

University of Michigan
 Fall 2019 Instructor Report With Comments
 FIN 503-004: Fin Mgmt
 Matteo Crosignani

60 out of 70 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to the University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	30	27	3	0	0	0	4.5	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	13	35	9	3	0	0	4.0	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	30	23	7	0	0	0	4.5	4.4	4.4
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	18	26	13	1	0	0	4.1	4.2	4.3
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	13	18	17	8	1	2	3.6	4.0	4.0
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(SA=Much Lighter to SD=Much Heavier) (Q891)	0	8	45	7	0	0	3.0	3.0	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Matteo Crosignani was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	26	30	4	0	0	0	4.4	4.6	4.6
Matteo Crosignani seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	53	6	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Matteo Crosignani explained material clearly.(Q199)	26	27	7	0	0	0	4.4	4.6	4.6
Matteo Crosignani treated students with respect. (Q217)	57	3	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9

Responses to additional questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Matteo Crosignani was accessible to students outside of class. (Q52)	39	10	3	0	0	8	4.8	4.8
Matteo Crosignani held students to a high standard. (Q1712)	35	23	2	0	0	0	4.6	4.7

The medians are calculated from Fall 2019 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on Ross School of Business Administration classes.

Written Comments

How can this course be improved? (Q926)

Comments
I feel like there could be more real-world examples of finance in this course, would have liked to have had some discussion of the

Comments
2008 financial crisis. I also feel like course concepts were not always clear and the homework did not feel like it always matched up with what we were learning
More energy can generate more interest
Slower pace, I felt as though everything was just SO FAST.
More discussion about the real-world applicability of these skills.
More cold calling to keep students engaged. The Professor would always stand behind the table and not move around which made it harder to stay engaged as well. The content was interesting but the lecture part of the class would get very dry. The excel work was more engaging.
Teams – I wish there was a way to assign teams that included a mix of people with different skill-set in the area. I found myself in a group that I could not call out for help because they struggled and did not feel comfortable helping me. I found it hard to find a group because I am not strong quantitatively. Eventually our section leadership created a way to randomize teams but it could have been done differently.
I found the last ~3 classes of the course to be much more challenging. I would suggest slowing down, and calculating solutions of problems that we go through in class in real-time vs. slowly revealing the pre-written answers.
The individual project should not go beyond material covered in the course. For instance, one problem required either using brute force to determine the parking fee needed to achieve a positive NPV, or using an excel formula that was not taught in class (although it was referenced in the answer key). I didn't understand the pedagogical value of this, and it seemed like a waste of time.
More emphasis on WHAT some of these concepts mean in the real world, once we get deep into a concept like WACC I forget how it should be applied or how I should think of it in the real world and why it matters
The course could move slower, for example instead of the last class being a review and the second to last class not being on the final – the course material could have been spread out over the additional week. Problem sets could have mixed excel work, with more theoretical handwritten work to emphasize concept learning. An official weekly discussion section with the TAs to do practice problems/review would be extremely helpful.
As we discuss theories continue to apply them to real world scenarios. For example, it was helpful to talk about who would be concerned with the capital structure of a firm and how it helps PE firms/firms determine whether to take on more debt or equity.
I think the course load could be lowered. Nearly every week there was an assignment due. Though the assignments were manageable, it placed an unneeded workload on students. The course could combine assignments to reduce the number and the amount of time students need to commit to the course. The assignments were manageable, but there were too many. Consider combining assignments to help students manage their time commitment for this course.
While Professor Crostignani was very well prepared and motivated for his students to learn, it would be great if he could make his course delivery less dry.
Matteo was clearly very nice and knowledgeable, but he was not the most engaging professor. He would also explain a difficult new concept and then quickly move on, assuming we knew what was being explained sometimes without giving opportunities to ask questions.
More real-life examples of the application of concepts would have taken the course to the next level
more real world examples! though there were plenty. i get lost in formulas
n/a
Some important concepts only in example problems, not explicitly put in slides or lecture
More depth into the concepts instead of just giving us an answer
More time spent in excel building models and more time on current events and applications
It is so difficult to cover this amount of information in 6 weeks. As someone who did not come into school with any finance knowledge it was very difficult for me to retain the material past trying to memorize it for assignments. I would really love if the class would go slower, cover a more limited amount of information or be spread over more time. Matteo did an awesome job but the structure of this course over 6 weeks is very difficult.
I think having practice questions would be helpful. In Econ we had a lot of practice questions available to do extra practice whereas this class there were none but the group project questions.
less academic and more real world
Make the class less lecture focused.
Move along faster
It would help if you uploaded to the Canvas website the papers you write and project on the screen
More practice questions before the final exam
More real world examples in class would help visualize the theoretical discussions we had.

