

BUSADMIN F611
Corporate Finance: Tools for Value Creation and Risk Management
Winter 2026 Course Outline

Finance and Business Economics Area
DeGroote School of Business
McMaster University

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course is designed to build upon your financial foundations from F610 in the context of corporate applications. This course builds on your previous learning, and acts as a stepping-stone to the real world of business. The purpose of this course is to enhance your capacity to do the job of a general manager responsible for the financial outcomes associated with a project or firm.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

William Huggins

Instructor

hugginsw@mcmaster.ca

Office: RJC 255

Office Hours: before or after
class, by appointment

Tel: (647) 289-9240

Sean Visser

Student TA

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Course website: Avenue to Learn

Prerequisite(s): Only open to students registered in level 1 of MBA Full Time and Co-op Programs and [BUSINESS F610](#)

Antirequisite(s): [BUSINESS I602](#) and [BUSINESS F650](#)

COURSE ELEMENTS

Credit Value: 3	Leadership: No	IT skills: Yes	Global view: Yes
Avenue: Yes	Ethics: No	Numeracy: Yes	Written skills: Yes
Participation: No	Innovation: No	Group work: Yes	Oral skills: No
Evidence-based: Yes	Experiential: No	Final Exam: No	Guest speaker(s): Yes



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an in-depth understanding of the way companies make financial decisions. The material builds upon the concepts of time value of money, capital budgeting, and risk/return analysis taught in F610, but makes use of accounting concepts from A610, especially the organization of the balance sheet, income and cash flow statement. Course coverage centers on corporate governance, equity valuation, capital structure, and introduces derivatives.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to complete the following key tasks:

- Assess the governance processes of a firm and identify opportunities for improvement
- Evaluate public companies through a range of financial analysis tools.
- Navigate the trade-offs in managing working capital accounts and short-term financing.
- Describe the common forms of long-term financing sources, such as common stock, preferred stock, and long-term debt, as well as when it is best to use each source of capital.
- Evaluate a firm's use of debt and the impact of market imperfections on these decisions.
- Understand the theory and practical aspects of dividends and share repurchases.
- Navigate the basics of IPOs and corporate acquisitions, and select appropriate valuation tools.
- Understand the basics of risk management strategies using options, futures, and forwards.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND READINGS

Avenue for course content, and readings: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

\$ FREE

OPTIONAL COURSE MATERIALS AND READINGS

"Corporate Finance 6ce" Berk, DeMarzo, Strangeland. Pearson 2024

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!!

(THE SAME BOOK as supports F610)

EVALUATION

Learning in this course results primarily from lectures and related readings on financial concepts and economic trade-offs, integrating these concepts into your reports, and from participating in discussions related to these comprehensive examples. In both group case studies, group members will share the same grade which may be adjusted by peer evaluation. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Components and Weights

Group Case 1	Week 5 – Feb 3 – 11:59PM	20%
Midterm Exam	Week 7 – March 4 – IN CLASS	25%
Grit Week	Week 8 – The whole week	10%
Group Case 2	Week 12 – March 30 – 11:59PM	20%
Final Exam	Exam Period – TBA	25%
Total		100%

NOTE: The use of a McMaster standard calculator is allowed during examinations in this course. See McMaster calculator policy at the following URL:

www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/UndergraduateExaminationsPolicy.pdf

Grade Conversion

At the end of the course your overall percentage grade will be converted to your letter grade in accordance with the following conversion scheme:

LETTER GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A+	90-100	12
A	85-89	11
A-	80-84	10
B+	75-79	9
B	70-74	8
B-	60-69	7
F	00-59	0



Course Deliverables

Group Case Studies – 20% each (40% total)

Reports are to be submitted to electronic drop boxes set up on Avenue (one submission per group please) by 11:59pm EST on the dates above. Reports submitted >8 hours late will receive a ZERO.

You may form groups of your own choosing but they must contain either 4 or 5 people (no exceptions).

Grit Week 2 – 10%

You'll see...

Midterm and Final Exams – 25% each (50% total)

The two tests will be case-based and in-person. You will be provided with a case study to read and asked to perform relevant analysis during a 2.5-hour window of time. You are permitted to prepare a two-sided crib sheet (standard letter-sized page) with anything you want on it, and use a calculator (no phones, watches, laptops, tablets, etc – an actual calculator).

If you score a higher on your final exam than your midterm, that higher grade will be assigned to both.

COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK

Students that are uncomfortable in directly approaching an instructor regarding a course concern may send a confidential and anonymous email to the respective Area Chair or Associate Dean:

<https://mbastudent.degroote.mcmaster.ca/contact-anonymous/>

Students who wish to correspond with instructors or TAs directly via email must send messages that originate from their official McMaster University email account. This protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information as well as confirms the identity of the student. Emails regarding course issues should NOT be sent to the Administrative Assistant.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of

zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:

www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

Students are responsible for being aware of and demonstrating behaviour that is honest and ethical in their academic work. Such behaviour includes:

- following the expectations articulated by instructors for referencing sources of information and for group work;
- asking for clarification of expectations as necessary;
- identifying testing situations that may allow copying;
- preventing their work from being used by others (e.g., protecting access to computer files); and
- adhering to the principles of academic integrity when conducting and reporting research.

AUTHENTICITY/PLAGIARISM DETECTION

This course uses Turnitin.com to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students are expected to submit their work electronically via Avenue to Learn so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ONLINE ELEMENT

This course uses some online elements (e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), TopHat). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course.



The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses online elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx, Teams, or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

ATTENDANCE

Arriving late or missing class disrupts the learning experience for both you and your peers. Punctuality and attendance are crucial to maintaining a respectful, professional and productive environment for everyone, including our faculty.

We use Top Hat in their course to capture attendance in their classes. Attendance is recorded by submitting a unique 4-digit code displayed in your physical classroom using your personal device.

MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

Missed Mid-Term Examinations / Tests / Class Participation

Please do not use the online [McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#) as this is for Undergraduate students only. The MBA program will not accept an MSAF.

When students miss regularly scheduled term work which contributes 10% or more to the final grade, for legitimate reasons as determined by the DSB Student Services – Academic Office (DSSAO (DSB Student Services Academic Office)), the activity necessary to compensate for the missed work will be determined



by the course instructor. The compensatory activities assigned will vary with the nature of the course and the missed requirement. They include, but are not restricted to, an alternative assignment, a rescheduled midterm exam, or re-weighting the marks for the missed component to other mark components. Documentation explaining such missed work must be provided to the DSSAO (DSB Student Services Academic Office) within five (5) working days of the scheduled date for completion of the work.

Acceptable reasons for missed work, along with the [Petition for Missed Term Work](#) and the [MBA Student McMaster University Student Health Certificate](#), can be found on the DeGroote MBA Student website (mbastudent.degroote.mcmaster.ca). Please direct any questions about acceptable documentation to the MBA Academic Advisors (askmba@mcmaster.ca).

University policy states that a student may submit a maximum of three (3) [Petition for Missed Term Work](#) per academic year, after which the student must meet with the Director of the program. If term work is missed without an approved reason, students will receive a grade of zero (0) for that component.

Missed Final Examinations

Students must be available for the duration of the posted exam period regardless of their personal exam schedule. This is to ensure student availability throughout the entire exam period in the event that an exam must be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances (university closure, power outage, storm policy, etc.). Students missing a final examination without valid reason will receive a mark of 0 on the examination.

Students who have missed a final exam for a valid reason can apply to the DSSAO (DSB Student Services Academic Office) to write a deferred examination by submitting an [Application for Deferring a Final Exam](#) with supporting documentation. The application must be made within five days of the scheduled exam.

The [Application for Deferring a Final Exam](#) and the [MBA Student McMaster University Student Health Certificate](#) are on the DeGroote MBA Current Student website (mbastudent.degroote.mcmaster.ca)

Deferred examination privileges, if granted, are normally satisfied during the examination period at the end of the following semester. In select cases, the deferred examination may be written at a time facilitated by the DSSAO (DSB Student Services Academic Office) (DSB Student Services Academic Office) and agreed to by the course instructor.

Requests for a second deferral or rescheduling of a deferred examination will not be considered.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) offers various support services for students with disabilities. Students are required to inform SAS of accommodation needs for course work at the outset of term. Students must forward a copy of such SAS accommodation to the instructor normally, within the first three (3) weeks of classes by setting up an appointment with the instructor. If a student with a disability chooses NOT to take advantage of an SAS accommodation and chooses to sit for a regular exam, a petition for relief may not be filed after the examination is complete. The SAS website is: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca>

Use of Test Accommodations at McMaster University Burlington Campus Ron Joyce Centre

Whereas Student Accessibility Services (SAS), on Main Campus, determines all MBA student accommodations, the MBA Faculty Office manages the coordination of accommodations for tests, midterms, and exams at the Ron Joyce Centre in Burlington.

