

MGT 8803 Syllabus

Financial Modeling, Sections EMC & C

Summer 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Jacqueline Garner
Office: Room 423-C (4157), Scheller College of Business
Email: Jacqueline.Garner@Scheller.GaTech.edu

Course Delivery Information

Class days: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. -9:15 p.m.
Office Hours: TBA (F2F)
Website: Canvas
Prerequisites: Intro Finance Class MBA level

General Course Information

Financial Modeling presents tools necessary to build advanced Excel spreadsheets for financial decision making. The course will include topics such as firm valuation, financial statements, cost of capital, portfolio construction, option valuation, duration, and immunization. Students will create spreadsheets using regression analysis, pivot tables, MACROS, Visual Basic Applications (VBA), solver, and goal seek. Active learning is a key component in this class. Each class will begin with a theoretical/conceptual explanation of the day's task. During most class periods, a student will then build a spreadsheet.

Course Learning Outcomes

The class has two overall learning objectives: A) Excel-based objectives and B) Finance-based objectives. These are explained below.

A) Excel Based Learning Objectives:

The student should be able to:

1. Perform basic arithmetic calculations and be able to use most embedded Excel functions
2. Perform regression analysis
3. Create macros and pivot tables
4. Use solver and goal seek
5. Generate random numbers
6. Write VBA programs
7. Be able to construct valuation model spreadsheets with “input” sheets that flow through the analysis
- 8) Create professional looking spreadsheets

B) Finance Based Learning Objectives:

The student should be able to:

1. Value a firm/project using the free cash flow to firm and free cash flow to equity models, as well as the APV model (in Excel)
2. Build a football field and tornado chart
3. Build a LBO model
4. Build a three-statement model
5. Perform a portfolio optimization analysis
6. Price options using the Black-Scholes option pricing model
7. Build a Duration/Immunization model

Required Course Materials

- Excel. You will need access to Excel inside and outside of class.
- Calculator (Any calculator for basic calculations).
- Syllabus and lecture notes: these are available on Canvas.

Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools:

- This class is a Face to Face (F2F) class.
- Class delivery will occur on Wednesdays and via some short videos.
- Office hours will be held Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m
- Other office hours can be set up by appointment! I am very flexible!
- All other course content and materials will also be placed in Canvas
- Classes will be held in person.
- Please always place your **name card/tent** in front of you

Absences

Each student is allowed two (2) “**free**” non-excused absences from class time, which is applicable to class work, but not any other assignment. Excused absences do not “count” toward the “free” absences. Examples of excused absences are letters to me from Student Life, communication to me from Athletics, communication to me from the Registrar’s office, etc. If a student is excused, any assignments during the excused time can be made-up.

Attendance

If you are excused from class, you are not penalized for missing class work. You must attend class to get credit for class work. You can miss TWO (2) class for “free.” If you miss a class AND you have not missed more than 2 classes, you can turn in class work and it will be accepted. If you miss a class AFTER 2 absences and turn in your class work, it will not count (that is, you must be present for it to count). If you miss class for an Institute approved absence, this does not count toward the three free absences.

Technology/Software Requirements

Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)

Grading Policy

Introductory assignments: 2.5%
Classwork: 15%
Video Assignments: 7.5%
Homework: 15%
Cases (Excel portion): 48%
Cases (Conceptual portion): 10%
Peer Evaluation: 2%

Description of Graded Components

- 1) **Introductory components**
- 2) **Class work**
- 3) **Video assignments**
- 4) **Homework**
- 5) **Cases**
- 6) **Peer evaluations**

Introductory components: Three assignments will ensure we build community, and you are familiar with the syllabus. **In total, these count 2.5% of your total grade.**

- a) Introduction to class (Discussion)
- b) Syllabus Quiz

In total, these count 2.5% of your total grade.

Class Work: In total, class work counts 15% of your total grade. Most classes will consist of the instructor and students working through a problem together. These exercises will reinforce concepts and calculations. Class work will be uploaded as an assignment due TYPICALLY on Wednesdays at 11:59 p.m. Class work points are awarded based on attendance. 2 free absences are given; otherwise, class work will be given a 0. Even if a learner misses class (and is within the 2 free absence guidelines), they still must turn in the class work in order for it to be counted. Once a student has missed 2 classes, class work does not count unless they attend the class.

Video assignments: Video assignments are intended to introduce you to a topic. The videos are very short, and there are a few questions embedded in each assignment. You will be given two attempts at each assignment. These are due at 15 minutes prior to class on the day they are due, typically Wednesday (will have been released for at least 10 days prior to due date). **In total, video assignments count 7.5% of your total grade.**

Description of Graded Components, continued

Homework: Homework is completed individually. You will upload an Excel file (and possibly other files) back to Canvas.

In total, homeworks count 15% of your total grade.

