



**Catalog Course Description:** The course covers topics on corporate financial decisions, specialized topics, current events in finance, financial analysis and includes cases in finance on various topics.

**Basic Course Information:** The course is looking to simulate finance in action. The course empowers students by building their confidence in conducting sound on their finance major through integrating most finance knowledge acquired in their finance degree thus far. The course assimilates all prior knowledge in the form of projects, presentations, case studies and discussions. Moreover, the course enables students to use financial decisions at a deeper integrative level through the application of theories learned to real life examples. The course provides finance students to be in touch with the finance professional certificates, particularly the CFA.

The course covers the following topics as per the current fall semester 2023/2024: corporate finance, equity investments and fixed income. Topics in corporate finance include introduction to corporate governance and ESG considerations, cost of capital and capital budgeting. Topic in equity investment include market organization and structure and security market indexes. Finally, topic in fixed income include fixed income securities, fixed income markets and fixed income valuation.

**Course Prefix/Number:** FINC413 (01)  
**Course Title:** Finance Capstone  
**Class Meeting Times:** MW 9:30 am – 10:45 am  
**Instructional Modality:** Onsite  
**Class Location:** B211

**Instructor:** Dr. Mohammad Elian  
**Office Location:** A425  
**Office Phone:** 1802040 Ext:3533  
**Email:** [melian@auk.edu.kw](mailto:melian@auk.edu.kw)  
**Office Hours:**  
MW: 11:00 am- 12 pm

**AUK Mission Statement:**

The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution based on the American model of higher education. It provides students with knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth experiences that can enhance critical thinking, effective communication, and respect for diversity. AUK seeks to create leaders and lifelong learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibility in their societies.

**Department/College Mission Statement:**

The College of Business and Economics provides an American educational experience producing ethical, innovative, articulate, and globally agile graduates. The College of Business and Economics strives to uphold the following values: Freedom of thought, expression, and intellectual inquiry, respect for individual identity and rights, and cultural diversity, commitment to high standards of morality, integrity, and social responsibility, and adherence to high professional standards and ethics.

**Degree of learning for each Program Learning Outcomes in this course:**

<b>Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)</b>		
PLO1: <b>Communication:</b> Demonstrate effective English language communication skills in writing and oral presentations		I
PLO2: <b>Ethical behavior:</b> Articulate ethical and professional responsibilities, recognize ethical dilemmas, and formulate ethical strategies.		R
PLO3: <b>Critical thinking:</b> Identify, evaluate, analyze, and solve diverse and unstructured management problems in unfamiliar settings, use, synthesize, and evaluate data/ evidence, exercise judgment, and assess risks, understand the holistic and systemic nature of the organization and its internal and external environment.		A
PLO4: <b>Global and multi-cultural aspects of business:</b> Understand diverse cultures; develop intercultural skills; understand global processes. and be prepared for citizenship, both local and global.		
PLO5: <b>Entrepreneurial behavior:</b> Entrepreneurship is value creation, iterative learning, opportunity identification, business development, venture creation and growth. Becoming entrepreneurial is personal development, creativity, self-reliance, initiative taking, and action orientation.		I
PLO6: <b>Technology Agility:</b> Develop a mastery of appropriate ICT in decision- making.		

**Course Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

<b>Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)</b>	<b>Corresponding PLO</b>
CLO1: Describe corporate governance and ESG consideration, including company's shareholders groups, mitigate conflict among shareholders and management, identify potential risks of poor corporate governance, and describe how environmental and social considerations in investment analysis.	PLO1
CLO2: Describe corporate capital structure costs (equity and leverage) and describe projects valuation techniques through the corporate capital budgeting process.	PLO1, PLO3
CLO3: Describe market organization and structure, including explaining the major types of securities, currencies, contracts, commodities that are traded in the organized market (how such assets are traded in quote-driven, order-driven and brokered markets).	PLO1
CLO4: Describe a security market index, how it is calculated, in addition describe the use of equity index, types of equity indexes and compare the different weighting methods used in index construction.	PLO1, PLO3, PLO4

CLO5: Describe types of fixed income securities and fixed income markets.	PLO1, PLO4
CLO6: describe major categories of equity and debt valuation models and describe the estimate value of a security and differentiate between overvalued, fairly valued and undervalued of security value.	PLO1, PLO3

**Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes with Program learning Goals/Outcomes**

CLO	Program Learning Goals and Outcomes							Assessment
	Goal 1 - Communication	Goal 2- Global	Goal 3 - Technology	Goal 4 - Entrepreneurial behavior:	Goal 5 - Business Concepts	Goal 6 - Ethics	Goal 7 - Critical thinking	
1	X Introduced				X Introduced	X Introduced		assessments, projects, class work activities, case studies and exams
2	x Introduced				x Introduced		x Introduced	assessments, projects, class work activities, case studies and exams
3	x Introduced						x Introduced	assessments, projects, class work activities, case studies and exams
4	x Introduced						x Introduced	assessments, projects, class work activities, case studies and exams
5	X Introduced						X Introduced	assessments, projects, class work activities, case studies and exams
6	X Introduced						X Introduced	assessments, projects, class work activities, case studies and exams

### Course Delivery/Methodology:

For this course we will be meeting in-person twice per week and material will be presented through lectures. All course materials such as lecture slides/readings/videos will be posted on Moodle, which can be accessed at <https://lms.auk.edu.kw>. All assignments must also be submitted through Moodle. You will be completing the following evaluations for this course: participation, assignments, projects, class work activities, midterm, and final exam. To successfully complete this course, you must actively participate in class discussions, and demonstrate a strong understanding of the subject material.

### Required Textbook/Required Readings:

**Principles of Managerial Finance**, by Lawrence Gitman and Chad Zutter. Perason publications, seventh edition.

Analysis of investments & management of portfolios, by Reilly Frank and Brown, Keith.  
Cengage learning

You are also encouraged to search and read articles on related topics and share it with your class mates during class discussions

### Evaluations and Grading:

Evaluation Type	Weight	Link to PLO
Participation/in class work	10%	PLO1
Assignments/quizzes	20%	PLO1 & PLO3
Project	25%	PLO3
midterm	20	
Final Exam	25%	PLO3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Assignments and projects should be submitted through Moodle rather than email or on another file-sharing server.

**Participation:** Students are expected to participate in class on a regular basis. Students will be penalized for lack of participation.

**Midterm Exam:** Chapters included in the mid-term exam are yet to be confirmed as we will see how we progress through the semester.

**Final Exam:** Chapters included in the final exam will be announced before the final exam period

**AUK Official Grading Scale:**

Letter Grade	Percentage	University Points
A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	84-86	3.0
B-	80-83	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	74-76	2.0
C-	70-73	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	64-66	1.0
D-	60-63	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

**AUK Attendance Policy:**

Any student who misses more than 15% of class sessions of any course during a semester should expect to fail, unless she/he submits documented evidence to the course instructor of inpatient medical care, death of an immediate family member, academic instructional activities, or national athletic activities. If excused, students are required to satisfy all coursework due or assigned during their absence as determined by the course instructor. If a student does not submit documented evidence for her/his absence exceeding the limit, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the specified deadline, as indicated on the academic calendar. Students who withdraw from a course receive a grade of "W". Students who do not withdraw from a course nor submit supporting documents for excessive absences will receive a grade of "FN" (failure for non-attendance).

**Code of Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

Upon admission to the American University of Kuwait, students agree to act responsibly in all areas of academic, personal and social conduct and to take full responsibility for their individual and collective action. Such regulations are found in the American University of Kuwait Catalogue, Student Handbook, and the AUK website at [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw). Any question of interpretation regarding the code of academic honesty and Integrity shall be reported to the appropriate academic dean. The Code shall be reviewed annually at the discretion of the academic deans. Any student

or student organization found to have committed the cited violations or misconduct, either on or off campus, is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in adjudication procedures.

### **Plagiarism:**

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, an attempt of an individual to claim the work of another as the product of his or her own thoughts regardless of whether that work has been published. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting improperly or paraphrasing text or other written materials without proper citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written material submitted to an instructor as one’s own work. Plagiarism also includes handing in a paper to an instructor that was purchased from a term paper service or downloaded from the Internet and presenting another person’s academic work as one’s own.

### **Cheating:**

The term “cheating” includes but is not limited to, copying homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual on a take-home test or homework when not approved by the instructor, looking at and/or copying text, notes or another person’s paper during an examination when not permitted to do so. Cheating also includes the giving of work information to another student to be copied and/or used as his or her own. This includes but is not limited to giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after having taken an exam; informing another student of specific questions that appear or have appeared on an exam in the same academic semester; giving or selling a term paper, report, project or other restricted written materials to another student.

### **Academic Support:**

Learning Support Services focuses on empowering students to become independent and successful learners by developing their literacy skills, enhancing their understanding, and helping them improve their academic and study skills. Learning Support Services is comprised of two centers: the Tutoring Center and the Writing Center. The Tutoring Center provides free academic support in various subjects to AUK student. Email: [tutoringcenter@auk.edu.kw](mailto:tutoringcenter@auk.edu.kw).