Process for Students

- SAS will now be using our online system, MySAS Portal, for graduate students to share accommodation letters with their Instructors and their Faculty/Program. Students will be responsible to activate their accommodations on a term-by-term basis and the approved accommodation letter will be directly sent to the Instructor.
- Students must engage the DSSAO (DSB Student Services Academic Office) to implement their accommodation(s) (e.g., extra-time, memory aid, etc.) for each upcoming test, midterm, or exam, at least two weeks in advance. Students can do this by emailing DeGroote MBA SAS scheduling office at DSBSAS@mcmaster.ca. If a student cannot meet this deadline, they should contact DSBSAS@mcmaster.ca to discuss alternative arrangements. The program is committed to exploring flexibilities where possible to support students.
- All tests, midterms, and exams are booked synchronously with the class's start time. Any deviations from the start time (e.g. start earlier than the class to enable completion at the same end time) requires a discussion with their instructor on protocol at the time of accommodation activation.
- Students will leverage the accommodation (e.g., extra-time, memory aid, etc.), in a designated testing room. Rooms will be booked according to the student's SAS accommodation. Unless the accommodation states otherwise, students should expect that they will be writing in a room with other students. One or more invigilators will always be in the room.
- Following the request to implement the accommodation(s), dsbsas@mcmaster.ca will reach out to the student with their test, midterm, or exam details, including the date, time, and room number. As there may be other students writing tests in the room, we ask that students enter the room quietly and leave all personal items at the front of the room.

All policies and procedures, including restroom access, how extra-time is allocated for assessments under Universal Design, and the submission of memory aids in advance, are consistent with those of SAS on Main Campus. The only variance in procedure is communication around, and physical location of, assessment. There is not a dedicated testing space at RJC. Existing classrooms and lecture halls will be used for most testing. All SAS-approved accommodations will be honoured by our staff; however, core testing elements are not eliminated in alternative testing formats. Students should expect and plan for invigilation, incidental noise, and other potential distractions



ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to the SEAO (Student Experience Academic Office) **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

POTENTIAL MODIFICATION TO THE COURSE

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and A2L weekly during the term and to note any changes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES

Your registration and continuous participation (on A2L, in class, etc.) to the various learning activities of MBA F611 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.**

Lack of awareness of the course policies **cannot be invoked** at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

USE PROHIBITED

Students are not permitted to use generative AI in this course. In alignment with [McMaster academic integrity policy](#), it “shall be an offence knowingly to ... submit academic work for assessment that was purchased or acquired from another source”. This includes work created by generative AI tools. Also state in the policy is the following, “Contract Cheating is the act of “outsourcing of student work to third parties” (Lancaster & Clarke, 2016, p. 639) with or without payment.” Using Generative AI tools is a form of contract cheating. Charges of academic dishonesty will be brought forward to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Professionally, you cannot ask AI to read and summarize someone else’s case solution for you....

COURSE SCHEDULE

MBA F611 – Corporate Finance Winter 2026 Course Schedule

Date	Topics
Jan 7	Course Introduction and Corporate Governance: the challenges of ambiguity and discretion (CH: 29)
Jan 14	Working Capital Management: dealing with short-term surpluses and deficits (CH: 26, 27)
Jan 21	Valuing Equity: forecasting financial statements and estimating free cash flows (CH: 22)
Jan 28	Raising Equity Capital: how companies attract investors, from start-ups to mature firms (CH: 23)
Feb 4	Case 1 Discussion + Raising Debt Capital: further considerations on lending and borrowing (CH: 24, 25)
Feb 11	Mergers and Acquisitions: the risks and opportunities of corporate combinations (CH: 28, 21)
Feb 18	Reading Week – NO CLASS
Feb 25	Grit Week 2: Lions and tigers and bears! Oh my!
Mar 4	Midterm Exam: 2-sided crib sheet + calculator
Mar 11	Capital Structure 1: the impact of leverage on equity valuation (CH: 17, 18)
Mar 18	Capital Structure 2: navigating financial distress and other frictional costs (CH: 19, 21)
Mar 25	GUEST LECTURE + Dividend Policy: how investors get their capital back (CH: 20)
Apr 1	Case 2 Discussion + Risk Management: forwards, futures, swaps, and other derivatives (CH: 30)
Apr 8	Options: the value of flexibility (CH: 14, 15)