

MGT 8813 Course Syllabus

Financial Modeling, Sections OAN, MMO and O01, 3 credits
Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor

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General Course Information

Description

Financial Modeling presents tools necessary to build advanced Excel spreadsheets to analyze business decisions. The course will include topics such as time value of money, stock and bond valuation, firm valuation, financial statements, cost of capital, option pricing models, and portfolio optimization. Students will create spreadsheets using pivot tables, Excel functions, solver, goal seek, and VBA.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

- MGT 8803/6754

Course Overview

This course is intended to prepare students to build financial models and make business decisions based on the understanding of finance theory and the utilization of analytical models. Therefore, two broad learning objectives exist for this course:

- Finance-based learning objectives—Where students will be required to understand basic time value of money principles as well as finance theory such as portfolio optimization and firm valuation.
- Excel/modeling based learning objectives— Where students will be required to learn/use Excel functions and tools. Many of these tools and functions will be used to build financial models.

Some weekly lessons will include both “finance-based” and “modeling/Excel-based” objectives and other weekly lessons will focus only on one or the other.

Course Learning Outcomes

Once completed, the student should have the following capabilities:

- Create cash flow statements
- Describe basic time value of money (TVM) and use Excel to solve any TVM problem
- Build a basic firm valuation model, free cash flow to the firm
- Build an equity valuation model, free cash flow to equity
- Build an adjusted present value model, APV model

Course Learning Outcomes, continued

- Compute a firm's weighted average cost of capital
- Build a comparable firm analysis and football field graph
- Build basic VBA models
- Construct a Black-Scholes option pricing model
- Construct stock portfolio analysis

Grading Policy:

Homework: 40%

Cases: 60%

Description of Graded Components

Each homework assignment will require students to complete a model in Excel and also answer some conceptual questions. Each case assignment will require a student to build a more complex model. Each case will also require the completion of conceptual questions. Evidence of working on **HOMEWORKS or CASES** with anyone else will be considered a violation of the Georgia Tech Student Code of Conduct.

Note: In this course, you will be provided with template files to use for homework and case assignments. Unless you are specifically instructed to do so, **do not make any adjustments to the formatting of these documents**, such as inserting/deleting rows or tabs in the workbook. Should you make changes to the template, you will earn whatever grade the auto-grader assigns, because there is not a practical way for the TA team to grade your file manually. We will allow one re-submission if this situation occurs, with the template corrected, for a maximum of 85% of the credit.

This re-submission is for a specific situation; in general, re-submissions (for incorrect answers) are not allowed. Further, normal "re-grades" (as a result of a grading error) do not impose any penalty for the learner.

Assignment Turn-In

- Each homework and Case must be completed in accordance with their respective description and submitted by the date identified within the course syllabus and course outline
- **If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Garner immediately!**
- All Homeworks/Cases will be turned in on Canvas, as per the due dates

Assignment Due Dates

- All homework and case studies will be due at the times listed above
- These times are subject to change (due dates could be changed to a later date, but they will never be moved to an earlier date)
- I will communicate any updated due dates

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 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 scheduled duration of the course.

Required Course Materials

Course Text

- No required textbook

Additional Materials/Resources

- Excel, with Toolpak and Solver (available to all Tech Students: see Pinned post on Ed Discussion for details)
- Access to Finance.Yahoo.com
- Access to The Securities and Exchange Commission website (www.sec.gov) as well as other websites.

Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools:

- This class will use Canvas and edX, to deliver course materials

Technology/Software Requirements

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

Course Policies:

Attendance

This is a fully online asynchronous course. While there is no class attendance, students are expected to watch videos and interact with Canvas.

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 on 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/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is a serious offense. You are not allowed to copy and paste or submit materials created or published by others, as if you created the materials. All materials submitted and posted must be your own.

Student Honor Code

All course participants (myself, teaching assistants, and learners) are expected and required to abide by the letter and the spirit of the honor code. If there is any way I can help you in complying with the honor code, please do not hesitate to ask. I will do the same.

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 in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Attendance Policy

- This is a fully online course
- Login on a regular basis to complete your work, so that you do not have to spend a lot of time reviewing and refreshing yourself regarding the content

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
 - If a late assignment has sufficient documentation to warrant acceptance, the work must be completed within a week of the original due date
- Proper documentation for all extenuating circumstances must be provided and documented properly

Communication

- Discussion boards/forums will be done via Ed Discussion board
- Virtual Office hours will be conducted weekly
- Questions for technology & support should be directed to:
 - omsanalytics@gatech.edu
 - <http://canvas.gatech.edu>

Online Student Conduct and (N)etiquette

Communicating appropriately in the online classroom can be challenging. In order to minimize this challenge, it is important to remember several points of “internet etiquette” that will smooth communication for both students and instructors.

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

Course Expectations & Guidelines, continued

Office Hours and Participation

- Office hours will be held weekly online.
- The office hours are recorded and posted on Canvas (if there are questions posed by students). If office hours are students “visiting” with each other/professor/TAs, they will not be posted
- Participation is voluntary
- For the first week of class I would like for you all to participate in Office Hours so I can “meet you”!!!!

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.

Agreements between Learner and Instructors (Agreed to by each learner PRIOR to beginning course)

- I have read the syllabus and noted the due times of all the assignments are listed in Eastern Standard Time. Canvas may auto-convert to my time zone.
- I understand that assignments are opened as per the syllabus. I understand this is because many of the assignments build on prior assignments, and I need feedback from some prior assignments before attempting subsequent ones. This is why the assignments are not all opened at once.
- I acknowledge the only official communication channel for contacting the instructor and TAs, is the ED discussion board. The instructor or TAs may occasionally use Canvas inbox or Georgia Tech Email to contact me.
- I understand that the weekly office hour schedule and link are posted to Canvas and that this is my weekly opportunity to interact with TAs and the professor in a live format.
- I understand that each of the five individual homework assignments and each of the four individual cases include an Excel portion and a conceptual question/write-up portion.
- I understand that altering the format of the Excel templates will result in severe deductions.
- I understand I am prohibited to work with others on Homework or Cases.
- I understand that all GT students have access to Microsoft products (including Excel) via this link: https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0027029
- While Georgia Tech allows learners to choose from either Windows and Mac operating systems for the OMSA program, ([https://pe.gatech.edu/degrees/analytics/student-resources#:~:text=%E2%80%AF%E2%80%AFThe%E2%80%AFnewest%E2%80%AFversion%C2%A0of%20Windows%20\(10%20or%20better\)%20or%C2%A0MacOS%C2%A0\(10.15%20or%20better\)](https://pe.gatech.edu/degrees/analytics/student-resources#:~:text=%E2%80%AF%E2%80%AFThe%E2%80%AFnewest%E2%80%AFversion%C2%A0of%20Windows%20(10%20or%20better)%20or%C2%A0MacOS%C2%A0(10.15%20or%20better))), I understand that the instructor's videos are on Windows. Although it has never prevented a learner from completing an assignment in this course, I accept that it is my responsibility to navigate the nuanced differences between Excel on these two different operating systems, including different keyboard shortcuts, different design or wording of pop-up prompts such as the Solver Add-in, etc.
- I understand that if I have any issues that prevent me from completing an assignment (sickness, emergency, etc.), I must communicate this via a private post on Ed to the instructor and TAs I also understand I may also need to get an excuse via the Dean of Students for late work to be counted toward my grade.