Comments
I think the presentation used needs to be improved. I never had a finance class in my life and would love to know the terminologies upfront.
The lecture of the last week of class (cost of capital) was a little tough to follow. The material is certainly complex, but a little more discussion on the issues and what we are trying to accomplish before the theoretical formulas would have been helpful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – more class participation. There was a lot of content covered during lectures, and it would have been nice to go through examples more slowly and at greater length – the pace during the first half of the course (time value of money, DCFs, PV/FV, etc.) seemed to move a bit slowly, while the second half of the course moved fairly quickly, despite more complex content. While I recognize the need to establish foundational concepts, it seems like we could have spent more time on some of the more complicated topics, such as valuing stocks, CAPM, valuing firms, etc. – more individual assignments would be helpful to practice the concepts by oneself
This was near perfect. No changes needed.
One of the aspects that i found most interesting was how this course could influence the stock market and how we could use this new knowledge to better understand trends or companies performance. I felt like we spent a bit of time on this but not enough to gain the real world understanding of how to use this information.
Also, many of the beginning concepts I thought were very easy while the concepts later in class were much more difficult/confusing. I think the class should be shifted a bit to allow more time to understand the later materials
The course could be a little more fast paced and showed how different concepts merged with each other
n/a
n/a
More opportunities to complete practice problems throughout the course
Sometimes I had difficulty understanding how an excel formula linked to a real world application. It felt as though things were thrown at us with little explanation, and I worry that I would not be able to apply some of these concepts in the real world outside of Ross.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Matteo is a nice teacher, he is patient and willing to ask questions. I appreciated his willingness to answer questions even when we asked a lot in certain classes.
Matteo is lovely and I think really cares about our success.
In-class exercises, group projects which directly tied to the material.
The excel portion of class gave a good chance to practice the material and gauge ones understanding of the concepts.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The teaching method was a major strength. Matteo explained each subject clearly and always introduced examples to help us understand. Also, he always made time for questions and would often slow down to allow people to ask questions. 2. Pace of course. I know there were so me people in class who found the course moved slow BUT they were in the minority. If this course moved any faster, I would be completely lost and would not have learned much. Perhaps there could be an extra optional set of problems for these people. 3. Immediately applicable. The examples used in class helped me see how this material can be immediately applied in work or in personal contexts.
Time left to practice in class was very helpful!
Overall this course was great. Professor Crosignani took the time to clearly explain concepts and answer students' questions.
Matteo was well organized and awesome!
Very interesting and applicable to the real world.
I thought the pace of the class was really great – it continued to build and I never felt lost.
The in class exercises in excel and the group homework assignments helped focus my learning
The professor was the strength. He clearly understood the material and presented it in a straight-forward matter. He took feedback students provided to him and applied it in the subsequent classes. He was very responsive and helpful in explaining concepts.
I thought Professor Crosignani was very well prepared and had great slides explaining content. I liked the application based learning that we did through excel and also really enjoyed the real life mini cases.
The pace was good overall and it is very useful material to learn and understand.
Good theoretical concepts.

Comments

Pace was good, so we could follow well.

Assignments every other week made it easy to recap the concepts and stay up-to-date.

professor is patient, kind, and thorough. this could have been a really rough experience.

Matteo was very knowledgeable about finance and happenings in the financial world. He also had great energy which kept us engaged.

real world applications

1) Breakout sessions using Excel to solve problems in class

2) Real life examples and discussion

3) Matteo is adept at making complex, theoretical concepts easily accessible to students without background in the material. Matteo us extremely patient.

