York University
School of Administrative Studies, LA&PS

AP/ADMS 4541 Applied Corporate Finance
Fall 2026 Section A ONCA
(Wednesdays at 11:30AM Online on Zoom)

Course director:
Dr. William Lim
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Online Zoom Office Hours:
Wednesdays, 6PM-7PM, starting Sep 23
(By appointment only)
Or email your questions anytime

ESSENTIAL NOTICE REVISED - READ THIS FIRST

Note that as per SAS Finance ONCA course rules, all exams (midterm & final) will be in-person.

Each regular interactive online class meeting (Wednesdays on Zoom) will start at 11:30AM and will be 1-2 hours long. After the class meeting, students should watch a prerecorded video which teaches new material and then work in groups to answer the assigned problems based on what is taught in the prerecorded video. Then, in the next class meeting, students will be prepared to ask questions from the prerecorded video and/or to present answers to the assigned problems for group presentation and participation grades.

We may change some aspects of this course, and a few online classes may be rescheduled. But we will work through it together in these extraordinary circumstances. We will post updated information on the course website. To benefit from this course, you must keep working individually and in groups every week rather than leaving it all to the end of the course, and we have organized the course so that you and your group will have some work for grading almost every week.

Students will be responsible for owning and maintaining a computer and stable internet connection that will allow them to utilize eclass, send/receive emails, participate in the zoom lectures and attend office hours. Now read the rest of this outline.

Course Description:

The objective of the course is to undertake a rigorous study of the theory and empirical evidence relevant to corporate finance. Building upon your introductory knowledge from ADMS 3530, you will learn elements of corporate finance which were not covered in ADMS 4540. Examples include working capital management, integrating trade credit and marketing, integration of credit policy and long-term strategic financial decisions, Fama-French studies of capital structure and venture financing. Be forewarned that most students would find this course both **quantitative and demanding**.

Prerequisites:

Credit in ADMS 2320 and ADMS 3530. Given that finance requires one to understand and deal effectively with risk and uncertainty, a good grounding in statistics is essential, and familiarity with statistics should extend through regression, covariance and correlation. In addition, you should have a good working knowledge of common software (e.g., MS Excel, Minitab) useful for statistical analysis. Knowledge of elementary calculus is also essential.

Register for Zoom:

If you have not used zoom before, do not wait for the start of the course to register. Do it now! You can get the basic version free online. York University has a license for Zoom that allows faculty members to run classes with up to 300 people. There will be links provided on the eclass website for you to join the interactive class meetings and exam reviews and a link will be provided to you once the appointment to meet during office hours has been confirmed by email.

Required Work and Grading:

Course requirements include class attendance (including active participation), group presentations of end-of-chapter problems in class meetings, a group project with a presentation of the proposal in class, a mid-term exam and a final exam, with the weights given as follows:

Attendance and Participation	:	20 %
Group Problems Presentations in online class	:	5 %
Group Project Proposal and Presentation in online class	:	5 %
Group Project Final Report	:	15 %
Mid-Term Exam (1.5 hours; Fri, Oct 30, 4-5:30PM, in person, closed-book)	:	20 %
Final Exam (2 hours, in person, closed-book, to be scheduled by RO in Dec)	:	35 %
Total	**:**	**100%**

Attendance (including active participation) is important for learning. You are expected to come to each lecture and encouraged to participate actively in the interactive class. One mark will be given for your index card, and the other 19 marks will be based on attendance (3 marks), and most importantly, on my subjective assessment of your class participation and peer evaluation of your contribution to the group (16 marks). Please do not make any assumptions here. One could receive a low mark even if one has attended every class because of failure to participate actively in the interactive class or within the group. One could also receive a low mark because one does not attend the interactive class regularly or is poorly evaluated by group members.

If you are absent from a class (i.e., did not login during Zoom Online class), please either:
(i) submit an absence using eclass following the instructions in the link below:
https://lthelp.yorku.ca/accessing-eclass/absence-reporting-students
or (ii) send an email to the course director at limw@yorku.ca
Note that you only have option (ii) after you have missed two weeks of classes.