The Writing Center provides multilingual support (English, Arabic, French, and Spanish) through individual or small-group consultations. Email: [writingcenter@auk.edu.kw](mailto:writingcenter@auk.edu.kw)

### **Disability Accommodations:**

AUK provides equal and inclusive educational environment in order to enable all students to meet and perform requisite academic standards and to participate in the opportunities and activities of its community. If you believe you can benefit from accommodations for a learning, physical, or mental health disability, [click here to book a session through the Counseling Center/Disability Services Booking Page](#), to ask about disability services at AUK, initiate an accommodation plan, or receive disability services. You can also email [counseling@auk.edu.kw](mailto:counseling@auk.edu.kw) if you need assistance in booking a session.

### **Course Policies/Student Responsibilities:**

- Attendance is crucial for understanding the course material
- Be prepared and on time

- Students are expected to stay in class while the class is in progress (this is not applicable for students who have underlying conditions).
- Students who disrupt class by continually leaving and re-entering class will have points deducted.
- Refrain from using personal phones during class time
- Attend and participate regularly
- Check your AUK email regularly to receive all relevant announcements and communication
- When writing, ensure to use formal, respectful, professional language and double-check spelling/grammar function before sending/posting. This applies to emails, typing on Zoom chat, posting on discussion boards, assignments, or any other form of writing you will complete within the context of this course
- Check the discussion board frequently and respond appropriately and on subject
- Cite all quotes, references, and sources
- Capitalize words only to highlight a point. Otherwise, capitalizing is generally viewed as SHOUTING!
- Do not dominate discussions and allow other students to post or join in
- It is not appropriate to forward someone else's messages or emails without their permission
- Recording Zoom sessions is prohibited
- Be mindful of everyone's privacy. Taking videos or pictures of the class sessions is both inappropriate and in violation of the AUK Code of Conduct
- Be respectful of other people's opinions and allow them to complete their sentences before you jump in
- Mute your microphone when you are not speaking, and try to reduce, as much as possible, external noise
- Choose the right background and dress appropriately so you are not in violation of the dress code
- Be straightforward and brief when possible to allow everyone a shot at interacting

**Late and Missing Work Policy:**

Late/Missing work will not be accepted.

**Make-Up Work Policy:**

There will be no make-up work.

**Communication Policy:**

Please be sure to use your official AUK email account for outside class communications. Write your full name and indicate your class and section in case of sending emails. If you have a question, please check the syllabus first and if your question is not answered there, then please feel free to visit my office during my office hours or you can send an email and I will be happy to clarify. Please note I normally respond during working hours during weekdays. Emails sent on weekends will be responded to on Sunday.

**Technology Issues:**

All assignments must be submitted through Moodle. However, you may experience trouble submitting an assignment due to technology or internet issues. If such a situation does arise and you are unable to submit your assignment through Moodle, please send me an email at

[melian@auk.edu.kw](mailto:melian@auk.edu.kw) and include the **completed** assignment. Please make sure that you email me the assignment **before** the deadline as this documents that you did finish everything by the due date and time, but that you just had a technology issue. This will ensure that your assignment will be accepted. Once the technology or internet issue is resolved, please upload the assignment to Moodle. In general, always be sure to frequently save your files and keep backups of your assignments.

**Course Schedule:**

This schedule is **tentative**, we will see how we progress along the course and adjust when necessary.

Week	Topic	Assignments and Readings
<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Corporate Finance</b>	
	<b>introduction to corporate governance and ESG considerations</b>	
1	Stakeholders' management	
2	Factors affecting corporate governance	
	<b>cost of capital and capital budgeting</b>	
3	Capital projects evaluation techniques	
4	Capital projects evaluation techniques (cont.)	
5	Capital structure and cost of capital	
6	Capital structure and cost of capital (cont.)	
	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Equity Investment</b>	
7	Market organization structure	
8	Market organization structure (cont.)	
9	Security market indexes	
10	Security market indexes (cont.)	
<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Fixed Income</b>	
11	Fixed income securities	
12	Fixed income markets	
13	Fixed income valuation.	
14	Projects presentations	
<b>15</b>	<b>Review</b>	
<b>16</b>	<b>Final Exam Week</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

**Syllabus Changes:**

There may be changes to the schedule and syllabus during the semester. When this happens, I will inform you in class and via email.