Very real world applicable

I liked the spreadsheet format and knew what was expected in homeworks and class assignments

I like the time that Matteo gives for us to do in class questions. Thank you for slowing down and allowing for that!

Low workload

teacher was patient and explained things clearly

Course pace was optimal for students with non finance backgrounds.

Clearly explaining basic finance concepts

It gave me better understanding of financial and markets to make decisions. Also, I'm applying some of the concepts to my personal finances

Great overview of all the core concepts in Finance. Very beneficial for me as a newcomer to this subject. Matteo is an excellent teacher!

Matteo is very patient and really cares if students learn

Excel-based learning as in the real world.

Matteo was one of my favorite professors. He had a way of explaining things very intuitively and at the right pace for me to learn everything very clearly. He responded to students' questions extremely well and listened to feedback. A+

Pace – appropriate for those with no prior finance experience. Thank you :)

– the excel spreadsheets in class were very helpful. In addition to being a helpful exercise to walk through as a group, they are also helpful to reference when working through homework

– the group projects were great ways to practice on ones own, then reinforce concepts with peers, but could potentially be balanced a bit more with individual assignments

Prof. Crosignani has a very simple teaching style and that made this very technical course quite accessible to everyone.

Professor is very knowledgeable and the use of slides and excel and interactivity of the class was very good.

The strengths were the real life examples and connecting course concepts to these real life examples

Matteo took mid-course feedback and incorporated quickly. He also took significant time during class to answer questions and ensure there was time for discussion if needed, which was helpful to further understand concepts.

I thought the professor diligently and patiently explained the subject matter to students like myself that had very little experience with finance before this class.

I think Professor Crosignani did a good job re-explaining concepts over and over and being receptive to feedback from students

I appreciated that the majority of the assignments were group assignments as it helped me better grasp concepts. Without the group work, I would have been completely lost as I would not have been able to perform the assignments at the beginning of the course alone.

University of Michigan
 Fall 2019 Instructor Report With Comments
 FIN 503-001: Fin Mgmt
 Matteo Crosignani

63 out of 75 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to the University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)	33	28	2	0	0	0	4.5	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	20	29	10	4	0	0	4.1	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	33	26	3	1	0	0	4.5	4.4	4.4
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	14	37	10	1	0	0	4.0	4.2	4.3
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	12	15	20	14	0	1	3.3	4.0	4.0
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(SA=Much Lighter to SD=Much Heavier) (Q891)	0	14	41	8	0	0	3.1	3.0	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Matteo Crosignani was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	26	29	7	1	0	0	4.3	4.6	4.6
Matteo Crosignani seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	50	12	0	0	0	0	4.9	4.8	4.9
Matteo Crosignani explained material clearly.(Q199)	33	23	6	0	0	0	4.6	4.6	4.6
Matteo Crosignani treated students with respect. (Q217)	59	3	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9

Responses to additional questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Matteo Crosignani was accessible to students outside of class. (Q52)	35	15	3	0	0	10	4.7	4.8
Matteo Crosignani held students to a high standard. (Q1712)	27	32	3	0	0	0	4.4	4.7

The medians are calculated from Fall 2019 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on Ross School of Business Administration classes.

Written Comments

How can this course be improved? (Q926)

Comments
Moving through examples in class even more quickly could allow for us to get through more examples as a class and feel more

