

# METAD 561 / METCS 561

## Financial Analytics

Instructor: Greg Page, MBA, Ed.M.  
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Classroom: STH-B19 (745 Commonwealth Avenue)  
Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m.

### Office Hours:

Office hours are casual, unstructured, and unrecorded. No appointment is needed -- you may drop in at any time during these sessions.

- Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (1010-404, in-person)
- Fridays, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. (982-294-4491, Zoom only)

Other Times/Dates: By Appointment

### Course Description

1.1 AD 561 / CS561 Financial Analytics

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Text, Software Applications & Materials

- Our only required text is the AD561/CS561 Coursepack. That coursepack can be found here: <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/1377379>
- There is no software requirement for the course. Students in the course can run Python code using Google Colab, which requires only a web browser and Internet connectivity.

## Grading Structure and Distribution

Your performance in the course will be graded in the following areas:

Attendance, Participation, and Professionalism	10%
Written Homework Assignments	20%
In-Class Quizzes	55%
Group Project (Presentation Delivery)	10%
Group Project (Written Version)	5%
Total	100%

## Group Project

More information about the term project will be made available on our course Blackboard page.

## GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

Generative Artificial Intelligence tools, such as chatGPT, Claude, Copilot, and others are powerful. They are here to stay. You will use them throughout your professional career. You are expected, and even encouraged, to use them in AD561/CS561. You may use them to help you through in-class exercises, individual homework assignments, and the final project. That said, just as in the business world, *you* are responsible for what *you* submit.

Large Language Models are very effective at helping students overcome coding hurdles, but often produce subpar analysis statements. Submitting “AI slop” when asked to interpret a specific graph is not a wise idea – it’s likely to result in significant point deductions on homework assignments.

### Course Calendar and Course Outline

Week	Topics	Case Readings	Class Meeting Date	Assignments & Exercises & Quizzes
W1	Course Intro; Overview of Major Asset Bubbles; Using Python	No Case Readings	January 20	
W2	Currency Pegs and Capital Flows	Chronology of the Asian Financial Crisis	January 27	
W3	Correlation Illusions and Tail Risk	Long-Term Capital Management	February 3	
W4	Growth Without Unit Economics	Pets.com	February 10	Individual Assignment #1 Due 13FEB
W5	No Class Today (BU on a Monday schedule following Presidents’ Day Holiday)		February 17	
W6	Classification Errors & Incentives	Subprime Meltdown: American Housing and Global Financial Turmoil	February 24	In-class Quiz #1
W7	Ratings Agencies and Structured Finance	Fighting the Financial Crisis of 2008	March 3	Individual Assignment #2 Due 06MAR
W8	No class today (BU Spring Break)		March 10	
W9	Sovereign Debt Crises	The Barber of Buenos Aires; The Eurozone	March 17	Individual Assignment #3 Due 20MAR

		and the Sovereign Debt Crisis (two cases)		Individual Student Presentations (Wave #1)
W10	Repo Crisis	The Sudden Implosion of Silicon Valley Bank	March 24	In-class quiz #2 Individual Student Presentations (Wave #2)
W11	Leverage Opacity and Political Risk	Evergrande Group: The Largest Bankruptcy in Corporate China	March 31	Individual Student Presentations (Wave #3)
W12	Hidden Leverage & Counterparty Blindness	Credit Suisse's involvement in the Archegos Collapse	April 07	Individual Assignment #4 Due 10APR Individual Student Presentations (Wave #4)
W13	Market Infrastructure Failure	The Rise and Fall of FTX	April 14	Individual Assignment #4 Due 10APR Individual Student Presentations (Wave #5)
W14	Examining financial models in practice		April 21	In-class quiz #3
W15	Course Overview & Student Presentations		April 28	Write-ups submitted by 11:59 p.m. on 27APR; presentations delivered in class by student teams

\*\* More details about the course project, including a detailed prompt with guidance for the presentation and the written report, will be made available in Blackboard during the semester.

\*\* The quizzes will be 100% open-note, open-book. Students will be able to use calculators, but will not have any access to Internet-connected technology.