



BA 285T – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

FALL 2013

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Office Hours	Mon & Weds 12:30 – 1:30; Tues & Thurs 1 – 3 PM
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

BA 285T provides an introduction to fundamental concepts in finance. These concepts provide a framework for analyzing capital budgeting decisions (the investment decision). The underlying topics (such as the goal of the firm, time value of money, modern portfolio theory, cash flows and cost of capital) are crucial to understanding concepts that you will encounter in later semesters, as well as reaching our goal of understanding capital budgeting. This course introduces students to these concepts and their application through a combination of lectures and problems.

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 decision making. Regardless of whether you want to be a financial analyst or a marketing executive, you must understand the language of finance. In addition, if your job as an executive is to maximize shareholder value, you must understand how value is created. I urge you to read on your own (The Wall Street Journal, Barron's, Business Week, etc.) so that you become immersed in the language.

MATERIALS AND PREREQUISITE

Text

Corporate Finance, 3rd Edition, by Jonathan Berk and Peter DeMarzo (Pearson / Addison Wesley, 2013)

Packet

Corporate Finance, by Sanford J Leeds (2013) – available at GSB Copy Center (3rd Floor)

Calculator

You will need a business calculator for this class. The calculator should have the following keys: IRR, n, i, PV, PMT, FV, and CF. As long as those keys are present, the calculator is fine. If you may consider taking the CFA exam in the future, I recommend the HP 12c (this calculator is the finance industry standard and one of only two calculators that may be used on the CFA exam). The other calculator which is permissible for the CFA exam is the Texas Instruments BA II Plus. You should bring a financial calculator to every one of our class meetings.

Prerequisite

This is a first semester course in the full-time MBA program and enrollment is limited to students enrolled in this program.

PURPOSE OF THIS SYLLABUS

I have several goals in writing this syllabus:

1. to give you an idea of dates (to allow you to plan your semester);
2. to inform you of the topics we will cover and the work that you must complete; and
3. to explain my expectations (and to give you examples of things that have gone wrong in the past, such as students being habitually late or working together on individual projects).

COMMENTS ABOUT OFFICE HOURS

I plan on having six office hours per week. Of course, there may be times that I have to cancel some office hours due to conflicts. I will also have some additional office hours before the exams. Office hours are first-come, first-served (no appointments).

I have scheduled my office hours at times that you are not in class. Unless there is something highly unusual (or very personal), it will help to have all meetings during office hours. This is an unusual semester for me and I will be in the classroom for 24 hours each week during the seven weeks that we have this class. When you add class time, office hours, prep time and other work around the school, there's not much time left in a week (so it's hard to make appointments during these seven weeks). With that said, if you have a personal issue that you need to discuss, you shouldn't hesitate to email me to set up an appointment.

If you use office hours and others are waiting, I try to limit meetings to ten minutes. My experience has been that students get very frustrated if they show up for office hours and one person takes 45 minutes. If no one is waiting to see me, I will be happy to work or visit with you for as long as you need. If you are "evicted" after ten minutes, you are welcome to get back in line. Historically, students have really appreciated this policy.

COURSE GRADING

Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 50%
Case: 10%
Collected HW: 10%

Grades: The MBA Programs Committee approved the following target grade distribution for all Core and Flex Core courses: A (4.0) 25%, A- (3.67) 20%, B+ (3.33) 15%, B (3.0) 35%, B- or below (2.67) 5%. This course uses that target distribution as a guideline for establishing final grades. Individual grades can also be adversely affected by violations of the Professionalism Policy (described below).

Exams: Your exams will be approximately 70% quantitative, but you will receive more detail before the exam (and the quantitative percentage could change). My exams tend to include most of the material that I have taught (rather than just a few big questions). The typical final exam might have approximately 12 – 15 quantitative problems and a series of qualitative questions. The qualitative questions are usually short answer or multiple choice. The difficulty level of the multiple-choice questions is intended to parallel the level of question that you could face on the CFA® exam.

You should realize that I test on what I teach. In order to prepare, you should review your packet notes (including slides), class notes, the uncollected homework problems that I have written, the uncollected problems from the back of the chapters and the collected homework. In addition, I will give you a slide deck to help you review the quantitative subjects on the final exam. There will be a taped lecture to accompany those slides. The review slides and taped review will be posted at least one week before each exam.

I do not release old exams. I have found that releasing old exams is problematic because (1) it results in people studying “to the exam” rather than studying to learn; and (2) students inevitably feel that old exams are easier than the current exam. In addition, I do not allow students to keep their exams. This maintains the fairness of exams, since you know that no one has seen old exams. If, for any reason, you should come in contact with an old exam, I request that you (1) not review it; and (2) notify me immediately.

Case: You will be assigned a case that will involve capital budgeting and you will need to summarize your thoughts in two pages. You will be limited to two pages of text and two spreadsheet pages. You will receive further information about this case during the semester.

My goal is to use this as a learning exercise, rather than a grade differentiator. While I expect you to submit your best work, I expect most teams to receive at least 8.5 out of 10 on this assignment. (With that said, every so often, there are outliers if a team turns in really poor work.) My point is that the case should be a learning exercise and you should use a reasonable amount of time.

The case will be due by **3 PM on October 1**. You will be given the case one week earlier. The case will be a team exercise. Your case should be submitted by just one person from your team. It should include the names of everyone on your team. I do not get involved with team dynamics or free-rider problems. I assume that you will manage these issues.

Collected Homework: You will have two collected homework assignments. Both will be done with your group. Again, if you make a good-faith effort, the collected homework will not be a huge grade differentiator. The purpose of the homework is to encourage you to work together to prepare for each exam.

