FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (BA 385T)

SPRING 2011

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Course Objectives

Financial management provides a foundation of the main topics in financial economics covering selected topics in corporate finance and asset pricing. The course's objective is to provide a theoretical framework for considering corporate finance problems and issues and to apply these concepts in practice. In corporate finance we will be discussing capital budgeting, valuation, capital structure, and payout policy. In asset pricing we will be studying the risk and return tradeoff, the Capital Asset Pricing Model, market efficiency, and derivative securities.

I have three primary goals for the course: (1) to give everybody a base level of finance knowledge that any MBA from a top business school should possess, (2) to give everybody the ability and confidence to tackle common financial problems in practice, and (3) to provide adequate preparation for future finance classes

Leadership and this Course

The Texas MBA program is designed to develop influential business leaders. The MBA Program has identified four fundamental and broad pillars of leadership: knowledge and understanding, communication and collaboration, responsibility and integrity, and a worldview of business and society.

In this course, you will enhance your knowledge and understanding of financial management. Through class discussion, informal study groups, and formal group projects you will enhance your communication and collaboration skills. You will learn how managers should organize their financial transactions effectively and with integrity. Finally, financial markets are globally integrated and we will discuss many cases and examples involving international companies, giving you a global perspective on financial management.

Required Materials

Jonathan Berk and Peter DeMarzo: Corporate Finance. Second Edition. Pearson, Addison Wesley, 2010.

Harvard Business School Case: Airbus A3XX: Developing the World's Largest Commercial Jet (9-201-028), April 2004 (http://www.hbsp.harvard.edu/)

Harvard Business School Case: Dow Chemical's Bid for the Privatization of PBB in Argentina (9-204-021), March 2006 (http://www.hbsp.harvard.edu/)

Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, New York Times, The Economist, or other financial press.

Financial Calculator (For example: HP-12C, HP-10B, or any calculator that will do time value and IRR calculations)

Grading

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

Final Exam	40 or 50%
Midterm Exam	20 or 30%
Homeworks	10%
Case Writeups	10%
Class Contribution	10%

The weights in the final and the midterm exams can be adjusted depending on your performance. If you percentage score on the midterm exam is higher than the score on the final exam, then the midterm exam counts for 30% and the final exam counts for 40%. On the other hand, if the percentage score on the midterm exam is worse than the score on the final, then you can decrease the weight of the midterm exam to 20% and increase the weight of the final exam to 50%.

The grading policy for the class will have to follow the resolution of the MBA Policy Committee recommending that mean instructor GPA grades for Core Classes in Dallas fall within +/- 0.1 of 3.4.

Final and Midterm Exams

Exams will be based primarily on material covered in class. However, they can also cover material from the financial press or other relevant material.

The midterm exam will be on February 11th/12th. The final exam will take place on the weekend of April 1st/2nd. The exact times and dates will be announced in class.

Homework Assignments

There will be two homework assignments during the course. The assignments will be distributed the week prior to the due date and need to be submitted at the beginning of the classes indicated in the schedule given below. Late homeworks will not be accepted for any reasons. The homeworks have to be prepared in the assigned teams and each group will submit only one assignment. The group composition needs to be identical for all the various assignments (cases and homeworks). Part of the class contribution grade will be determined by peer evaluation of each member's contribution to the various assignments.

Case Writeup

The cases is from Harvard Business School are available on the website of the Harvard Business School Press (http://www.hbsp.harvard.edu). The written case analyses have to be prepared in the assigned teams. Copies of the written reports are due at the beginning of class on the days the cases will be discussed in class according to the class schedule. No late written reports will be accepted. Each group will hand in only one typed assignment. Part of the class contribution grade will be determined by peer evaluation of each member's contribution to the case projects.

For the case, students should try to put themselves in the shoes of the case participants at the time of the case. Students may do additional research (e.g., on the internet). Students may not look at or use case materials from any other source, such as slides, spreadsheets or discussions that may be available on the internet or otherwise. Other schools assign HBS cases, but students may not use their discussions, materials, or solutions in any way.

Portfolio Competition

To obtain a realistic stock picking experience, I set up a free stock simulation with Investopedia. You need to set up your account during the first week of classes. To access the game just go to http://www.investopedia.com/ and register for free. From your registration, go to "Games" and then to "Join Game." Please only sign up for the games for your sections. I will announce the details of the game during our first class.

