



FINANCE 397.6 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN INVESTMENTS
(03720)

FALL 2011

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Course Web Page	via Blackboard
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Course Objectives

FIN 397.6 is intended to continue your education in the field of asset management. During this course, you will continue to manage The MBA Investment Fund, L.L.C. while also writing an industry report and engaging with industry speakers.

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 markets and investment instruments. In addition, you will be making presentations to your peers and to outside money managers. You will also be collaborating with your sector team.

Prerequisite

You must currently be a student manager of The MBA Investment Fund, L.L.C. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

Industry Report	50%
Morning Meeting / Advisor Meeting	25%
Fund Work	25%

Description of Requirements

Industry Report (50%)

You can do your industry report in any of three forms:

1. Standard paragraph form (normal written text)
2. PowerPoint presentation slide deck
3. Outline form

If you do the paper in standard paragraph form, it should be approximately 40 - 60 pages. (Approximately 25 – 35 pages will be about the industry and the remaining 15 – 25 pages will be the three stock reports.)

If you do the paper in outline form, it should be approximately 40 - 60 pages of outline text plus slides. (Approximately 25 – 35 pages will be about the industry and the remaining 15 – 25 pages will be the three stock reports.)

If you do the project in PowerPoint, it should probably be approximately 200 slides. I would estimate that you would have approximately 125 slides about the industry and approximately 75 slides on the three stocks.

Remember that this is an argument! You must convince the reader that you have hit all important issues. Please be sure to use the file that I have sent you about topics to be covered in the industry report. You have to start by fully describing the industry. Then, the paper turns into an argument.

Common errors include lack of detail, lack of persuasiveness (as to whether this industry is attractive or not and which companies should be bought / sold) and failure to discuss valuation in detail. In addition, be sure to lead with your conclusions. Good reports make assertions and then prove them with data (and charts). Poorly written papers make the reader wait for the conclusion or have no evidence to support the assertion.

One more crucial point...it is imperative that you submit your industry report on time. This is the only way that I can get them back to you and you can revise them. Papers will start being due on November 1st. I need one per day starting November 7 and ending November 24 (Monday through Friday only). You should decide on the schedule based on who is done or near done.

Advisor Meeting (25%)

You will be judged on your participation in your group's pitch. This includes the work in putting the pitch together, presenting and answering questions. Not everyone needs to speak during the actual meeting. In addition, you will be evaluated on your performance questioning other groups. In other words, this is a team and we need everyone to participate fully.

Fund Work (25%)

I will grade you based on your contribution to the work of the Fund. This includes our normal work (running the portfolio) as well as outside projects (speaking to groups, running the stock pitch competition, selections for the next class). You should each submit a report to me (bullet points are fine) by December 2nd describing your contributions for this semester. One of my goals with this assignment is to teach you an important lesson: you must track your work on a regular basis and keep your "resume" up-to-date.

Class Meetings

I have put our tentative class schedule below. Please realize that this can change. It's possible that we could have additional speakers or that there will be a need for us to meet about something else.

Also, please note that I have scheduled a meeting right after the Advisor Meeting. It's important to review after the meeting in order to maximize the learning. I'm happy to move that meeting to the following Tuesday night (normal class time) if you would prefer that. But, I figure that this will probably only take 45 minutes and we can be done.

Important Dates for the Year

Thursday, August 25th – initial class meeting

Tuesday, August 30th – Gil Scott (Waddell and Reed)

Thursday, September 1st – Advisor Meeting Prep (3:30 PM – 10 PM)

Friday, September 2nd – Advisor Meeting Prep (9 AM – 3 PM)

TBD – Fund Informational Meeting (6 PM) -- Mandatory

Thursday, September 8th – Dinner – Advisors' Meeting (Mandatory)

Friday, September 9th – Advisors' Meeting (Mandatory)

Friday, September 9th – Advisors' Meeting Review (Mandatory)

Monday, October 3rd – First Year Applications Due

Tuesday, October 4th – Class to Discuss Selection Process

Thursday, October 6th – Glenn Schiffman (formerly of Lehman)

Thursday, October 20th – Stock Pitch Competition

October 31st – November 2nd – First Year Interviews

Thursday, November 3rd – Michael Shearn (Time Value of Money, LLC)

November 4th – Selection of New Managers

November 7th – 24th – Industry Reports Due (one per day, Monday – Friday)

Thursday, November 10th – Anmol Mehra (Fidelity)

Tuesday, November 29th – class (evaluations; prep for final semester)

Monday, February 28th – end of Fiscal Year

TBD – completed slide deck (for Spring Advisor Meeting) due to Sandy

TBD – practice for Advisors' Meeting presentation

TBD – Spring Advisors' Meeting Dinner (Mandatory)

TBD – Spring Advisors' Meeting (Mandatory)

McCombs Classroom Professionalism Policy

MY COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROFESSIONALISM POLICY: I will expect you to comply with the Professionalism Policy and you should expect me to comply with it. I firmly believe that professional behavior (being on time, staying for the full class, no laptops) is crucial to a culture of learning. Additionally, this simple professionalism will do nothing to stop us from laughing in class and enjoying the learning process.

The 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 minimize unscheduled personal breaks.** The learning environment improves when disruptions are limited.
- **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. Those around them face additional distraction. Fellow students cannot benefit from the insights of the students who are not engaged. Faculty office hours are spent going over class material with students who chose not to pay attention, rather than truly adding value by helping students who want a better understanding of the material or want to explore the issues in more depth. Students with real needs may not be able to obtain adequate help if faculty time is spent repeating what was said in class. There are often cases where learning is enhanced by the use of laptops in class. Faculty will let you know when it is appropriate to use them. In such cases, professional behavior is exhibited when misuse does not take place.
- **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. When a true need to communicate with someone outside of class exists (e.g., for some medical need) please inform the professor prior to class.

Academic Dishonesty

I have 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.mcombs.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 not try to seek guidance about exams or types of questions from students who have previously taken this class. You should not do anything to aid future students in the testing process. Helping fellow students learn is an important part of our culture. I believe that it is easy to distinguish the attempt to help someone learn as opposed to the attempt to pass on information about exams.

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. (See the appendix for a detailed explanation of "fair use.")

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."

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, 471-6441 TTY or via e-mail if you have any questions.