GENERAL INFORMATION UGBA

Requirements

- Excel Knowledge / Willingness to learn Excel
- Calculator which can calculate internal rate of return
- Computer with Internet Connection
- Professional Attitude

Registration

Q: I am currently waitlisted in your class. Can you get me in?

A: Faculty cannot enroll students. Please contact Barbara Felkins (felkins@haas.berkeley.edu). See information at http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/Undergrad/enrollment.html

Q: I am currently in a section that I cannot (regularly) attend. What should I do?

A: Go to “Switch section” on Tele-Bears. Find another student to switch sections with in case your desired section is full.

Q: Do I have to go to my assigned section?

A: Yes!

Exams

- Exams will be printed out with names and seating will be pre-assigned! Know YOUR official BERKELEY registrar name!!!
- Bring a Scantron sheet (Form No. 882 E) for the multiple choice questions
- You have to take the exam at the official time (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- No dictionaries allowed. English language is a requirement for Finance.
- No crib sheets with formulas allowed.
- Regrades
  - Exams have to written in ink to be eligible for regarding! No regrades for PENCIL exams
  - Regrading involves the regrade of the whole exam (i.e. score may actually decrease)
  - Regrade submission must occur within 2 weeks after the return of the final exam and requires a formal complaint with a detailed explanation why your answer is correct.
- Eligible excuses (family death or illness) for exams must be documented (hardcopy proofs). You can get illness certification at the TANG Center. Job interviews or exam conflicts are NOT a valid excuses for skipping exams
- We will not answer emails the day before an exam
• Individual questions about the exam content, preparation, etc. will not be answered (they will only be discussed in class).
• Every exam will cover the entire content discussed in lecture or gsi sessions.
• Summary statistics and exam results will be made public as soon as they are ready.
• NO financial calculator applications on smartphones allowed

Q: Book chapter xx covers material Y. However, we have not covered topic Y neither in the nor in the GSI session. Is this exam relevant?
A: No, only material that has been covered either in the GSI session or in lecture (or both) is exam relevant.

Q: Which type of calculator can I use for exam purposes?
A: Any Calculator which does not have “wireless communication” tools, i.e. you cannot use a calculator that allows you to surf the web or talk to someone else. You may use a graphing calculator, financial calculator, etc.

Q: I have a letter from DSP (Disabled Students Program) indicating that I require more time on the exam. What should I do?
A:

• Students with disabilities seeking academic accommodation in this course need to promptly notify the instructor by providing a Letter of Accommodation from the Disabled Students Program. Notice of accommodation later than three weeks may result in an inability to provide accommodations.

• Students with disabilities granted extended time on examinations will be scheduled to start exams at the same time as other students unless there are extenuating circumstances such as another exam. Failure to notify me of such a conflict within three weeks of the start of the semester may mean that an examination cannot be timely rescheduled.

• Information about special examination room accommodations will be provided via email a week before the exam is scheduled. Please immediately contact your instructor if you have not received an email with detailed examination accommodation information no later than three business days prior to the date the course examination is scheduled.

Homeworks with my Finance Lab

• You can skip two homeworks without penalty (i.e. the worst two homeworks do not count)
• Homeworks are due on due date (no exceptions). Program is set up so that I cannot manually grant extensions. HINT: Don’t do the homework last minute. You are responsible for the reliability of your internet connection, your computer, electricity etc.
• Homeworks are graded for correctness (not completion)
• Call 800-677-6337 for technical problems with Myfinance Lab or use online support
Q: I am forced to take a hint on MyFinanceLab resulting in a point deduction. What should I do to avoid the penalty?

A (By publisher) Take the hint, get the point reduction, Finish the problem. Then, do the problem again. This should work!

GSI Sessions

- Sessions are mandatory (any material covered in the section is exam relevant)
- This should be your primary source of answers in case you have questions
- If you do not attend sections you cannot expect your GSI to answer your emails

Q: I have missed a GSI session for illness or family emergency reasons. What should I do?

A: Get an official certification from your doctor (in case of illness) or family. You do not need to contact your GSI unless you have missed more than 3 times. Please submit hardcopy proofs in this case.

Office Hours

- These are not general review sections. You need to have specific questions! If you do not have any questions you should not come to office hours

Miscellaneous

- Check your emails and the bspace site regularly!
- Please no “Friend”-requests at Facebook, Friendster, Linkedin, etc.!
- Do not use your Cell phone during class or section
FAQ

Q: What is the Grade Distribution?

A:

- The grade distribution will be at least as favorable as the official Haas Undergrad guideline.
- Last Year: A+: 11.6%, A:10.2%, A-:10.9%, B+:21%, B21.8%, B-:13.6%, C+:5.1%, C:1.7%, C- or lower: 4.1%

Q: I have questions with regards to class material. What should I do?

A: Please consider the following order.

1) Ask questions in the GSI session. If you have a question, chances are that somebody else has a similar question. GSI sessions are meant to be interactive!
2) If it is a short question, email your GSI or otherwise attend office hours. For fairness reasons any question will be answered to the whole class.
3) Write an email to the professor (marcus.opp@berkeley.edu, I won’t check my Haas email address) only if issue could not be solved by GSI.

Note 1: We will generally not answer questions by students who do not show up for classes or sessions (except for medical reasons). Moreover, we do not answer emails the day before an exam.

Note 2: Google your question first. Last year, we got a lot of questions like “How do I calculate the internal rate of return with my calculator TI-83”. You can definitely do this on your own.

Q: What if I have questions that are not related to class material (like handicaps, illness, etc.)?

A: Email your GSI or (if necessary) the professor.

Q: I missed a class. What should I do?

A:

1) Ask another student about the topic we covered in class
2) Read the slides for the classes you missed
3) Read the relevant book chapters
4) If you still have questions with regards to class material, see general questions

Q: How can I do well in this class?

A: Finance cannot be “memorized” over the weekend before the exam. Starting early also gives you the option to clarify concepts in office hours (see below) with your GSI or me. At the end of the semester, our time will be a scarce resource as a lot of students try to catch up last minute (which is usually not a very promising strategy).

1. Attend lecture and GSI sessions (this seems obvious, but not to everyone). Every will cover the ENTIRE content of the lecture and GSI sessions! Also, most of your questions are already answered in lecture or GSI sessions.
2. Readings: Read the relevant book chapter BEFORE class to get the big picture. This will help you get more out of the lecture. Review the chapter AFTER class to get all details. You should not be satisfied unless you have understood every paragraph.
3. Do the homework problems without taking a look at the solutions manual
4. Build student groups and discuss answers to questions and concepts. Explain your answers to someone else and you may realize that you have not fully grasped a concept that you thought was obvious.
5. Read business newspapers like Wall Street journal, Financial Times or the “business/markets” part of a national newspaper. You will see terms like dividend yield, P/E ratios, EPS, forward rates, spot rates, yield curve, etc. all over the place. This helps you connect your theoretical knowledge to real life which also makes it easier to memorize.

Q: Can you post the lecture notes as Powerpoint files
A: Due to copyright issues I cannot post lecture notes as powerpoint files.

Q: What are the reading assignments for next week?
A: It should be either on bspace. If you are still unsure, look at the syllabus.

Q: I have a problem using my calculator xxxx (where xxxx is any calculator other than HPC12C. What should I do?
A: Read the instruction manual! Google the function you try to use!

Q: Is there a class the Wednesday before Thanksgiving?
A: No!

Q: Can I buy an older version of the book of Berk DeMarzo “Corporate Finance”?
A: Most of the topics are covered in the first edition. It is your responsibility to figure out the associated chapters.