Schedule

The following course schedule is preliminary. Depending on your interest and the difficulty of the material, I might move at a faster or at a slower pace. However, I am confident that we will be able to cover the most important topics.

Week	Date	Topic	Chapters
1	Jan 7/8	Class Introduction	1-5
		The Corporation	
		Arbitrage and Financial Decision Making	
		Time Value of Money	
		Interest Rates	
2	Jan 14/15	Investment Decision Rules	6-8, 24
		Capital Budgeting	
		Bond Valuation	
		Due: Homework 1	
3	Jan 28/29	Stock Valuation	9, 23
		Due: Airbus Case	
4	Feb 11/12	Capital Markets and Risk	10-13
		Optimal Portfolio Theory	
		The CAPM	
		Investor Behavior and Capital Market Efficiency	
		Midterm	
5	Feb 25/26	Capital Structure	14-17
		Debt and Taxes	
		Financial Distress, Managerial Incentives, Information	
		Payout Policy	
		Due: Homework 2	
6	Mar 4/5	Advanced Valuation	18-22
		Options	
		Real Options	
		International Finance	
		Due: Dow Chemical Case	
7	Apr 1/2	Catch-up	
		Review	
		Final Exam	

McCombs Classroom Professionalism Policy

The highest professional standards are expected of all members of the McCombs community. The collective class reputation and the value of the Texas MBA experience hinges on this. Faculty are expected to be professional and prepared to deliver value for each and every class session. Students are expected to be professional in all respects. The Texas MBA classroom experience is enhanced when:

- **Students arrive on time.** On time arrival ensures that classes are able to start and finish at the scheduled time. On time arrival shows respect for both fellow students and faculty and it enhances learning by reducing avoidable distractions.
- **Students display their name cards.** This permits fellow students and faculty to learn names, enhancing opportunities for community building and evaluation of in-class contributions.
- **Students are fully prepared for each class.** Much of the learning in the Texas MBA program takes place during classroom discussions. When students are not prepared they cannot contribute to the overall learning process. This affects not only the individual, but their peers who count on them, as well.
- **Students attend the class section to which they are registered.** Learning is enhanced when class sizes are optimized. Limits are set to ensure a quality experience. When section hopping takes place some classes become too large and it becomes difficult to contribute. When they are too small, the breadth of experience and opinion suffers.
- **Students respect the views and opinions of their colleagues.** Disagreement and debate are encouraged. Intolerance for the views of others is unacceptable.
- **Laptops are closed and put away.** When students are surfing the web, responding to e-mail, instant messaging each other, and otherwise not devoting their full attention to the topic at hand they are doing themselves and their peers a major disservice. If we make general use of laptop computers in class, then I will explicitly permit their use.
- **Phones and wireless devices are turned off.** We've all heard the annoying ringing in the middle of a meeting. Not only is it not professional, it cuts off the flow of discussion when the search for the offender begins.

Academic Dishonesty

The school has no tolerance for acts of academic dishonesty. Such acts damage the reputation of the school and the degree and demean the honest efforts of the majority of students. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be a zero for that assignment or exam.

The responsibilities for both students and faculty with regard to the Honor System are described on http://mba.mccombs.utexas.edu/students/academics/honor/index.asp and on the final pages of this syllabus. As the instructor for this course, I agree to observe all the faculty responsibilities described therein. During Orientation, you signed the Honor Code Pledge. In doing so, you agreed to observe all of the student responsibilities of the Honor Code. If the application of the Honor System to this class and its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification.

As specific guidance for this course, you should consider the *writing* of all examinations to be an individual effort without any use of books, notes, or other unpermitted aids. Group *preparation* for examinations is acceptable and encouraged.

Students with Disabilities

Upon request, the University of Texas at Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is housed in the Office of the Dean of Students, located on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. Information on how to register, downloadable forms, including guidelines for documentation, accommodation request letters, and releases of information are available online at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/index.php. Please do not hesitate to contact SSD at (512) 471-6259, VP: (512) 232-2937 or via e-mail if you have any questions.