The class will be divided into groups of 8 students for the in-class presentations and project. If you are unable to find a group to join by Monday September 14 12PM or enroll in the course after that date, you will be assigned to a group by the course director. The interactive class group presentations of your answers to problems, worth 5% of the course grade, will be held as noted in the course calendar. The group presentation of your approved project proposal will be held as noted in the course calendar.

The group project would be an empirical or numerical study of one of the topics covered in the course. Suggestions on possible projects would be made in class, and a one-page project proposal is due by **Monday, November 9, 11:59PM,** from each group by email. The one-page group project proposal and group presentation of the approved proposal in online class on **Wednesday, November 25, 11:30AM in class over Zoom** are worth 5% of the course grade. The group project final report is due by **Tuesday, December 8, 11:59PM,** by email. It is worth 15% of the course grade.

Please realize that class participation and contribution to the group are essential to learning and are very important components of the overall grade. Past students who missed classes found it difficult to catch up as a significant part of learning comes from classroom and group interaction. Past students who did not contribute effectively to the group (as evident from peer evaluations) also did not do as well on exams as those who contributed more to the group. This suggests that effort put into group work contributes to learning. Therefore, s***tudents who are unable to attend class or who cannot contribute effectively to the group (by missing group meetings, for example) should take the course in another semester when they are able to participate more actively.*** If your group decides that you did not contribute at all to a group assignment component (e.g., Group Problems Presentations in class), then you will receive mark of zero(0) for that component of the course.

The mid-term exam of **90-minute duration** is written **in person**, **on campus (in DB 0010)**, on **Friday, October 30, from 4pm to 5:30pm**. There will be a video to watch after the midterm. The midterm exam will cover material up to the lecture 6 material on October 8. The **cumulative final exam of 2-hour duration** will be scheduled by the Registrar during the final exam period in December and will be written **in person** and **on campus**.

Both exams must be written during the specified time and are closed book. Some parts of exam questions will involve calculations where working steps must be shown. Some parts of exam questions are conceptual where essay answers which may include diagrams/graphs are required. You must prepare a one letter-size page formula sheet containing all formulas and concepts you think are of importance. The formula sheet must be handwritten by you and must be submitted with the answers to the exam or you will receive a mark of zero on that exam.

If you have a religious conflict, please inform the course director as soon as possible and not later than FOUR (4) WEEKS before each exam so that alternate arrangements can be made. In fairness to all students, no makeup exam will be given for the mid-term except for the above religious reason. If you have a valid excuse, your final exam performance relative to other students will be used to estimate your midterm exam mark. If you do not have a valid excuse, you will receive a mark of zero (0). The final exam is comprehensive (or cumulative) and covers the entire course. However, more weight will be given to the material covered after the mid-term. If you miss the final exam, you should submit a Deferred Standing Agreement (as described in the next section) if you have written the mid-term exam. **It is the policy of the Admin Studies Finance Area that instructors will NOT sign a DSA form if you miss both the midterm and final exams. Students in this situation will need to petition for a remedy appropriate to their circumstances.**

If you think an error has been made in the marking and you would like the course director to look at it again, then please submit a ***written*** request in an ***email*** for a review with valid reasons for the review. But, keep in mind that after reviews your score may go lower, remain same or go higher depending on your answers and marking scheme.

Letter grades are given as per School of Administrative Studies guidelines:
The mean OR median final grade in the course will be B.
Your final letter grade will be determined ***relative*** to the grades of all other students.

Deferred Standing – Missed Final Exam

Deferred standing may be granted to students who are unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time. In order to apply for deferred standing in an AP/ADMS class, students must register at:

http://sas-app.laps.yorku.ca

The DSA and supporting documentation must be submitted no later than five (5) business days from the date of the exam. These requests will be considered on their merit and decisions will be made available by logging into the same link as above. No individualized communication will be sent from the School to the students (no letter or e-mails).