Cases

Cases will be completed in groups of 3 to 4 students. These are rather involved projects which have both Excel and Finance learning objectives. Each case also has conceptual questions or a write-up. **Cases will count 58% of your grade.**

Peer Evaluation

Each member of a team will evaluate everyone on their team. The group case will receive a “group grade” which will be evaluated along with a peer evaluation to obtain an individual student grade. If it is determined by the instruction team that a learner has not contributed the effort that was agreed and expected amongst the group, that learner’s grade will suffer. Very little or no contribution to the project will result in a zero. Simply responding to messages or emails does not count as contributing. Contribution means making intellectual input toward required submissions (e.g., Excel files, case questions, write-ups), such as creating or editing content or applying course principles and techniques. Peer evaluations count **2% of grade.**

Additional information about class and grading

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Timing Policy

- The Modules (Course Content) follow a logical sequence that includes knowledge-building and experience-building.
- Assignments should be completed by their due dates, in order.
- You will have access to the course content for the duration of the course.

Student Drop-in Hours and Participation

- Student drop-in hours will be held F2F and via Zoom (TBA)
- Participation for student drop-in hours is voluntary

CIOS Incentive

To help encourage students to complete the CIOS survey, if the completion rate is above 90% for an entire class by the ninth week, then I will drop an additional Video Assignment and an additional HW and count the remaining assignments with higher grades!

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Academic Integrity

Honesty and transparency are important features of good scholarship. On the flip side, plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses with serious consequences. If any student is discovered engaging in either behavior in this course, they will earn a failing grade on the assignment in question, and further disciplinary action may be taken.

Additionally, any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing an assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

If you have questions about my integration of the university's honor code into this course, please do not hesitate to ask via email or discussion post. My aim is to foster an environment where you can learn and grow, while ensuring that the work we all do is honest and fair.

Here at Georgia Tech the aim is to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> and <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Statement of Intent for Inclusivity

As a member of the Georgia Tech community, I am committed to creating a learning environment in which all students feel safe and included. Because we are individuals with varying needs, I am reliant on your feedback to achieve this goal. To that end, I invite you to enter dialogue with me about the things I can stop, start, and continue doing to make my classroom an environment in which every student feels valued and can engage actively in our learning community.

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. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation 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.

Course Expectations & Guidelines, continued

Religious Holiday

A student who wishes to observe a religious holiday/event should email the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester regarding the holiday/absence for planning purposes. If the absence falls on an examination date, the student will be allowed to complete make-up work.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

- No late work is accepted.
- All assignments are expected to be completed and submitted by the due date
- Late assignments are not accepted unless there are **extenuating circumstances**. **These extenuating circumstances** should be communicated with the professor before an assignment is missed or late
- Proper documentation for all extenuating circumstances must be documented (must have a letter from Student Life, the Registrar, Athletics, etc.)
- Late work is allowed if the learner has an Institute excused absence, such as a student conference, athletic event, family illness, student illness, etc.

Communication for this class

- Discussion boards/forums will be done via Canvas
- Email will be done via the Inbox function within Canvas
- Forms are set up to ask questions about grades

Recordings of Class Sessions and Required Permissions

Classes **may not be recorded by students without the express consent of the instructor** unless it is pursuant to an accommodation granted by the Office of Disability services. Class recordings, lectures, presentations, and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students currently enrolled in the course.

Students **may not record or share the materials or recordings**, including screen capturing or automated bots, unless the instructor gives permission. Digitally proctored exams may require students to engage the video camera, but those recordings will not be shared with or disclosed to others without consent unless legally permitted.

- For classes where participation is voluntary, students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded.
- For classes requiring class participation, if students are identifiable by their names, facial images, voices, and/ or comments, written consent must be

obtained before sharing the recording with persons outside of currently enrolled students in the class.

Course Expectations & Guidelines, continued

(N)etiquette

Netiquette refers to etiquette that is used when communicating on the Internet. Review the Core Rules of Netiquette. When you are communicating via email, discussion forums or synchronously (real-time), please use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar consistent with the academic environment and scholarship. We expect all participants (learners, faculty, teaching assistants, staff) to interact respectfully. Learners who do not adhere to this guideline may be removed from the course.

1. Conner, P. (2006-2014). Ground Rules for Online Discussions, Retrieved 4/21/2014 from: <http://teaching.colostate.edu/tips/tip.cfm?tipid=128>

Resources for Students at Georgia Tech

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, 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 to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Communication Center

The Communication Center is available for in person and online appointments. Consultants help with written and multimodal projects, papers, presentations, and much more. More information is here: <https://commlab.gatech.edu/>

Pathways to Success at Tech

Student Success includes a network of support, from peers to professional staff. More information is here: [Success at Tech – Helping you succeed at GT! \(gatech.edu\)](http://success.gatech.edu/).

Resources available include: LGBTQIA Center, OMED, Women's Resource Center, study supports (Tutoring and Academic Support, the Communication Center), mental health resources (CARE), food banks and food security resources (STAR), resources for veterans, service members, and their families, and others.