

**Course Code & No. - Section:** BFIN 475  
**Course Title (Credits):** Econ & Finance Capstone  
**Term & Year:** Spring / 2016  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 10004  
**Instructor:** Stacy Taylor, MBA  
**Phone(s):** Cell: 530-308-3697 (8am.-5 pm.)  
**Email:** staylor@sierranevada.edu  
**Office:** TCES, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor offices  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Class Meeting Time:** Tues – Thur 11:30 am – 12:45pm

**Location:** PA 211  
**Prerequisites:** Senior Status or Permission From Instructor  
**Co-requisites:** None

### **The Mission Statement**

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the **liberal arts** and **professional preparedness** through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes **entrepreneurial thinking** and environmental, social, economic and educational **sustainability**.

**Course Description.** Capstone BFIN 475. Prerequisites: Senior Standing or the consent of the instructor. This course is the capstone of the Finance/Economics degree program. The overarching goal of this course is to allow the student to demonstrate the ability to synthesize the knowledge, skills and insights they have acquired throughout the degree program. The capstone will involve realistic financial and economic problems in order to maximize student's ability to apply their analytical and problem solving skills to actual financial situations.

### **Student Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

Students will use all of their financial, economic, marketing, management and general business knowledge to be successful in a realistic business situation.

Successful completion of the course will require students to evaluate the external competitive environment and apply the analysis to dynamic business decisions.

Using realistic data, students will work in teams to compete to create the best possible combination of financial, economic and general business solutions to a banking environment

Top teams will demonstrate the ability to understand and interpret financial statements and balance sheets and use this data to improve their financial position.

Teams will interpret financial and economic forecast data, translate these forecasts into a business plan, then execute on the plan.

Successful completion of the class will require the students use their best strategic and analytical skills to cope with a shifting economic and competitive environment. This will require excellent problem solving skills and an increasingly adaptive strategy.

**Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes**

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Class attendance and team contribution
2. Contribution to and participation in group discussion and learning
3. Demonstration of mastery of key principals
4. Overall performance and ability to adapt

**Instructional methodology**

This course will emphasize the application of economic thinking to a simulated business situation. The student teams will have an opportunity to make a series of decisions in a simulated banking environment in an effort to maximize the share price of a simulated bank. The environment is a dynamic one. Outcomes will depend on the economic environment, previous decisions and choices made by competing student teams. Students will have an opportunity to adapt as the competitive and economic environment change. The instructor will take the role of facilitator and coach rather than a traditional teaching role. The learning process will depend on the student's ability to demonstrate mastery of a wide range of business skills, including management, marketing, strategy and the application of economic theory.

**Required Texts and Material**

None

**Attendance**

In order to maximize your learning, you are expected to attend class. Most of the learning will occur as we work together to apply the concepts of financial business by analyzing simulator results and making new selections. You are expected to be a part of the learning community and participate fully in each class session. This class is a semester-long team project where the participation of each member of the team each class is crucial. Team members unable to attend a particular class session need to contact Stacy and their team prior to the absence to arrange an alternative way to participate from outside the class session.

**Course Expectations**

The table below clarifies the minimum respective responsibilities of students and the instructor in this class. Failure by students to meet with these responsibilities will diminish their educational experience, performance, and/or course grade. Noncompliance by an instructor may affect his/her personal performance rating.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES	FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES
1. Students are responsible for their own educational achievement.	1. Faculty members are responsible for facilitating a classroom learning environment in each class session in which all students have an opportunity to achieve the learning outcomes of the course.
2. Students are responsible for coming to all class sessions fully prepared to participate in discussions and/or activities scheduled for the period. This includes reviewing all assigned readings, completing class pre-parathion assignments, assigned homework, and/or other preparatory tasks assigned by the instructor.	2. Instructors are responsible for ensuring that class preparation assignments, homework, etc. is relevant to the planned topic for the class and overall course objectives. The professor will be able to communicate relevance to students if questioned.
3. Students are responsible for asking relevant questions about course concepts about which they are uncertain. If such questions cannot be dealt with during the regular class period, students are responsible for arranging to meet with the instructor during office hours.	3. Instructors are responsible for responding appropriately and professionally to student inquiries about course concepts, and – if required – agreeing to consult privately with students during office hours in order to clarify course concepts when not possible to do so during class without detracting from educational experience of other students.
4. Students are responsible for bringing to the instructor's attention as soon as possible the presence	4. Instructors are responsible for: (a) complying with all applicable laws, regulations and SNC policies

of any special learning needs of which the instructor should be cognizant in order to properly perform his/her professional responsibilities. If a student requires special ADA accommodations, he/she is responsible for contacting Academic Services to discuss their needs (see Section VIII, p. 35, in the 2008-09 catalog).	with regard to students with academic learning challenges, and (b) taking reasonable steps to assist or counsel students in general regarding means of maximizing their educational achievement in the class.
5. Students are responsible for ensuring they understand the performance standards established for the course, and for accepting that such standards will be applied equally to all students in the interest of professional fairness and equity.	5. Instructors are responsible for measuring student outcome achievement against performance standards appropriate to the level of the course (e.g., lower vs. upper division). Moreover, instructors are responsible for communicating these standards and expectations to assess students.
6. Students are responsible for compliance with SNC policies regarding academic integrity, and for accepting the consequences of violations thereof. For additional clarification, please see p. 43 of the 2008-09 catalogs: <i>Cheating and/or Plagiarism</i> .	6. Faculty members are responsible for discussing the SNC policy regarding academic honesty, cheating, and/or plagiarism, both in syllabi and direct classroom discussion. Faculty will also make clear to students the reason for the policy, and discuss standardized proto-calls for attribution, through citations and references, of the original work of others.

### Grading Policy

Progress toward achieving course objectives will consider both familiarity with, and ability to apply, relevant course concepts. All progress toward course objectives will be posted on Moodle. Course grades will be calculated as follows:

Course Component	Grade Points
<b>Class attendance and team contribution</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Participation in and contribution to discussions</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Demonstration of mastery of key concepts</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Performance bonus: 10 points for top team, 5 for second</b>	
<b>Total points available</b>	<b>100</b>

**Class Schedule:** Reading assignments of helpful articles, changes to the schedule, and adjustments to the syllabus will be posted on Moodle. Moodle is the key communication tool for this class and you will want to check it frequently.

### January 19 First Day of Semester and course introduction and simulator log-in

**Because of the nature of the class, the schedule is flexible. Generally we will have one class per week to analyze data from a simulator run, and one class to make new selections. Updates to requirements will be posted to Moodle and should be reviewed daily M-TH**

### May 4 No Class Prepare For Finals

**Final TBD – Saturday 5/7 1130-1 Teams will present a “learning summary” of the simulator experience during the finals period.**

### Mandatory Special Accommodations (ADA) Statement

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314

x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu) or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester

## **Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**

### **The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore, faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

### **Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

### **The SNC Email System**

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

**Disclaimer:** If any part of this syllabus violates Sierra Nevada College policy or any other governing policy, that policy will take precedence.