Academic Honesty and Integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty:

https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/

Relevant University /LA&PS/ School Regulations

The regulations on many aspects of coursework that apply to you are on this site:

http://sas.laps.yorku.ca/students/

You are responsible for understanding and following these regulations.

On Learning:

Except during examinations, you are encouraged to discuss class material with other students as an active form of learning. But please be aware of the regulations governing academic offences found in the Undergraduate Calendar. For the assignments, it is especially important that you reference your

sources of data and information thoroughly and accurately. Otherwise you would be subject to the penalties for deliberate plagiarism.

York University takes academic honesty very seriously. Second and subsequent breaches of academic honesty as a York student (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, buying/copying another's assignment solution, perhaps from the internet) will result in a permanent record of academic dishonesty that will follow the student throughout his or her career and possible expulsion from the university. The first breach of academic honesty will result in a mark of zero (0) and possible failure in the course.

Readings:

Cultivation of individual interests and pursuits is encouraged, but please study the material given within [ ] in the Tentative Course Calendar. You are also responsible to learn the lecture material. Remember, the course material is cumulative and requires a steady "digestion of the installment plan." Few people can master the material just before the exam. Solid foundations are necessary and much depends on you. If you proceed "step-by-step", then you will find the subject much easier. The key to the bold-faced abbreviations in the Tentative Course Calendar is given below:

MZ: John Zietlow, Matthew Hill & Terry Maness, *Short-Term Financial Management*, Sixth Edition, Cognella Inc., 2022.

MZ is a **highly recommended textbook or Ebook** for this course and is available at the York Bookstore or direct from the publisher which cost USD$102.95 for the Ebook:

https://titles.cognella.com/short-term-financial-management-9781516565245?srsltid=AfmBOoqyQCzcTaoSO3j8BUYRkHpMpFp6OieOS_ERtE6V-KnEGUrs0Xfn

Other readings are available on-line **without additional cost** from the York Libraries website (#) or on the course website (*), and they are abbreviated as follows:

MZ4: **MZ** Chapter 4 Inventory Management revised by William Lim. (*)

FF1: Fama, E.F. and K.R. French, "Taxes, Financing Decisions, and Firm Value," *Journal of Finance*, 53, 1998, pp. 819-843. (#)

FF2: Fama, E.F. and K.R. French, "Testing Tradeoff and Pecking Order Predictions about Dividends and Debt," *Review of Financial Studies*, 15, 2002, pp. 1-33. (#)

FF3: Fama, E.F. and K.R. French, "Financing Decisions: Who Issues Stock?" *Journal of Financial Economics*, 76, June 2005, pp. 549-582. (#)

Lim: Lim, W., "The Five C's in the Determination of the Terms of Credit", Keynote Speech, *Global Business & Finance Research Conference,* London, U.K., July 2008. (*)

LER: Lim, W., Elahee, M.N., and Rashid, M., "A Simple Model Integrating Capital Budgeting with Trade Credit", Lead Article, *Corporate Finance Review*, Volume 9, Number 5, pp.5-14, March/April 2005. (*)

LR1: Lim, W. and M. Rashid, "An Operational Theory Integrating Cash Discount and Product Pricing Policies," *Journal of American Academy of Business*, March 2002, pp. 282-288. (*)

LR2: Lim, W., and M. Rashid, "Variations on the Operational Theory Integrating Cash Discount and Product Pricing Policies", *The Business Review, Cambridge*, Vol. 10, No. 2, 2008, pp. 1-7. (*)

LR3: Lim, W., and Rashid, M., "Monetary Policy and Menu Costs on Credit Policy and Product Pricing", *Financial Management Association 2008 International Meeting*, Grapevine (Dallas) TX, October 2008. (*)