Comments
prepared for the assignments.
More examples from current events.
Course should have long-form cases with in-class discussions and in-class quizzes like Financial Accounting course.
More cold calling to engage students in question answering.
Less group assignments
I did not find that we always had learned the skills needed to complete the group assignments beforehand and instead had to teach myself how to do certain parts of all of the assignments. If that is the intention that is fine, just tell us beforehand so we know that class does not cover all the applications we need and that it will require outside work to learn all the applications.
I would also say that sometimes class was a little bit too theory or concept based when at times it would've been easier to just learn via working on problems as a class. It is the nature of the material that at times it can be dry, but I think less focus on theory would help.
Last suggestion is to organize key formulas at the end of the lecture slides for everyone. This would just make it a lot easier for everyone to do the HW and prepare for exams.
Groups should be assigned automatically
Sometimes when someone asks a question, you just explain again the same way. Try to focus on explaining a different way. Also putting the variable definitions (tau = taxes) in the slides would be VERY helpful.
Material is dry
Increase in-class participation opportunities, and hold the class to a higher standard for preparation/participation
Maybe cut out some content. With such a heavy quant class, it is a lot to pick up in such a short time frame
There should be more online MOOCS. The current one on course era is not helpful.
I found it particularly helpful when Matteo specified: "you will use this formula/concept when a questions gives you X and asks you for Y." It's a good primer for the work; one of the tougher things with this material is to take the concepts we learned and know how to identify to use it in the practice problems/hw.
I noticed he did this in Session #11, I think it would be helpful to continue doing it in the earlier sessions, and those that follow.
-better link class topics to the homeworks
More videos or other content instead of straight lecturing
I wanted to know how what we've learned can be applied in real world or what should we use in equity investment, stock picking, ih-house project investment
Less lecture and more examples
Personally, I would have enjoyed even more examples related to personal financial management. It helped me to frame a lot of the examples as ways to improve my own personal financial health, and I really enjoyed problems that had us calculate financial trade-offs between, for example, leasing and buying a car; and how principal and interest payments on a car or house are calculated. Those were great for me to enhance my understanding, but I would have personally enjoyed even more. Also, conceptually, there were a lot of givens in problems (discount rates, for example) that right now I don't have an idea how to determine those in real life for solving real life problems. So more emphasis or examples explaining how to simply determine or estimate some of those givens in solving problems would have been helpful from a practical application standpoint.
Professor can be more energetic, the classes turn too plain.
Additional resources such as an online coursera course or other problem sets would be helpful for additional practice.
The beginning of class was drawn out and the end of class (with more difficult material) was a bit rushed. More time could be allocated to the difficult material.
Felt like the time through the slides was a little too long. More current events relating to course topics would have been interesting.
We could possibly work through the more variable-heavy problems more explicitly in class, but Matteo usually did that.
This course was one of my favourites – a good mix of individual and team work and concepts were taught in a way that was clear and easy to understand.
More real world examples with data pulled from yahoo finance
More real-world examples and tie to big financial news, how professionals use these theories, etc.
Matteo should try to make it through all examples in class. The example problems are crucial to learning the information and help with understanding the homework problems. There were some classes where we didn't complete the examples and I have less understanding of that material.
I think more background for individuals with 0 background (me) would be nice to cement the concepts.

Comments
I think more real-world examples in class and sometimes a bit less of the conceptual stuff
Course could be improved with a more interactive class
I would like to see Matteo bring more examples to class. The class seemed very canned and out of a text book. I worked for 10 years in finance, and it was mostly a waste of time to take this class, but there was a not a good way to get out of the class....
Supplemental material, such as videos, would be greatly helpful. The Coursera video currently available is hard to follow and doesn't follow the same structure as the class.
I think sometimes the explanation of concepts were not so clear. In some cases the formula was explained, I was able to do the math, but the concept/meaning behind the number was not as clear.
I think the material is really good but the fashion in which we learned it could have been improved a little bit. I think Matteo was super helpful in many ways and allowing us to do problems in class was great but I would have benefitted from more small examples that build on one another more consistently.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
I really enjoyed having time during class to work through problems in Excel. After working through the problem, we would go through it as a class, and it always helped increase my understanding and better prepare me for homework assignments. Thank you!
Professor Corsignani is a great teacher who boils down the topics in to simple, digestible lessons.
Matteo was very thorough with his teaching of the different concepts.
Matteo taught the course very well. Course is a good primer for people with non-finance background.
Clearly and immediately applicable to other courses and future careers.
Lots of application problems in class
Matteo is a good teacher and is very accommodating of what students want. The course has some good real world applications.
A lot if in class exercises
Matteo is a fantastic professor. I came into this course as a Finance major without much enthusiasm, but he did a great job making every class engaging and bringing the concepts we learned to life. I especially appreciated his demonstrations of the real world applications of each lesson we covered.
Clearly knows the subject well, explains in a logical progression, open to feedback,
Clearly explained concepts, patient teacher
The course structure was logical—it helped to know how each topic fits into the bigger picture
Completed excel spreadsheets that Matteo would post. Very helpful when reviewing after class
The assignments were straightforward.
Clear explanation of the material, even if the material was difficult or dense sometimes.
Real-world examples, both in lecture and in practice (w computers during class). Also adding additional practice problems at the end.
–very good at linking class concepts together –clearly explains materials
Very nice pace with thorough explanations of concepts
finance conceptions and jargons, formulas; key issues to address in project–investment
Clarity of slides and homework that is relevant
For me, with no finance background, this was a great introduction to big-picture concepts related to money management on a large scale. I did appreciate the group problem set assignments, as they forced me to find time to keep up with the course every week; if there had been no problem sets, I would have had less incentive to practice and keep up. Also, they helped reinforce major concepts and provide me some confidence in the material. I really enjoyed learning most about considerations of NPV, compounding interest, and the core concepts covered in the first half of the course.
Including recent news and cases.
The speed of this course and the class recaps before the start of each lecture were very helpful. I also appreciated having learning objectives which made it clear what we were expected to learn.
In-class examples
Definitely improved my understanding of finance. Matteo did a great job tying what we learned back to the real world.