Honor Code Purpose

Academic honor, trust and integrity are fundamental to The University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business community. They contribute directly to the quality of your education and reach far beyond the campus to your overall standing within the business community. The University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business Honor System promotes academic honor, trust and integrity throughout the Graduate School of Business. The Honor System relies upon The University of Texas Student Standards of Conduct (Chapter 11 of the Institutional Rules on Student Service and Activities) for enforcement, but promotes ideals that are higher than merely enforceable standards. Every student is responsible for understanding and abiding by the provisions of the Honor System and the University of Texas Student Standards of Conduct. The University expects all students to obey the law, show respect for other members of the university community, perform contractual obligations, maintain absolute integrity and the highest standard of individual honor in scholastic work, and observe the highest standards of conduct. Ignorance of the Honor System or The University of Texas Student Standards of Conduct is not an acceptable excuse for violations under any circumstances.

The effectiveness of the Honor System results solely from the wholehearted and uncompromising support of each member of the Graduate School of Business community. Each member must abide by the Honor System and must be intolerant of any violations. The system is only as effective as you make it.

Faculty Involvement in the Honor System

The University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business Faculty's commitment to the Honor System is critical to its success. It is imperative that faculty make their expectations clear to all students. They must also respond to accusations of cheating or other misconduct by students in a timely, discrete and fair manner. We urge faculty members to promote awareness of the importance of integrity through in-class discussions and assignments throughout the semester.

Expectations Under the Honor System

Standards

If a student is uncertain about the standards of conduct in a particular setting, he or she should ask the relevant faculty member for clarification to ensure his or her conduct falls within the expected scope of honor, trust and integrity as promoted by the Honor System. This applies to all tests, papers and group and individual work. Questions about appropriate behavior during the job search should be addressed to a professional member of the Career Services Office. Below are some of the specific examples of violations of the Honor System.

Lying

Lying is any deliberate attempt to deceive another by stating an untruth, or by any direct form of communication to include the telling of a partial truth. Lying includes the use or omission of any information with the intent to deceive or mislead. Examples of lying include, but are not limited to, providing a false excuse for why a test was missed or presenting false information to a recruiter.

Stealing

Stealing is wrongfully taking, obtaining, withholding, defacing or destroying any person's money, personal property, article or service, under any circumstances. Examples of stealing include, but are not limited to, removing course material from the library or hiding it from others, removing material from another person's mail folder, securing for one's self unattended items such as calculators, books, book bags or other personal property. Another form of stealing is the duplication of copyrighted material beyond the reasonable bounds of "fair use." Defacing (e.g., "marking up" or highlighting) library books is also considered stealing, because, through a willful act, the value of another's property is decreased.

Cheating

Cheating is wrongfully and unfairly acting out of self-interest for personal gain by seeking or accepting an unauthorized advantage over one's peers. Examples include, but are not limited to, obtaining questions or answers to tests or quizzes, and getting assistance on case write-ups or other projects beyond what is authorized by the assigning instructor. It is also cheating to accept the benefit(s) of another person's theft(s) even if not actively sought. For instance, if one continues to be attentive to an overhead conversation about a test or case write-up even if initial exposure to such information was accidental and beyond the control of the student in question, one is also cheating. If a student overhears a conversation or any information that any faculty member might reasonably wish to withhold from the student, the student should inform the faculty member(s) of the information and circumstance under which it was overheard.

Actions Required for Responding to Suspected and Known Violations

As stated, everyone must abide by the Honor System and be intolerant of violations. If you suspect a violation has occurred, you should first speak to the suspected violator in an attempt to determine if an infraction has taken place. If, after doing so, you still believe that a violation has occurred, you must tell the suspected violator that he or she must report himself or herself to the course professor or Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Business. If the individual fails to report himself or herself within 48 hours, it then becomes your obligation to report the infraction to the course professor or the Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Business. Remember that although you are not required by regulation to take any action, our Honor System is only as effective as you make it. If you remain silent when you suspect or know of a violation, you are approving of such dishonorable conduct as the community standard. You are thereby precipitating a repetition of such violations.

The Honor Pledge

The University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business requires each enrolled student to adopt the Honor System. The Honor Pledge best describes the conduct promoted by the Honor System. It is as follows:

"I affirm that I belong to the honorable community of The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Business. I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor will I tolerate those who do."

"I pledge my full support to the Honor System. I agree to be bound at all times by the Honor System and understand that any violation may result in my dismissal from the Graduate School of Business."