LRM: Lim, W., Rashid, M., and Mitra, D., "Changes in Credit Terms and Clientele Effects on the Cash Discount Rate in Credit Policy", *Review of Business Research*, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp.141-151, 2006. (*)

LRS: Lim, W., M. Rashid and M. Sarker, "The Opportunity Cost of Entrepreneurial Labor and Dominant Financial Contracts," *Global Economy and Finance Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 214-227, September 2010. (*)

RM: Rashid, M. and D. Mitra, "Price Elasticity of Demand and an Optimal Cash Discount Rate in Credit Policy," *Financial Review*, August 1999, pp. 113-120. (#)

More Things to Do:

1. Check the Course Website and read your e-mail regularly.

2. Submit an index page (full letter-size page) in eclass on the ***third week*** of classes (due by October 21) with the following ***handwritten*** information about yourself:
    a. Your full name.
    b. York student number.
    c. E-mail address and local phone number.
    d. Hometown.
    e. Intended major/concentration and career plans.
    f. List of Finance courses taken at York and other colleges/universities (which received transfer credit from York).
    g. Photocopy of your **York Card** or other form of acceptable photo ID.

The eclass portal to submit this index page will be visible by September 23. Use a PDF file and name it as: LastName, FirstName.pdf

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TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

	Wednesday at 11:30AM unless otherwise indicated
Sep 9	Lecture 1: Introduction and EOQ/Cash Management Models **[MZ** *Chapters 1&3 (self-study)***, MZ** Chapters 2 & 4 & Appendix 11A**]** **{Groups To Be Formed by Sep 14}**
Sep 16	Lecture 2: Inventory w/o TVOM **[MZ4]** **{Group Presentation of Answers to Problems}**
Sep 23	Lecture 3: Inventory w/ TVOM **[MZ4]** **{Group Presentation of Answers to Problems}** **{Index Card submission portal open in eclass}**
Sep 30	Lecture 4: Receivables Management **[MZ** Chapter 5**]** **{Group Presentation of Answers to Problems}**
Oct 7	Lecture 5: Payables Management **[MZ** Chapter 6**]** **{Group Presentation of Answers to Problems}**
Oct 14	***No Class and No Office Hours – Reading Week***
Oct 21	Lecture 6: Integrating Trade Credit and Marketing **[RM** and **LR1]** **{Group Presentation of Answers to Problems & Index Card Due}**
Oct 28	Lecture 7: Mid-Term Exam Review **{Group Presentation of Answers to Problems}**
Oct 30 4PM-5:30PM In Person	**MID-TERM EXAM** **(4PM-5:30PM, in person, closed book, on campus in DB 0010)** Please watch Recorded zoom Lecture 8 video after exam
Nov 4	Lecture 8: Empirical Research Methodology and Cash Management **[MZ** Chapters 10, 11 & 12**]** **{Group Presentation of Answers to Problems}** **{1 Page Group Project Proposal Due, Email by Nov 9, 11:59pm}**
Nov 11	Lecture 9: Trade Credit, Product Pricing and Menu Costs **[LRM, LR2** and **LR3]** **{Group Presentation of Answers to Problems}**
Nov 18	Lecture 9: Trade Credit, Capital Budgeting and Venture Financing **[LER** and **LRS]**
Nov 25	**{Group 15-minute Presentation of Approved Project Proposal}** Please watch Recorded zoom Lecture 10 video on Fama-French Capital Structure Studies **[FF1, FF2** and **FF3]** after class
Dec 2	Lecture 11: Lim's 5Cs and Final Exam Review **[Lim]**
Tues, Dec 8 11:59PM	**{Group Project Final Report Due by Email by Dec 8, 11:59pm}**

[ ] denotes material covered in class on the date indicated. You are responsible for the *(self-study)* readings even though these are not covered in class.

{ } denotes presentation in class or submission due by email (as instructed) on the date indicated.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TIMETABLE IS TENTATIVE AND CLASSES MAY BE RESCHEDULED WITH NOTICE AT A LATER DATE