CFE 201 – Corporate Finance

Mar 2027/Jul 2027

Important Course Information:

Exam Registration	Candidates may register online or with an application.
Order Study Notes	Study notes are part of the required syllabus and are not available electronically but may be purchased through the online store.
Syllabus Resources	Resources listed in this syllabus may include study notes, online readings, textbooks, videos and module content. Candidates are responsible for all materials in their entirety, including sections such as Appendices, unless it is stated otherwise in the syllabus.
Topic Weight Ranges	The weight ranges show the relative emphasis on each topic. They are intended to apply broadly over multiple sittings; however, on any individual exam these could fall outside the published range. Some questions will cover multiple learning objectives.
Learning Outcomes	Each resource lists the primary learning outcome(s) it aligns with under that topic. Resources are listed in the recommended order of study to best master the overall topic. Additional guidance is provided in the Course Strategy Guide.
Introductory Study Note	The Introductory Study Note has a complete listing of all study notes as well as errata and other important information.
Online Content Registration	This syllabus contains content in module or video format that can be accessed through the SOA online portal registration linked here. This includes only content and materials that can be made available online; please consult this syllabus for the full curriculum.
Case Study	The case study will be provided with the examination. Candidates will not be allowed to bring their copy of the case study into the examination room.
Past Exams	Past Exams are available on the SOA website.
Updates	Candidates should be sure to check for updates on the course homepage periodically for additional corrections or notices to the current syllabus.

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1. Topic: Corporate Finance (15-29%)

Learning Objectives

The candidate will understand how an organization optimizes its corporate finance decisions based on its business objectives.

Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to:

a) Recommend an optimal capital structure for given business objectives and the competitive environment

b) Evaluate and apply the methods to determine the value of a business or project, including the impact of financial and non-financial factors on capital budgeting and allocation decisions

c) Assess the impact on value creation from business strategies such as acquisitions, divestitures, or reinsurance

Resources	Learning Outcomes
Video: Introduction to CFE 201	*Background*
Valuation, Measuring and Managing the Value of Companies, Tim Koller, Marc Goedhart, David Wessels, 8th Edition, 2025	
• Ch. 10: Framework for Valuation (excluding "Problematic Modifications to Discounted Cash Flow" and "Alternatives to Discounted Cash Flow" sections)	*1a, 1b*
• Ch. 27: Cross Border Valuation (excluding "Using Translated Foreign-Currency Financial Statements" section)	*1a, 1b, 1c*
• Ch. 35: Capital Structure, Dividends, and Share Repurchases, "Setting a Target Capital Structure" section only (pp 679-688)	*1a, 1b, 1c*
• Ch. 31: Mergers and Acquisitions	*1a, 1b, 1c*
• Ch. 22: Leases	*1a, 1b*
• Ch. 40: Flexibility	*1a, 1b*
CFE201-100-23: Hurdle Rate Definition	*1a, 1b*
International Reinsurance Landscape Overview for United States Life and Annuities, SOA Research Institute, Section 2 only	*1a, 1c*
CFE201-111-27: Life & Annuity Reinsurance Sidecars: From Sidebar to Headline Topic	*1a, 1c*
CFE201-112-27: Private Capital in Insurance 2.0: Building a Flywheel	*1a, 1c*

CFE201-113-27: Financial Risks in Mergers and Acquisitions: A Case Study of SolarCity's Acquisition by Tesla	*1c*

2. Topic: Financial Statement Analysis (21%-35%)

Learning Objectives

The candidate will understand how to gauge an organization's performance through an evaluation of its financial reports.

Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to:

a) Analyze the reported financial statements and the interrelationships among them, in order to measure financial performance

b) Identify unusual or questionable accounting practices and analyze their impact on the quality of key financial metrics

c) Analyze the impact of accounting policies related to taxes and foreign exchange rates on financial statements

Resources	Learning Outcomes
International Financial Statement Analysis, Robinson et al, 4th Edition, 2020	
• Ch. 6: Financial Analysis Techniques	*2a*
• Ch. 9: Income Taxes	*2c*
• Ch. 11: Financial Reporting Quality	*2a, 2b*
• Ch. 15: Multinational Operations	*2c*
CFE201-103-25: Bank Profitability	*2a*
CFE201-113-27: Financial Risks in Mergers and Acquisitions: A Case Study of SolarCity's Acquisition by Tesla	*2a*

3. Topic: Managerial Accounting and Operational Excellence (9%-20%)

Learning Objectives

The candidate will understand how managerial accounting and operational processes impact an organization's performance evaluation and decision making.

Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to:

a) Assess how managerial accounting can drive decision making and impact behavior and performance evaluation

b) Assess and recommend methods used to allocate costs and how these methods can distort perceived performance

c) Recommend best practices in business processes to achieve operational excellence

Resources	Learning Outcomes
Accounting for Decision Making and Control, Zimmerman, Jerold, 10th Edition, 2020 • Ch. 5: Responsibility Accounting and Transfer Pricing • Ch. 7: Cost Allocation: Theory • Ch. 9: Absorption Cost Systems	*3a, 3b*
CFE201-106-25: Procurement, Early Warning Systems, and the Next Disruption	*3c*
CFE201-107-25: Financial Institutions and Nonfinancial Risk: How Corporates Build Resilience	*3c*
CFE201-108-25: When Nothing is Normal Managing in Extreme Uncertainty	*3c*
CFE201-114-27: Managing Allocations Effectively in the Insurance Sector	*3b, 3c*
CFE201-115-27: Reorganizing to Capture Maximum Value Quickly	*3c*

4. Topic: Evolving Quantitative Methods and Technologies (25%-45%)

Learning Objectives

The candidate will understand the appropriate application of evolving quantitative methods and technologies that help to manage the business.

Learning Outcomes

The Candidate will be able to:

a) Evaluate the appropriateness of applying evolving methods and technologies to manage specific business issues

b) Apply evolving methods and technologies for quantifying and managing business risks and opportunities

Resources	Learning Outcomes
Fundamentals of Machine Learning for Predictive Data Analytics, Kelleher, John D., Mac Namee, Brian and D'Arcy, Aoife, 2nd Edition, 2020 • Ch. 2: Data to Insights to Decisions • Ch. 9: Evaluation • Ch. 12: Case Study: Customer Churn • Ch. 14: The Art of Machine Learning for Predictive Data Analytics	*4a, 4b*
Decentralized Finance for Actuaries, SOA Research Institute, Mar 2022	*4a, 4b*
Decentralized Insurance Alternatives: Market Landscape, Opportunities and Challenges, SOA Research Institute, Sep 2022, pp. 9-26	*4a, 4b*
Peer-to-Peer Insurance: Blockchain Implications, SOA, Mar 2021	*4a, 4b*
CFE201-116-27: A Method for Estimating the Price of Stablecoin Insurance	*4a, 4b*
CFE201-117-27: AI Agents vs. Agentic AI: A Conceptual Taxonomy, Applications and Challenges, Section IV, V (pp. 16-30)	*4a, 4b*
CFE201-118-27: Seizing the Agentic AI Advantage	*4a, 4b*
CFE201-119-27: How Insurers Can Supercharge Their Strategy with AI	*4a, 4b*
CFE201-120-27: How AI Could Reshape the Economics of the Asset Management Industry	*4a, 4b*