

Math 418A Fall 2012
Financial Mathematics I

Instructor: Dr. Kathy Temple

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Office Hours: MWF 11-11:50AM, TTh 1-1:50PM, and by appointment.

Course Goals: This sequence of courses (418A, B, and C) is designed to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental concepts of financial mathematics, and how those concepts are applied in calculating present and accumulated values for various streams of cash flows as a basis for future use in reserving, valuation, pricing, asset/liability management, investment income, capital budgeting, and valuing contingent cash flows. The third quarter will also include an introduction to financial instruments, including derivatives, and the concept of no-arbitrage as it relates to financial mathematics. The sequence is designed to prepare students for Exam FM/2 offered by the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society. For more detailed learning objectives, see the syllabus for this exam at

<http://www.beanactuary.org/exams/preliminary/exams/syllabi/2012-10-exam-fm.pdf>. This quarter, we will cover:

- Interest rate measurement, including rates of interest and discount
- Time value of money and equations of value
- Valuation of annuities with level, non-level, and continuous payments

Prerequisite: Math 173 or permission. You need to be comfortable with calculus, and it will help (although isn't essential) if you have seen geometric sums and series.

Required Text: Vaaler & Daniel, *Mathematical Interest Theory*, 2nd Edition. This quarter we will cover the first four chapters.

Evaluation:

- Two in-class exams (20% each); tentative testing dates: Wednesday, October 17, and Wednesday, November 7.
- Comprehensive final exam (30%); given Tuesday, December 4, 12-2PM.
- Homework (30%).

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

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|----|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | A | 93-100% | A- | 90-92.99% | |
| B+ | 87-89.99% | B | 83-86.99% | B- | 80-82.99% |
| C+ | 77-79.99% | C | 73-76.99% | C- | 70-72.99% |
| D+ | 67-69.99% | D | 63-66.99% | D- | 60-62.99% |
| | F | 59.99% | | and below | |

If necessary, I may curve grades, although only upwards (not downwards).

Course Conduct:

- **Required Materials:** The textbook is required. You will also need at least a scientific calculator. I strongly recommend a financial calculator, in particular either the BAII+ or the BAII+ Professional. I will assume on exams that you have access to such a calculator.
- **Homework:** Homework will be assigned often in class and due dates will be announced at the time of the assignment. Homework must be done neatly, *stapled*, and written on clean-edged paper (no notebook fringes). Your work should be clear, in a logical order, use correct mathematical notation, and provide sufficient explanation. What's sufficient explanation? A good guide is to think about whether another student in the class who didn't know how to do this particular problem could understand your solution. This will also help you understand your solution later! Collaboration on homework is permitted, but **copying is not permitted**. A good rule of thumb is that you should write up a problem on your own, even if you worked with others to figure it out. Credit will not be given to any party for work which is identical. I reserve the right to change this syllabus, including evaluation procedures, if copying becomes a problem. Credit will not be given for late homework, but I will drop one homework score.
- **Exams:** Any changes to the tentative exam schedule will be announced in advance. Make-up arrangements must be made prior to an exam unless you can document an unexpected circumstance beyond your control that prevented you from taking the exam.
- **Other Information:** Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should give me a copy of their "Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments" from the Center for Disability Services as soon as possible so we can discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in class. Students without this form should contact the Center for Disability Services, Bouillon 205 or dssrecept@cwu.edu or 963-2171.