

Analyzing Financial Statements (FINA6A31) University of Houston Fall 2023

I. Basics

We will meet for class on Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 9:00. Students enrolled in section 16824 will meet in MH110 and those in section 26446 will join via Teams.

My contact information is:

James D. Woods, Ph.D.
713 487 8841 Office
281 782 8219 Cell
woodsjd@icloud.com

Virtual office hour:

Monday, 4:30 to 5:30 via Teams

Feel free to contact me whenever necessary. During the day, please call my office. I do not have an office on campus, but can speak on the phone or arrange an in-person meeting as needed. Please use the cell phone only for matters needing immediate attention.

II. Textbook and Supplementary Materials

- Easton, Peter, D., Mary Lea McAnally and Gregory A. Sommers, **Financial Statement Analysis & Valuation**, 6th edition, Cambridge Business Publishers, LLC, 2021 (ISBN 978-1-61853-360-9).
- Various articles provided by instructor.
- Access to Microsoft Excel for homework assignments.

III. Course Description

My primary goal in this course is to provide you with the basic tools required to be an educated user of financial statements prepared under generally accepted accounting principles.

This course provides a structured approach to the analysis of financial statements. We will meet for seven evenings. The course format includes free-form lectures, group discussions, problem-solving and discussion of recent events related to the analysis of financial statements.

IV. Grading and Related Policies

Grades will be based upon preparation and submission of:

- assigned homework,
- two problem sets, and
- an examination.

Your final grade will be calculated based upon the following information.

Grading Scale:

Homework assignments	100	No late submissions accepted
Problem sets	100	No late submissions accepted
Examination	<u>125</u>	No late submissions accepted
Total	<u>325</u>	

Students earning at least 308 points will receive the grade of “A” for the course.
Students earning at least 276 points will receive at least the grade of “B” for the course.
Students earning at least 243 points will receive at least the grade of “C” for the course.
The “plus/minus” grade modifiers will be used at my discretion.

This is a graduate course. There are no opportunities for extra credit, grade repair, etc.

At the end of the course, I may award points to everyone in the class to adjust the overall average grade in the course and I may adjust the breakpoints between letter grades. Any decision to adjust scores will reflect the assumption that students earned 100 homework assignment points.

V. Homework Assignments

The homework assignments will help you understand concepts, apply your knowledge, and enhance your skills. Completing assignments in a timely manner will help you keep up with the tight class schedule.

Homework assignments are an important part of your grade in this class and I encourage you to spend the time required to complete each assignment. I expect graduate level work on each assignment. I will grade the assignments primarily on effort, not accuracy. All homework assignments are to be submitted to

UHFinStmntClass@outlook.com

and are due at the beginning of class. I will not accept late assignments. I will use the system clock to determine if assignments are late. Please, do not submit assignments in class or to the wrong email account. Be sure to name the files you submit with enough information for me to determine who submitted them and which assignment they pertain.

VI. Problem Sets

The problem sets provide an opportunity for you to increase your understanding of the course material. They require a level of effort beyond the level required to complete the

homework. They provide guided independent study related to the topics covered in class and in the textbook. **Do not underestimate the time required to complete the problem sets.** Be sure to allow enough time to complete these tasks thoroughly. The problem sets will be posted on Canvas during the first week of the course. Be sure to start working on the sets immediately.

VII. Examination

The examination will include problems similar to the problems on the two problem sets. The examination will appear on Canvas at 6:00 am on October 11th. I will accept completed examinations at

UHFinStmntClass@outlook.com

until 11:59 pm on October 11th. Do not be late! I will not accept examinations after midnight.

While you have 15 hours to complete the examination, it is designed to be completed in less than three hours. You may use any material you like for the examination, but you may not consult with other people. The examination will be graded on accuracy and its compliance with instructions, including compliance with the Woods' Rules of Excel.

VIII. Excused Absence Policy

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

IX. Recording of Class

Students may *not* record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures of course content. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Center for Students with DisABILITIES](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action. Any recordings and other items

posted on Microsoft Stream and Canvas will be removed shortly before issuance of the final examination.

X. Syllabus Changes

I may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through the email address students supply after the first day of class and on my Canvas site.

XI. Resources for Online Learning

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our [Power-On](#) website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, and Canvas; requesting a laptop through the Laptop Loaner Program; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

XII. Academic Conduct

Academic Honesty:

The University of Houston's Academic Honesty Policy is strictly enforced by the Bauer College and by this professor. A discussion of the policy is included in the [UH Student Handbook](#). It is your responsibility to fully understand and comply with all principles contained within this Handbook. Please make sure you understand this policy and in particular, you understand the meaning of plagiarism.

Honor Code Statement:

Students may be asked to sign an honor code statement as part of their submission of any graded work including but not limited to projects, quizzes, and exams:

"I understand and agree to abide by the provisions in the [University of Houston Graduate Academic Honesty Policy](#). I understand that academic honesty is taken very seriously and, in the cases of violations, penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the University of Houston."

Use of Textbook Answer Guide:

Most textbook publishers provide answer guides for the questions provided in the textbooks. For this course, many of the assigned problems are drawn from questions in textbooks where the publisher has expressly stated the answer guides are for instructors' use only. **Students' use of an answer guide is a violation of the Honor Code and I will refer any evidence of such use consistent with the *Graduate Academic Honesty Policy*.**

XIII. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach [CAPS \(uh.edu/caps\)](http://uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you

know is in crisis. Also, there is no appointment necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, which is a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus (uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html).

XIV. Additional Helpful Information

Coogs Care: <https://www.uh.edu/dsaes/coogscare/>

Laptop Checkout Requests: <https://www.uh.edu/infotech/about/planning/off-campus/index.php#do-you-need-a-laptop>

Health FAQs: <https://uh.edu/covid-19/faq/health-wellness-prevention-faqs/>

Student Health Center: <https://uh.edu/class/english/lcc/current-students/student-health-center/index.php>