Comments

Homework assignments were clearly related to course material. Course expectations were widely known. The pre-built spreadsheets for class were supremely helpful.

Matteo did a fantastic job of breaking down complex concepts into actionable, real-world contexts and created a psychologically safe atmosphere in which to take risks and participate.

Very applicable to the real world

Taught theory effectively

I really like the teaching mixed with the 2nd half of class being a hands on excel worksheet. This was a PHENOMENAL teaching method.

I really enjoyed the course overall...I really wasn't that interested in Finance before but Matteo explained everything very well and enabled us to succeed and be interested in the topic.

I think it covered finance principals well.

I am genuinely interested in finance as a result of taking this class.

- At the beginning of the class, doing a quick summary about what we had seen in the previous class was very helpful. Matteo could do that in a very clear way;
- The amount of exercises we did in class was great and helped me understand the concepts;
- Having to solve a list of problems weekly was also very helpful.

Matteo is super patient that helps given this is new material for so many of us.

University of Michigan
 Fall 2019 Instructor Report With Comments
 FIN 503-003: Fin Mgmt
 Matteo Crosignani

60 out of 69 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to the University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)	24	26	1	4	3	2	4.3	4.5	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	12	24	12	8	2	2	3.8	4.2	4.2
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	35	19	4	1	0	1	4.7	4.4	4.4
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	15	25	16	2	1	1	3.9	4.2	4.3
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	10	20	15	10	1	3	3.6	4.0	4.0
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(SA=Much Lighter to SD=Much Heavier) (Q891)	1	6	50	1	1	1	3.1	3.0	3.0

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Matteo Crosignani was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	23	29	5	1	1	1	4.3	4.6	4.6
Matteo Crosignani seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	54	5	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.8	4.9
Matteo Crosignani explained material clearly.(Q199)	34	14	7	2	2	1	4.6	4.6	4.6
Matteo Crosignani treated students with respect. (Q217)	54	5	0	0	0	1	5.0	4.8	4.9

Responses to additional questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Matteo Crosignani was accessible to students outside of class. (Q52)	32	16	1	0	0	10	4.7	4.8
Matteo Crosignani held students to a high standard. (Q1712)	29	26	4	0	0	1	4.5	4.7

The medians are calculated from Fall 2019 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on Ross School of Business Administration classes.

Written Comments

How can this course be improved? (Q926)

Comments
More relations to real world examples. Sometimes it felt like things were made convoluted during lecture, yet when going to apply it

