

Wagner College
Principles of Finance, FI 201 Fall 2025 Tue, Thu 1:00PM –
2:30PM

Instructor: Dr. Zhexu (Edward) Ai
Office Hours: By appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVE:

An **introductory** examination of how a business plans its needs for funds, raises the necessary funds, and invests them to attain its goals. Students will develop the skills necessary for effective financial decision-making, including financial analysis, valuation, risk management, and capital budgeting.

TEXTBOOK AND OTHER MATERIALS:

- **Textbook:** Brigham and Houston, Fundamentals of Financial Management, Concise 11th Edition, Cengage Learning. **You can get an e-copy of the book when you register for MindTap.** See bundle options below.
- **Software: MindTap.** This software is **required** for the course, as most assignments are on MindTap. You will need to purchase ONE of three bundles.
 1. eBook + MindTap (*Recommended*)
 2. eBook + MindTap + paper textbook
 3. eBook + MindTap + hardcover textbook
- **Financial Calculator:** A financial calculator is **required** for this class. **Texas Instruments BAI Plus** is recommended and will be used for instructional purposes. If you choose to purchase a different brand/model, you are responsible for ensuring that you learn how to operate it. The financial calculators are available in Wagner Bookstore. **Programmable calculators are not allowed in the exams.**
- **Office EXCEL:** We will be using Microsoft Excel as another calculation tool in class and assignments. Learning how to use Excel is crucial for finding jobs after you graduate. Please make sure your laptop/desktop has access to Excel (preferably newer versions).

GRADE DETERMINATION:

<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Activity</u>
20%	Assignments
25%	Midterm 1
25%	Midterm 2
30%	Final Exam

A standard grading scale for this class will be used as shown below:

GRADING SCALE: A (>93.0%), A- (90%-92.9%), B+ (87.0%-89.9%), B (83.0%-86.9%), B- (80%-82.9%), C+ (77.0%-79.9%), C (73.0%-76.9%), C- (70%-72.9%), D+ (67.0%-69.9%), D (63.0%-66.9%), D- (60%-62.9%), F(<60%)

ATTENDANCE: The most efficient way to study is to listen carefully during classes. Class attendance will not be directly counted as a component of the final course grade; however, I normally will remember who the students are and whether the students have been attending the class regularly. If your participation is good, a participation bonus (size depends on the class's average score) might be added to your final grade.

If you need to miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain the class notes from one of your classmates and review the material. You may also come to see me during office hours to discuss missed class notes, or any part of the material that you have difficulty understanding. Grades and class attendance tend to be positively correlated, so it is generally in your best interest to attend.

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be two parts of assignments. First, each chapter has a regular assignment on **MindTap**. You will have three attempts, in which I will take your highest score. Second, there will be 2-3 separate assignments on MindTap exclusively for Excel. If you have to miss any assignment, please notify me before the deadline to get an extension; in other words, no extensions are allowed if you ask for them after the deadline.

Definition of Late Assignment Submissions: Assignments submitted after the deadline without me granting extensions to specific students are late submissions.

*Note: A late assignment submission will get a **20% grade deduction** if you are within 1 week late, or **50% deduction** if you are more than 1 week late.*

EXAMS:

Midterm examinations and the final exam will be held in class during the days indicated within the Class Outline. You must take the exam as scheduled unless you obtain instructor approval or encounter an emergency (see 'missed exams') in advance. The second midterm exam will include chapters after the first midterm exam; final exam will cover all chapters learned throughout the semester.

For all exams, you should bring your scientific calculator, financial calculator, and something to write with. You **cannot** bring your own cheat sheet; however, a formula sheet will be provided with the exam materials. This will be discussed prior to the exams.

MISSED EXAMS:

It is your responsibility to make every effort to ensure you are present for the examinations.

Unexcused absences will result in a grade of 0% and will be closely monitored by me. I will report missed exams or long-term absence to the school or college if necessary. If you have a conflict, please discuss it with me as far in advance as possible. In general, make-up exams are only offered in the event of extenuating. And there is no credit deduction for makeup exams. Note that the final exam may be scheduled on any day during finals week, and you are responsible for taking the exam during the scheduled time. I strongly recommend you not to wait too long to take the make-up exam.

