively. You will learn and apply important financial concepts while you gain experience working collaboratively with others to solve the problems. Your success in this class, as in life, will depend on both your effort and performance.

A Final Thought:
Over 2400 years ago Confucius said:

What I hear, I forget.
What I see, I remember.
What I do. I understand.

A wise and humble professor of mine at FSU modified Confucius’ statement to be more relevant in today’s classroom environment:

What I hear, I forget.
What I hear and see, I remember a little.
When I hear, see, and ask questions about or discuss with someone else, I begin to understand.
When I hear, see, discuss, and do, I acquire knowledge and skill.
When I teach to another I master.

Our goal is to learn. Let us all remain cognizant of how the process really works.

The course schedule provided is an outline that we will try to follow throughout the semester. It is subject to change and you should not assume that it is written in stone!