Comments
outside of class it seemed much more straightforward. Perhaps the lectures are overly complicating the content?
Provide real-world examples before diving into formulas
This course is tailored to people with previous finance background. I think people without this background had a very difficult time following along. Given that the conversation was often dominated by people with a background in finance, it made it difficult for people that did not know what was going on to raise their hands. While the professor was great, it felt like the format could have been different (maybe smaller labs?) to enable learning for new students to finance.
More real world examples of how concepts apply and more examples of what we will do with the knowledge we get from the course.
Encouraging students to download the spreadsheets before class would be helpful. Often, I found myself downloading the spreadsheet and not having time to work on the problems individually before we started to review them as a group.
I think it would be best to assign students to groups before the course starts rather than have students assign themselves to their own groups.
I think it might be more engaging to incorporate a variety of teaching styles rather than pure lecture.
Maybe include a few cases to see examples of how the material can be applied in real life scenarios
More real world examples included in lectures
1. More case studies similar to the assignments – happy to take on more and apply concepts in class
Having to complete weekly assignments, often in groups, was incredibly difficult in terms of both scheduling and effort.
I think the hardest part about understanding material in this class was that for each assignment, my strategy was essentially to find an example from class that matched the question I was being asked on a homework/quiz and to plug in the numbers that were in my hw/quiz. I fear that it made me a bit lazy when it came to retaining some of the information because I simply would find an example and plug and chug. I wonder if there are additional ways to evaluate students to challenge their conceptual understanding of course concepts instead of plugging the math into formulas.
There are many levels of finance background and ability and the course was much too slow for me but I know it was appropriate for others. This finance class should be broken into two classes with an accelerated version for people with prior finance experience.
The professor was great and presented concepts clearly. I think the course could be improved by increasing engagement. There was not much class discussion and I think it could have helped with learning/class interest/engagement.
DEFINE ALL THE VARIABLES DISCUSSED IN LECTURE SLIDES. Use consistent nomenclature in lecture and on the homework assignments instead of interchanging terms that previously were not discussed. Include 1 pager of how to navigate marketwatch or yahoofinance for help using these sites on the homework. The instructor stated a handful of students, who had taken finance in the past, felt the material was not challenging enough so he would try to better accommodate them. This class was available to waive for those with a finance background, so making the course more challenging does not benefit students who have not taken finance previously. The tutors are not very knowledgeable when it comes to explaining concepts so it is very difficult to better understand topics that were unclear in class.
slower pace there are a lot of students in the class with strong finance background and experience, who answer most of the questions. unfortunately, I do not think this accurately represents the understanding of the rest of the students.
Course concepts were very hard to understand, more group office hours during the semester by the tutors and instructors, more individual assignments. All of the group assignments were hard to understand, and did not reflect what was taught in class
More classroom engagement and discussion. Maybe cases? Something that prompts dialogue and participation. Very lecture heavy.
The grading was not always clear, and sometimes the grades marked inside assignments did not match the grades on Canvas.
I'd like more examples that gear toward impact. I'd also like more checks for understanding in class, often people with previous finance background would answer but others were left behind.
More real world applications and examples to bring the material to life
Spend more time in the beginning of the class to set more foundational finance skills for the people with no finance background.
Excel walk-through sessions of the solutions so we can learn from our mistakes
I'm not sure if it is possible but it would be interesting to have some sort of simulations to apply the concepts we learn in class. I think the course is at some point very focused on solving the exercises but I don't think you need to be a Finance Expert to solve them (because most of it is Math). This could improve if we "managed" the finances of a simulated firm and see how our decisions impact the value of the firm.
More interaction with students. Call students by their name—I think that encourages more participation and helps it feel like there is more of a connection between us and you. Otherwise, it feels very, very lecture-y and less engaging and like there is more distance between us, which doesn't encourage as much conversation or question asking.