Uncollected Homework: There are two types of uncollected homework: problems that I have written (problems and solutions are on Blackboard) and problems at the end of the chapters (with solutions posted on Blackboard). These problems will help to reinforce the concepts we are studying. They will also help you to prepare for the the exams.

How Grades Can Be Lowered

Finally, please realize that I lower grades based on violations of the Professionalism Policy (described below) and the Honor Code (also described below). **This is not something I want to do** and hopefully this will not occur. **It is particularly important to me that you arrive on time (for the start of class and after the mid-class break), stay for the entire class, keep your laptops closed, avoid texting or emailing and respect your peers.** As the semester progresses, you will realize that I will hold you to a very high standard, but I will hold myself (and how this class is presented) to an even higher one.

It is my belief that we all have a responsibility to make this a great class. This means that we all need to be prepared, attendance is mandatory and we all must be on time. If you are absent (or late) more than twice, I lower your final grade by one "level" for each occurrence. For example, imagine that your tests and projects qualify you for a course grade of A-. But, you missed one class and were late for two others. Two of those three occurrences are excused. The other one will result in your grade being dropped to B+. As a second example, imagine that you were late three times and absent twice. Your A- would be lowered by three levels to a B-.

Again, it is never my goal to lower grades. But, I have to weigh having rules like this (which I don't like) versus having one person disrupt our class repeatedly. You should also recognize that I realize that things happen and you may be late for class one time (or even twice). But, I want to create the best environment for the most people. (As a side note...I have taught thousands of students and I have had very few problems with disruptions. In addition, I've had many students thank me for having a distraction-free environment.)

HOW TO PREPARE FOR CLASS AND EXAMS

Prior to your first class, you need to prepare by listening to the taped lectures that are posted on Blackboard for Units 1 and 2. During our first class, we will apply these concepts by discussing some real-world issues. Throughout the semester, it is particularly important that you spend time studying after class (rather than before). After class, you should review the packet and notes and work the homework.

You should use the text if you did not understand what we discussed or if you need more information. (Please understand: I will **not** hold you responsible for topics covered in the text that are not in the packet or the homework. The packet and class notes contain everything that you need to know.)

Please NOTE: it is always possible that we will finish a lecture quicker than planned. As a result, you should always bring your packet notes for that day, as well as one lecture ahead.

With the exception of the two group homework assignments, I will not collect most homework. Homework should be done because you want to learn the material, rather than because you want to receive a check mark. Furthermore, I expect you to have discipline, rather than needing me to "force" you to do your homework.

I am a firm believer that you learn finance by working problems. If you attend class and work the problems in a timely fashion, you will do well. If you don't work the problems in a timely fashion, this will be a very difficult class. Study the course packet consistently.

Since you won't have time to do the homework problems again and again, let me suggest a good way to study. After you work the problems, every few days you should go back and re-read the questions. By doing this, you will trigger the thought process that you had to go through in order to answer the question. And always remember, it's not a matter of whether you are able to answer the question the first time you see it...the issue is whether you can recognize it and answer the question in the future (and whether you can apply these concepts to the real world).

KEY DATES FOR SEMESTER

Thursday, Sep. 12 at 3 PM – HW 1 Due

Tuesday, Sep. 17 at 6 PM – Midterm

Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 3 PM – Case Due

Thursday, Oct. 3 at 3 PM – HW 2 Due

Monday, Oct. 7 at 9 AM – Final Exam

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED



Schedule

CLASS #	Topics	Packet Units (and Uncollected HW Units)	Text Chapter	End-of-Chapter Problems
Aug 19 or 20	Maximizing S/H Value; Introduction to the Firm	1 and 2	1 and 29	Chap 1: 6,7
Aug 21 or 22	Time Value of Money	3	3, 4 and 5	Chap 4: 1,8,10,12,18,20, 24,25,30A,31,34,41,43,46
Aug 26 or 27	Time Value of Money	3	3, 4 and 5	Chap 3: 1,2,6,8,9,10,15,16,18,19 Chap 3 Appendix: 5,6 Chap 5: 4,6,25,36
Aug 28 or 29	Loans and Bonds (Applications of TVM)	4	5 and 6	Chap 4: 13,21,36,37,38,39 Chap 5: 14,20,22 Chap 6: 6,10,11,17,27
Sep 3 or 4	Dividend Discount Model (Applic. of TVM)	4	9	Chap 9: 4,5,6,8,11,13,16,19
Sep 5 or 6	Risk and Return	5	10	Chap 10: 2,7,11,27,37
Sep 9 or 10	Cost of Capital	6	11, 12	Chap 11: 2,5,6,11,17,27,33,38,48 Chap 12: 1,2,4,15
Sep 11 or 12	Intro to Capital Budgeting	7	7	Chap 4: 15,47 Chap 7: 2,6,9,17,18,20,21,23,25,30
Sep 18 or 19	Free Cash Flow and Capital Budgeting	8,9	2,8	Chap 2: 17 Chap 8: 2,6,7,9,12,14,16
Sep 23 or 24	Capital Structure and WACC	10,11	Packet Only	Only the HW problems I wrote
Sep 25 or 26	EMH / Behavioral Finance	12	13	Chap 13:2
Sep 30 or Oct 1	Raising Capital	13	23,24	Chap 23: 3,5,8,11,12,13,15,17 Chap 24: 6,11,12
Oct 2 or 3	Catch Up			

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 policy 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.

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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.

You should treat the Texas MBA classroom as you would a corporate boardroom.

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.