



## FIN 3170.001 Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

---

**Semester:** Spring

**Year:** 2025

**Course Prefix:** FIN 3170

**Course and Section #:** 001

**Course Title:** Financial Statement Analysis

**Credits:** 3 credits

---

### *Course Description*

The focus of this course is on using corporate financial statements to make business decisions. The course format is a combination of Bloomberg training and lectures. Bloomberg is a computer software system that delivers real-time financial market data, news and security price quotes. The lecture examples involve applied analysis of specific situations, while the lectures locate these examples in a broader context by summarizing research findings or going over more technical aspects of the material. This course design is intended to provide you with opportunities for both hands-on learning, and an exposure to the broader spectrum of research results.

---

### *Course Attributes*

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

---

### *Instructor Information*

**Instructor Name:** Chong Meng

**Class Meets:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:45 AM (KB 408)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays from 3:00pm – 4:00pm, or by appointment.

**Office:** KB 426A

**Email address:** [chong.meng@uvu.edu](mailto:chong.meng@uvu.edu)

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or if you need assistance. You may visit my office, email, or send a message through Canvas anytime. When sending an email please include the course number and section in the subject line. I try to respond to all emails within 24 hours. Weekend emails will be answered by Monday at the latest.

---

### *Student Learning Outcomes*

Our primary goal is to develop the ability to make a set of financial statements and use the data to systematically analyze the company. The emphasis in FIN 3170 is on equity valuation, but the tools and techniques we develop are useful for a variety of decisions.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Read and understand financial statements.
2. Conduct financial analysis to determine a firm's profitability, liquidity and solvency, earnings management activities.
3. Forecast a firm's pro forma financial statements.
4. Estimate a firm's intrinsic value using different valuation models.
5. Navigate the Bloomberg system to gather financial information.
6. Professionally apply problem solving and critical thinking skills

---

## ***Course Materials and Texts***

A printed textbook is not required for this course. However, Palepu and Healy, 2012, *Business Analysis and Valuation*, is recommended.

Access to a computer with Microsoft Excel is recommended. However, some students find that a financial calculator is helpful for this course, especially for those who are planning to take a *Charter Financial Analyst* exam (CFA) in the future. The *Texas Instruments BAI Plus* is a great option if you choose to use a financial calculator.

---

## ***Course Requirements***

### **Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy**

The expected learning outcomes will be assessed through E-learning courses, two exams, and group research reports.

### **Class Participation**

Class participation includes anything that helps make this class more effective for everyone involved. In case discussions, our collective goal will be to unravel the facts and explore a variety of reasonable approaches and solutions. Emphasis is not on the duration of your air-time, or on getting the right solution (typically, there is no "right" solution). Rather, I will be looking for summaries of facts, well-reasoned viewpoints, constructive questions, or other relevant insights that enrich the discussion, and other evidence that you are generally prepared for class. Class participation also includes items such as regular attendance, showing up on time, etc.

### **BMC E-Learning Courses**

Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) is a library of e-learning courses that provides an introduction to the financial markets and will familiarize you with over 100 Bloomberg terminal functions. There are questions throughout the courses to test your understanding of the material. Students must answer 60% of the questions correctly to receive the point for each course. You will earn the Bloomberg Certificate once you have completed all of these e-learning courses (you can add this to your resume and to LinkedIn).

## Major Research Project

The assignment is intended to bring together all aspects of the course, in a setting of your choice. The analysis can be conducted in a group consisting of up to four (4) members. Each group will choose a publicly traded company of their choice to research and analyze this semester. The research will culminate into a research report that will include the following sections: recommendations and investment thesis, company description, industry analysis, financial analysis, and valuation. The report should be professionally written and demonstrate thorough analysis. (Approximately 10-15 pages long).

Please submit your final report (word or PDF) by 11:59 pm on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Research report will be accepted but subject to a late penalty of 10% per day for each day late. This means no credit if more than ten days late. Feel free to turn in assignments early.

## Individual MD&A Assignment

For this assignment, each student must read the MD&A from the selected company's most recent financial statement. Students will submit a 1-page report on the 3 most important takeaways they had from the MD&A reading **individually**. The deadline for this assignment is 11:59 pm on **March 6<sup>th</sup>**.

## Exams

Two exams will be given online on Canvas. The exams are intended to test your comprehension of basic concepts and tools of financial statement analysis. The exams will be **open book, open notes**. The best way to prepare for the exams is by attending class and keeping up with the assigned readings. The exams are almost entirely applied financial statement analysis, with some qualitative questions to test your understanding of the more subtle aspects of the material. Remember to bring your financial calculators or laptops with Excel installed!