Comments
More real-life example. I wish the group was assigned by the instructor for fair grading of group assignment.
The pacing of the topics. It was a little bit of a rollercoaster – it felt slow at times and fast at others
It's very lecture based, but I feel like that comes with the territory in terms of the material being covered.
This course is a lot to take in for someone without any finance background. Suggest creating a worksheet of top used formulas and how they fit together so we can better understand the finance landscape
I really like the balance of the hands-on examples in class and the instruction. I think the assignments are fair. I'm not quite sure why they need to be group assignments.
I enjoyed the in class exercises, and I think it would be helpful to have more of that. Sometimes the full lecture style class was hard to follow. Being able to work on examples in class helps reinforce key concepts and gives me a better idea if I'm understanding the material. Also, more real world example companies would be really nice.
more examples.
I think there are more opportunities in class to ensure people are grasping the concepts and more voices are heard. I really appreciate Matteo's clear explanations of the material, but I have found classes that also have students re-articulate the points in laymans terms help me better understand the concepts. For example, I still do not fully understand the bond and YTM material or understand how to apply it from conceptual to practical. Additionally, it felt like the same 3 people who were really comfortable with the concepts were asking questions. It would have been nice to hear other voices or be empowered to speaking up on my own. I am usually someone who always speaks in classes, but I never felt completely comfortable doing so in this class because the only people that did were ones that fully understood the material.
Maybe a couple cases instead of just problem sets. Also, as a former IBanker and economics major with a focus in finance, delving more into quantitative theory would have been nice (e.g., herd behavior, noise trading, etc.)
Very small but Matteo never used peoples names and often called on Alex. I think that it is clear that Alex knows all the material. I encourage you to cold call some students that may not know Finance well. It will encourage them to try harder and learn material that is new to them.
Students who have substantial experience in finance should be exempted from the class because at the end of the day, their presence skews performance measurements in terms of means and standard deviations
I took finance in undergrad at the engineering school, and it was much more deep and difficult than here. Felt like a waste of money and time. Probably its my fault by not having waived it.
I really think the MBA core should get rid of Statistics, Finance and Accounting and teach them on a 1-week format during the summer, without instructor and only with coursera material. It would be just enough to know the basics, and it would be much cheaper both for the university and for the students. Probably this alternative is not for all, but I am sure there is a 30-40% of the class who are taking the course just as a freshen up of undergrad. But MBA courses are too expensive just to be a freshen up.
Otherwise, its difficult to raise the level because I realize during team assignments that people coming from other backgrounds feel the course is fine and challenging
Allocate more time to discussion of current events applicable to the course concepts. Some lectures could be sped up to accommodate this.
Matteo is great
I have no finance background and felt like, at certain points, terms were used under the expectation that their meaning was common knowledge. I think groups should be assigned based on financial backgrounds as leaving this to students meant that those with strong backgrounds will form a group with each other to quickly get the assignments completed.
Provide more material that builds on finance principles then build on more advanced application.
Introducing pre-reading materials could help us absorbing the content.
Use more real-world examples of how we would apply these concepts going forward. Make the class discussion more engaging. There is a lot of new information to learn and it might be easier to understand if broken up into more activities throughout the lecture
Sometimes the material could be a bit boring. Could add some more emotion and more exciting examples.
I think it can be paced a bit faster. However, I understand that this course is geared for students without backgrounds in finance.
I don't know that I'm going to be more or less interested in this topic in the future, but I really liked the number of "real-world" examples we did using Yahoo Finance.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
Really practical tools and skills that I imagine I'll be using going forward regularly (discounting, cash flows, etc. all were skills I didn't

