

**AEB5326: Agribusiness Financial Management – Fall 2025**

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**Course Time and Location:** Online Asynchronous

(Optional) Live discussion | Time TBA | <https://ufl.zoom.us/my/dfarnswo> (Passcode: worth)

**Instructor information:** Dr. Derek Farnsworth; 1083 McCarty Hall B; (352) 294-7698; Email: [dfarnswo@ufl.edu](mailto:dfarnswo@ufl.edu)

**Instructor's Office Hours and Location:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (2 - 3 PM) or by appointment; <https://ufl.zoom.us/my/dfarnswo> (Passcode: worth)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Ms. Claire Elliot; Email: [claire.elliott@ufl.edu](mailto:claire.elliott@ufl.edu)

**TA's Office Hours and Location:** Ms. Claire Elliot – Tuesday (3 - 4 PM); 1084 McCarty Hall B or by appointment. Zoom available upon request.

**Course Description:** Basic financial statements, investment frameworks and theories of financial intermediation as applied to agricultural firms, along with an overview of financial institutions that provide capital to agriculture.

The goal of this course is to provide a basic understanding of corporate finance principles and build a foundation for other agribusiness courses. The course provides students with the tools to understand and solve basic financial problems faced by individuals and businesses today. Practical applications and problem-solving techniques are emphasized. The topics covered include basic financial statement analysis, time value of money, valuation of financial assets, investment frameworks, capital budgeting techniques, and capital structure theory.

**Graduate Advisor:** Ms. Jessica Herman; 1170B McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7622; Email: [jherman@ufl.edu](mailto:jherman@ufl.edu)

**Graduate Coordinator:** Dr. Zhifeng Gao; 1155 McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7672; Email: [zfgao@ufl.edu](mailto:zfgao@ufl.edu)

**Expected Student Learning Outcomes:** After the successful completion of AEB5326, a typical student should be able to:

1. Read and analyze financial statements for the purpose of evaluating investment decisions.
2. Describe the principle of time-value of money and apply this concept to valuing annuities, perpetuities, loan values, bond values, stock values, and capital investment opportunities.
3. Describe the conceptual relationship between the expected return and the relevant risk of individual assets and a portfolio of assets.

4. Describe the concept of cost of capital and role of leverage and apply these concepts in the determination of the optimal capital structure.

**Course Outline:**

1. Introduction to Financial Management (CH1)
2. Financial Statements (CH2)
3. Working with Financial Statements (CH3)
4. Time Value of Money (CH4)  
*EXAM 1 (CH1 – CH4)*
5. Discounted Cash Flows (CH5)
6. Bond Valuation (CH6)
7. Equity Valuation (CH7)  
*EXAM 2 (CH5 – CH7)*
8. Net Present Value and Other Investment Criteria (CH8)
9. Capital Markets (CH10)
10. Risk and Return (CH11)
11. Cost of Capital (CH12)  
*EXAM 3 (CH8, CH10 – CH12)*

**Required Course Materials:**

- **Text:** Ross, Stephen A., Randolph W. Westerfield, and Bradford D. Jordan. Essentials of Corporate Finance, 11th (or recent) Edition, 2023, McGraw-Hill.
- **E-learning:** There is an [E-Learning Canvas webpage](http://elearning.ufl.edu) for this course. E-learning can be accessed via <http://elearning.ufl.edu> using your Gatorlink username and password. If you are having difficulties accessing E-learning, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or via email [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

**Class Structure:** Online Asynchronous. Lectures are posted weekly with an accompanying homework assignment or discussion. Optional live discussions are held weekly to review homework solutions, discuss current events in financial markets, and prepare for exams.

**Course Assignments:** Exams, homework, and discussions

**Exams:** There will be three take-home exams during the semester, with the last exam occurring during the final exam time. Each exam is worth 15% of your grade. The exams consist of problem-solving and short answer questions. The exams may be based on material covered in class, material from the textbook, or concepts implied by the material covered. You are allowed three days to complete the exam, and you should anticipate spending 4-8 hours on each exam. Exams are typically posted on Monday at 12:00am and are due on Sunday at 11:59pm. The exam dates are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- **Exam 1:** September 22-28
- **Exam 2:** October 27 - November 2
- **Exam 3:** December 8-14

*Note: Posted exam dates are subject to change, it is your responsibility to listen to class announcements and check e-Learning for any changes in exam dates.*

**Homework:** There will be nine homework assignments given throughout the semester. Each homework assignment is worth 5% of your grade and one homework assignment grade will be dropped. Homework assignments are typically posted on Monday at 12:00am and are due on Sunday at 11:59pm. It is your responsibility to submit assignments on time and follow the instructions for the assignment submission. Late submissions will receive half credit.

**Discussions:** There will be three discussion assignments given throughout the semester. Each discussion is worth 5% of your grade. Discussions assignments are typically posted on Monday at 12:00am and are due on Sunday at 11:59pm. It is your responsibility to submit assignments on time and follow the instructions for the assignment submission. Late submissions will receive half credit.

**Composition of Final Score:**

Course Assignments	% of Total
Exams (3)	45%
Homework (best 8 out of 9)	40%
Discussions (3)	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Student Evaluation:** UF does not have an A+ option

Grade	Percentage	Grade Points
A	93% or more	4.00
A-	90.0 – 92.9%	3.67
B+	86.0 – 89.9%	3.33
B	83.0 – 85.9%	3.00
B-	80.0 – 82.9%	2.67
C+	76.0 – 79.9%	2.33
C	73.0 – 75.9%	2.00
C-	70.0 – 72.9%	1.67
D+	66.0 – 69.9%	1.33
D	63.0 – 65.9%	1.00
D-	60.0 – 62.9%	0.67
E	59.9% or less	0.00

This course adheres to all UF Academic Policies: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

**Schedule:** Weekly, starting on Monday

Week	Assignment	Material/Notes
8/18		Class Introduction
8/25	Discussion 1	Chapter 1: Introduction to Financial Management
9/1	HW 1	Chapter 2: Financial Statements
9/8	HW 2	Chapter 3: Working with Financial Statements
9/15	HW 3	Chapter 4: Time Value of Money
9/22	<b>Exam 1</b>	Chapter 5: Discounted Cash Flows
9/29	Discussion 2	Chapter 6: Bond Valuation
10/6	HW 4	Calculator Practice
10/13	HW 5	Chapter 7: Equity Valuation
10/20	HW 6	Chapter 8: NPV and Other Investment Criteria
10/27	<b>Exam 2</b>	Chapter 10: Capital Markets
11/3	Discussion 3	Chapter 11: Risk and Return
11/10	HW 7	Chapter 12: Cost of Capital
11/17	HW 8	Class Review
11/24	No Class	Fall Break
12/1	HW 9	Reading Days
12/8	<b>Exam 3</b>	Finals Week

*All assignments are due by 11:59pm on Sunday. The schedule is tentative and subject to change.*