

Georgia Institute of Technology
Scheller College of Business

MGT 6504
Principles of Finance
Syllabus

Fall 2026 – M, W 3:30-4:45 p.m.; Room 314 SCOB

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"I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident. They came by work." Thomas Edison

"Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment." Walter Wriston

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Objective

This course is designed to provide participants with a full understanding of finance concepts and how they are used (a) to maximize the value of the firm and (b) to decide alternative courses of action. Among the topic units of this course are the time value of money, risk and return, portfolio theory, the cost of capital, capital budgeting, and discounted cash flow valuation.

Required Text

Corporate Finance: 13th edition, by Ross, Westerfield, Jaffe, and Jordan.

Course Notes will be available on Canvas by August 15, 2026.

The Wall Street Journal (Highly recommended).

Grading Scheme

Case Analysis	50 %
Class attendance and peer evaluation	10 %
Finals	40%

I will consider the following areas of contribution in determining your participation grade:

- Regular attendance
- Comments and contribution during class discussion.

Homework

Homework problems are listed at the end of each module outline. Homework problems will not be collected or graded. Solutions would be provided to the homework problems. The exam questions would be similar to the homework problems. The solutions to the back-of-the-chapter problems are available in Canvas.

Exam

The exam will primarily consist of problems. Past exams with solutions are posted on Canvas.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code and the student Code of Conduct. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Attendance and Class Participation

Class participation grades will be determined on the basis of participation in the class discussion of the cases. You are required to participate in the class. A necessary (but not sufficient) requirement for participation is presence. If you are not in the class, you cannot have participated. I do "cold call" on individuals.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Group Case Analysis

The case analysis will be done in groups, and a write-up is due before the case is discussed in the class. The groups are as assigned by the Graduate office. The cases are available in the HBS course pack. Submit a 4-page (maximum, excluding exhibits) typed, single-spaced report for the cases. There will be a peer evaluation.

- 1) **Target Corporation**
- 2) **Buffett's Bid for Media General's Newspapers**

UV1057-PDF-ENG
213142-PDF-ENG

Time Management

I expect the participants to put in about four hours between the class meetings. Roughly, sixty percent of the time should be devoted to group cases, and the remaining forty percent of the time should be spent preparing for the class and doing the homework problems.

Office Hours

Office hours are on Wednesdays 5-6 p.m. The participants can contact me by e-mail at narayanan.jayaraman@scheller.gatech.edu

Summary Outline of the Course

Module	Date	Description	Remarks
1	8/24/2026 (Monday)	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	8/26/2026 (Wednesday)	Discounted Cash Flow Valuation	Chapter 4 HW 4-52, 4-55, 4-56
3	9/2/2026(Wednesday)	NPV and other Investment Rules	Chapter 5 HW 5-11, 5-14, 5-19
4	9/7/2026(Monday)	Making Capital Investment Decisions	Chapter 6 HW 6-13, 6-15, 6-23
5	9/9/2026 (Wednesday)	Bond Valuation	Chapter 8 HW 8-29, 8-31
6	9/14/2026 (Monday)	Stock Valuation	Chapter 9 HW 9-24, 9-27, 9-31
7	9/16/2026 (Wednesday)	Target Corporation Case Due	Canvas Group write up required
8	9/21/2026 (Monday)	Risk and Return	Chapters 10. 11 HW 11-31, 11-35, 11-36
9	9/23/2026 (Wednesday)	Risk and Return	Chapters 10. 11 HW 11-31, 11-35, 11-36
10	9/28/2026 (Monday)	Risk, Cost of Capital, and Valuation	Chapter 13 HW 13-13, 13-20, 13-21
11	9/30/2026 (Wednesday)	Chapter 13, EVA	Course Notes
12	10/7/2026 (Monday)	Buffett Case	Canvas Group write up required
13	10/12/2026(Wednesday)	Review for Finals	
14	10/14/2026 (Wednesday)	Final Exam	Chapters 1,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,13