Comments
explicitly have and look forward to applying) along with a nice foundational understanding of investments and how they work.
Matteo– great professor who broke things down, even if somewhat boring at times
Groupwork– I really benefited from working with my classmates
Tutoring– I appreciate how available the tutors are
Frequent homework, kind + well–prepared professor
Good fundamental understanding of core concepts.
The recaps at the beginning of each class were incredibly helpful to cement the knowledge of the previous class.
The small group problems sets we did in class were fantastic and very helpful to practice the course concepts.
Matteo is very accessible outside of class and willing to help students which is fantastic.
I liked Matteo's use of powerpoint decks alongside his written explanations on the projector. It was clear and easy to follow and minimized flipping back and forth between slides which can sometimes be confusing.
Having in class time to work in groups on the course Excel spreadsheets, then going over as a class
Introduced important core concepts that are applicable across all industries and a variety of future MBA roles
Clear examples in class. Good use of excel. The materials posted on canvas were very helpful as well.
Good foundation of knowledge. Matteo is obviously very passionate about the subject, and it shows.
1. Using examples of real companies and actually making us look up information online – helping us build the skill to do it on our own even later in life 2. Well organized Excel sheets that made it simpler to understand the methodology
Real life applications
I think Matteo did an incredible job of simplifying information for students. Specifically, I remember a time in the beginning of class where in 2–3 sentences, he for the first time in my life, was able to help me understand what shorting a stock meant. I also really appreciated the emails he sent us after every Monday class that consolidated our to–dos.
Matt is a great teacher and I'm sure it greatly helped people with little finance background.
I am unable to identify any strengths of this course outside of the syllabus clearly stating deliverable due dates.
– Really liked that he spent the beginning of class recapping previous content to set the stage for new content. – Appreciate the fact that he used examples from Yahoo Finance and other real world applications
matteo is a great and very patient teacher. i really enjoyed the excel practice we did in connection with each lecture topic.
Very hard for non–finance background, maybe a prep course before
I liked the in–class excel sheet examples.
Concepts are clear, and the excel templates were VERY helpful in understanding the concepts. I appreciated working through myself and then having a check for understanding in the coursework itself.
The classes that were structured with the first half being lecture and the second half being hands–on excel application were the classes I felt I learned the most.
The strengths of the course were teaching the concepts and then applying them to real world examples. I also enjoyed the time taken during class to do problems on our own.
Real–life applicability, Excel demonstrations
The concepts were explained very well and I understand the logic of the financial decisions we make during the exercises.
I love the prepared excel sheets and exercises, the ability to practice. I do feel still worried about my ability to apply the material to real–world examples as opposed to in the vacuum of class. Matteo is very well–prepared for class. Class is well–organized and the material is presented clearly. If it were more engaging, though, I think it would be a really excellent class. The level of workload is good—ideal. Thank you!
Very clear course materials and lecture.
The supporting materials (excels) were on point and very helpful for the learning process
The group and individual homework assignments helped me gain a much better grasp of the material. I also felt I understood the material being covered much better if I read the relevant textbook chapter(s) before the class, especially since it's a more quantitative/technical course.

Comments

Group assignments to work through problems together and use of real-world data via MarketWatch and Yahoo Finance

I really enjoyed the pace of the instruction and the tangible practice material we used in course. Matteo's teaching technique was very easy to follow, and he literally answered any question asked of him on the spot... even the super complex ones beyond the scope of the course. I would take any course offered by Matteo.

I liked the group assignments. It was helpful to walk through examples together as a team. The second half of the course seemed more interactive and not as conceptual, which was nice.

Matteo presented the information very clearly and the Excel files provided were incredibly helpful to better understanding how to structure the calculations. I felt that these were crucial to my ability to do the group and individual assignments.

the way everything built up was perfect and the pacing was good

Matteo is very thorough and took time to pause and make sure all questions were answered before moving on. He also did a good job of bringing in real world examples like Yahoo finance to help make the course more applicable. For people who said the class was boring –ignore them – they should have waived the course – this was meant to be an introduction so they should be upset with themselves for not taking the initiative to waive.

Matteo. He carefully explained the course material

Allowing groups for the finance assignments helped with balancing the material.

Mattero & the curriculum. Don't change a thing!

Weekly assignment made it easier to follow.

Recap at the beginning of the class also helps.

I felt like the pace of the course was extremely management and do have a better understanding of finance as a whole.

Examples during and after classes are perfect for students to make sure of our understanding. Well-organized slides and excel sheets are super helpful for learning.

Strengths included: introduction to finance.

Matteo is an excellent professor.

Professor Crosignani did an excellent job explaining complex concepts clearly.

Due to extenuating circumstances, I did not get an opportunity to be in class often or benefit from the instruction of the Professor. I will say, however, that the instructor was incredibly accommodating and understanding, and has provided support and has made himself available to myself and other students.

Problem sets were really helpful in applying what we learned in class, and it was great to be able to leverage expertise within groups to address anything that was unclear or challenging. Email communications were helpful in recapping what we discussed in class and preparing for future classes. Overall, course content and objectives were clearly outlined and knew exactly what was expected of me.

As someone with no financial background at all, the pacing was really good where I learned enough each session and felt challenged but was not overwhelmed by the material.

I majored in finance in undergrad and worked in real estate finance, but wanted to refresh on some subjects and I think Matteo did an excellent job teaching the material. It was extremely helpful that he started each class off with a review of the previous lecture. I liked the course overall and think Matteo did a great job.

Broke down what seemed to be super complex topics into something that was more easily digestible.