

Principles of Finance

FALL 2026

Name: MGT 6504

Website: <https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/480862>

Time: TR 9:30am—10:45am | 2:00pm—3:15pm

Location: Scheller College of Business (SCOB) 203 (A)
Scheller College of Business (SCOB) 102 (B)

Instructor: Professor Sharada Sridhar

Instructor E-mail: sharada@gatech.edu

Office: SCOB 406

Grader:

Introduction

This course introduces students to the basic principles used in financial management and is essential for students considering a career in corporate finance. Additionally, the course lays the foundation for more advanced investment and corporate finance topics. Upon completion, students should be able to make basic financial decisions using the discounted cash flow approach.

Objectives

After completing this course, students will understand the following core concepts, including time value of money, valuing bonds, valuing stocks, capital budgeting, and discounted cash flow valuation

Communication

Please (anonymously) fill the [Early Course Survey](#) if you have not done so already.

During the semester, you can always come talk to me after class. However, here are some other options:

- **E-mail**

My email is sharada@gatech.edu. When you send me an email with a question about the material, please detail exactly what you are asking. For example, say something like “When computing the discounted future cash flow in the first practice question from yesterday’s class, why did we use $r = 1.3\%$? Also, my answer is not the same as the one we got in class. This is the formula I used, and I have attached my Excel sheet where I was doing my work,” instead of writing “I don’t understand the practice questions we went over in class.” Not only can this potentially allow you to answer your own question, but it will also allow me to be much more efficient in helping you.

Please allow 24 hours before sending a follow-up email.

Updated: April 25, 2026

- **Office Hours**

Wednesdays between 2pm – 4pm or by appointment. Location: SCOB 406.

Fastest path to my office: Use the elevator bank at the Spring St NW and Armstead Pl NW Scheller entrance to go to the 4th floor – you’ll need your BuzzCard. Continue straight through the automatic door. My office is a couple of doors down on the right-hand side, along Spring St NW.

- **Grader**

There is one grader for this course. She should be the first person you contact with questions regarding grading. She will escalate the issue up to me, if needed.

Canvas

I will use Canvas to post all relevant course material and class announcements, and you will use Canvas to submit case assignments, peer evaluations, and the final exam. Therefore, please make sure 1) you can log into your [Georgia Tech Canvas account](#) 2) once you’re logged in, you have this class added to your “Active Courses.”

Course Materials

We will be using four Harvard Business School (HBS) Cases, which you will need to purchase.

The price is \$19.80, if you are [registered as a student](#). Our class has a dedicated [course packet](#).

There is no textbook, but if you would like a reference *Corporate Finance, Ross, Westerfield, and Jaffe, 8th Edition*, would be a good one.

Evaluation

1. Cases – 45%

Three of the cases discussed in the course must be submitted. For these cases, **you will work in your pre-assigned Core Groups**, and submit a 3-page (maximum, excluding exhibits) typed, single-spaced report on the case, on Canvas.

Cases are available in the HBS [course packet](#). The case questions can be found on Canvas.

2. Peer Evaluation – 5%

As mentioned above, you will be working on your cases in your Core Groups. At the conclusion of the last case, I will ask you to evaluate your group members according to a rubric that I will provide for you. The assessment is confidential. The peer assessment component of your grade is based on the average score you receive from your other group members.

3. Participation – 10%

Discussion: All classes will be in person. Weekly discussion is a critical part of this course since it is designed to help you develop abilities in Finance. Thus, active participation in each week’s discussion is necessary.

Take-aways: On Thursdays, I will end class by asking everyone to write a few sentences of what they took away from the course that week. This assignment will be assigned as a Quiz on Canvas. This is a free ranging exercise; you can share what you learned, what concepts confused you, what you would personally want to learn more away, etc. I will respond to your takeaway with comments. While not given a number grade, turning in consistent, thoughtful takeaways will result in a full participation grade.

4. Individual Final Exam – 40%

There is one take home final exam for the course. More information will be provided as the course progresses.

Final Grades

Your final number grade – 0 through 100 – will be determined by a weighted average of cases, peer evaluation, participation and the final exam, as detailed above. These scores then will be translated into the final letter transcript grades – A through F – via the following ranges:

Your transcript grade is an...	...if your number grade is...
A	≥ 90%.
B	≥ 80% and < 90%.
C	≥ 70% and < 80%.
D	≥ 60% and < 70%.
F	< 60%.

However, at my discretion, I may employ a grading curve in determining final grades.

Also, for students taking the course on a pass/fail basis, you must satisfy the course point requirement for a letter grade of “C” to be reported as “Satisfactory,” or an “S,” under the pass/fail system.

Illnesses and Missed Work

- **Illness**

If you do not feel well, please do not come to class. I will always ensure that there is an opportunity for you to make up the missed work once you are feeling better.

- **Missed Work**

In case an absence leads to a missed work, please email me at sharada@gatech.edu as soon as possible. In most cases, I will extend your deadline for the given assignment.

Classroom Accommodations

If you require classroom accommodations (see a list [here](#)), please contact Georgia Tech’s Office of Disability Services (<https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/students/getting-started>) as soon as possible. It is important to do this promptly as your usual schedule might be diverted.

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Please also communicate with me directly so that we can discuss how to ensure your accommodation is properly met.

Classroom Etiquette

- **Promptness**

Please arrive to class early, to ensure we begin on time. However, if you do arrive late, please enter the classroom quietly and respectfully to not disturb your other classmates.

- **Electronics**

Well cited studies, such as [this](#) and [this](#), show that electronics disrupt learning. To that end, I would like to try something: ***for the first five minutes of each class, all electronics are put away***. This includes, but is not limited to, phones, tablets, smart watches, and fitness trackers. But I also reserve my right to change this policy, including extending the no-electronics rule, at any point.

Academic Honesty

- **Georgia Tech's Honor Code**

All students are expected to know, understand and adhere to the Institute's Honor Code, found [here](#).

- **Artificial Intelligence**

I welcome the use of ChatGPT and its AI siblings (i.e., Claude, Perplexity, etc) on cases, and in-class work. There are some caveats, however:

- **Using any form of AI for the final exam is equivalent to cheating.**
- Cite AI software when you use it. You will not be penalized **if you are upfront about your usage, but failing to attribute credit is equivalent to cheating.**
- **BUYER BEWARE: while powered with the mind of the internet, AI is not always correct.** I have personally found multiple issues with solving even the simplest problems in this course.
- I reserve the right to rescind this free use of AI at any point during the course. This is a new technology and constant updating is only prudent.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Day	Topic	Due @ 8AM	Assigned
Aug 19th	T	Introduction + Time Value of Money		
Aug 21st	R	Present and Future Value		Case 1: Buy v Rent
Aug 26th	T	Annuities		
Aug 28th	R	Perpetuities + Time for Case 1		
Sep 2nd	T	Introduction to Bonds	Case 1: Buy v Rent	
Sep 4th	R	Bonds + Risk		
Sep 9th	T	Valuing Stocks		Case 2: Target Corp
Sep 11th	R	Capital Budgeting		
Sep 16th	T	Case 1 + Exam Review		
Sep 18th	R	Introduction to DCF Valuation	Case 2: Target Corp	Case 3: Buffet's Bid
Sep 23rd	T	DCF Valuation Examples + Buffet's Bid		
Sep 25th	R	WACC		
Sep 30th	T	WACC and Firm Performance		
Oct 2nd	R	Concluding Thoughts + Exam Review	Case 3: Buffet's Bid	Take Home Exam Peer Evaluations
Oct 10th	F	Exam Week (Friday)	Take Home Exam Peer Evaluations	