If you have an excused absence for the day of the exam, my general policy is to have you complete a make-up examination. In such an event, I will provide an alternate time when the exam can be taken. The make-up exam location will most likely be in my office.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The instructor of this course values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the instructor prohibits and will not engage in any discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or disability. The instructor is committed to provide all students with an excellent course experience within an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust and expects that all students abide by the policies of Wagner College concerning academic integrity, anti-harassment and anti-discrimination as described in the Student Handbook and on the website of the college.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Wagner College faculty and student body take seriously the academic integrity of this institution. The Academic Honesty Committee (AHC), comprised of both faculty and student representatives, hears cases of academic dishonesty. If a professor is concerned that a student has acted dishonestly with regard to his or her academic work, the professor can turn the case over to the AHC for investigation. The Student Government Association (SGA) also wrote an approved student honor code in 2007 that reflects the commitment of the student body to academic integrity. You can find a copy of the student honor code and the policies of the AHC at this website: <https://wagner.edu/academics/provost/committees/>. All students are expected to be aware of and abide by Wagner's guidelines for academic integrity. If you have questions about these guidelines, it is your responsibility to ask.

GUIDELINES FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Wagner College values accessibility as part of its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities and/or learning differences who may need some accommodation to fully participate and succeed in this class are encouraged to contact your professors and Danae Choquette in Academic Advising and Accessibility (718-390-3278; danae.choquette@wagner.edu) so that the necessary accommodations can be made ahead of time. For more information about accessibility services and the available accommodations, visit Wagner College's Office of Academic Advising and Accessibility homepage: <https://wagner.edu/aaa/accessibility-services/>.

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center is a free of charge resource on campus that offers students one-to-one and group feedback on their writing and presentations. Writing Intensive Tutors (WITs) can provide feedback on any type of writing assignment, at any stage of the composing process from brainstorming and outlining to drafting and revising. Make an appointment or walk-in during the operating hours. Online appointments are also available. The Writing Center is located on the first floor of the Horrmann Library. Look for the glass-walled meeting space, directly to the right of the library entrance.

For more information and to make an appointment, please use the following link:
<https://wagner.edu/aaa/academic-support/writing-center/>

CLASS POLICIES:

Attend class on time. **If you arrive late frequently, there will be a deduction of 2% on your final grade.**

I personally allow electronic devices in classrooms. However, I may take action if I feel that the majority of students are not paying attention in class. Please be considerate of your instructor and fellow classmates and mute all cell phones, computer speakers, and other electronic devices. If you must take an emergency call, you may leave the classroom.

Be respectful to your peers and your professors. It is not considered appropriate to call your professors by their first names (in person or emails), or other words such as “bro”.

CLASS OUTLINE

The following outline is a ***tentative*** schedule of topics to be covered; we may change the timing or order as needed. Make sure to check with your fellow students for any changes if you miss any class.

Week	Chapter	Topic
1	N/A	Overview
1-3	Ch. 5	Time Value of Money
3-4	Ch. 6	Interest Rates
4-5	Ch. 7	Bonds and Their Valuation
6	Midterm 1	EXAM (Ch. 1,5,6,7)
6-7	Ch. 4	Analysis of Financial Statements
8-9	Ch. 8	Risk and Rates of Return
9-10	Ch. 9	Stocks and Their Valuation
11	Ch. 10	Cost of Capital
11	Midterm 2	EXAM (Ch. 4,8,9,10)
12-13	Ch. 11	Basics of Capital Budgeting
14-15	Ch. 12&13	Cash Flow Estimation and Capital Structure
Exam Week	FINAL EXAM	All - Cumulative

Course: Section 1 of FI201 Fall 2025

Instructor: Zhexu Ai

This course requires an online learning platform called MindTap. Follow the instructions below to get started.

Register for your MindTap Course

1. Use the course registration link <https://student.cengage.com/course-link/MTPPBFG5MT79>
2. Follow the instructions on screen to create your Cengage account and register for this MindTap course.
3. Begin your temporary access* period.

Need help? Visit the Cengage Start Strong Website (<https://startstrong.cengage.com>) for step-by-step instructions.

*Temporary Access: You can access your MindTap course until 5:00 AM (UTC) on 2/5/2025 for free. At the end of the temporary access period, you will be prompted to purchase access. Your work will be saved and will be available to you again once you've completed your purchase.

NOTE: If the cost of your course materials is included in your tuition, you will not need to purchase access.

MindTap Tips & Training Tools

Learn more about navigating your MindTap course: (<https://help.cengage.com/mindtap/mt-student/introduction.html>)

Technical Support & Troubleshooting

Our US-based support team delivers answers and advice via 24/7 online chat, Twitter, live phone support (1-800-354-9706) and through support.cengage.com, which includes helpful articles, and tutorials.

If you are having trouble loading MindTap, run the MindTap

browser check (<https://ng.cengage.com/static/browsercheck/index.html>) to make sure your browser is compatible or refer to the

MindTap

System Requirements (<https://help.cengage.com/mindtap/MindTap-System-Requirements.pdf>). If MindTap isn't loading, be sure to visit Techcheck (<https://techcheck.cengage.com>) to see if there is an outage.