The exams use Proctorio software, which records video and audio during the test to ensure students complete exams independently and not with the help of Google, cell phones, or other people. To successfully take exams in this class, you must have access to a computer equipped with Google Chrome, a camera, and a microphone.

## Grade Determination Breakdown

Class Participation	5
BMC E-Learning (5-courses 3 points each)	15
Individual MD&A Assignment	5
Research Report	35
Exams (2 exams)	<u>40</u>
Total <i>points</i>	100 <i>points</i>

## Final grades will be determined by the following schedule:

A: 94.0 to 100.0%	B: 84.0 to 86.9%	C: 74.0 to 76.9%	D: 64.0 to 66.9%
A-: 90.0 to 93.9%	B-: 80.0 to 83.9%	C-: 70.0 to 73.9%	D-: 60.0 to 63.9%
B+: 87.0 to 89.9%	C+: 77.0 to 79.9%	D+: 67.0 to 69.9%	E: below 60.0%

## Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Please see descriptions in assignments above.

---

## General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Topic	Description
Introduction	Go over the syllabus, motivation, and requirements.
Macroeconomic and Industry Analysis	Examination of the broader economic environment and industry-specific factors impacting firms.
Profitability Analysis	Analysis of profitability metrics and their implications for firm performance.
Liquidity and Solvency Analysis	Evaluation of a firm's ability to meet short- and long-term obligations.
Earnings Management	Understanding how firms manage earnings and its implications on financial reporting.
Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	Application of discounted cash flow methods to value firms.
Forecasting	Constructing pro forma financial statements to predict future performance.
Residual Income Model Valuation	Using the residual income approach to determine firm valuation.
Multiple Valuations	Applying valuation multiples such as P/E and EV/EBITDA to value firms.
Financing Activities	Introducing initial public offerings (IPOs), seasoned equity offerings (SEOs), and special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs).
Special Topics	Calculating and interpreting the cost of capital for investment decisions.

---

## Required Course Syllabus Statements

### Generative AI

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, including but not limited to generalized AI systems, chatbots, language models, or any other AI-based platforms, is strictly prohibited during exams and for any work explicitly requiring independent effort. **Using AI during exams will be regarded as plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the course.**

However, students are allowed to use AI tools to enhance their writing and refine assignments, provided that the work still reflects their own understanding and capabilities. Students are responsible for ensuring that any AI-generated content is appropriately reviewed and integrated into their own original thought process.

If you have any questions about what constitutes acceptable use of AI or need clarification on this policy, please feel free to ask.

---

### Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

☒ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

---

## ***Required University Syllabus Statements***

### **Accommodations/Students with Disabilities**

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu) or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at [DHHservices@uvu.edu](mailto:DHHservices@uvu.edu)

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

---

### **Academic Integrity**

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

---

### **Equity and Title IX**

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment,

admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – [TitleIX@uvu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@uvu.edu) – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

---

### **Religious Accommodation**

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu). If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression

## Course Outline

<b>Meet in Class</b>		
Week 1	Jan 7	Introduction
	Jan 9	Bloomberg Class Setup (No Class)
Week 2	Jan 14	Economic and Industry Analysis
	Jan 16	Profitability Analysis I & <b>Find your Group</b>
Week 3	Jan 21	Profitability Analysis II
	Jan 23	Liquidity and Solvency Analysis I
Week 4	Jan 28	Liquidity and Solvency Analysis II
	Jan 30	Earnings Management
Week 5	Feb 3 - 7	Exam I
Week 6	Feb 11	DCF Valuation
	Feb 13	Forecasting
Week 7	Feb 18	Special Topics: Pro Forma F/S (Optional)
	Feb 20	Residual Income Model
Week 8	Feb 25	Multiple Valuation
	Feb 27	Financing Activities I
Week 9	Mar 4	Financing Activities II
	Mar 6	Individual MD&A Assignment Due
Week 10	Mar 10 - 15	Spring Break
Week 11	Mar 17 - 21	Exam II
<b>Classes Finished</b>		
Week 12	Mar 24 - 28	Bloomberg Terminal Training Videos I
		BMC - Economic Indicators
		BMC - Currencies
Week 13	Mar 31 - Apr 4	Bloomberg Terminal Training Videos II
		BMC - Fixed Income
	Apr 1	Special Topics (TBD) (Optional)
Week 14	Apr 7 - 11	Bloomberg Terminal Training Videos III
		BMC - Equities

		Work on the Research Project
	Apr 8	Research Project Check-In
Week 15	Apr 14 - 18	Bloomberg Terminal Training Videos IV
		BMC - Terminal Basics
		Work on the Research Project
Week 16	Apr 22	<b>Final Research Project due by 11:59 pm</b>