

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
MCCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

FIN 397.6 – Special Topics in Investments – REIT - 04050
FIN 366P – Finance Practicum - Security Analysis – REIT - 03755

Fall 2015
Wednesday 3:30 – 6:30, GSB 3.104

Professors: Greg Hallman and Sheridan Titman
CBA 5.161, Greg.Hallman@mcombs.utexas.edu
CBA 6.266, Sheridan.Titman@mcombs.utexas.edu
Class website: Canvas and COIL (new collaboration tool designed by UT students)
Office Hours: by request

Course Description

This course is designed to train the fund managers of the McCombs REIT fund. The goal of the class is to train REIT fund managers in both the analysis of REIT stocks and in the construction of an active REIT portfolio designed to outperform the unmanaged Dow Jones REIT index of equity REIT stocks. REITs are an interesting and unique combination of real estate assets and financial securities, and provide a very good opportunity for student fund managers to gain analytical skills in core real estate valuation and analysis, security analysis, and active management portfolio construction.

The REIT Fund class is a two semester course, and this course is the second half of the class. In this second half of the course student managers will concentrate their efforts on analyzing REIT stocks to determine optimal portfolio weights in the McCombs REIT portfolio. Throughout the second half of the course student managers will work in teams consisting of both MBAs and undergrads and will present their analyses to the class for critique and debate to move to a consensus on the portfolio weights for the REITs in the portfolio. Students not presenting are required to read the posted analyst reports related to the REITs being presented and to come prepared for discussion of the presentation REITs.

Grading

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>%</u>
Pairs Analyses and presentations	TBD	80%
Class Participation	ongoing for presentations	20%

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Your responsibilities with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the Policy Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty for the McCombs School of Business.

Course Materials

The required material for the course will be provided on canvas. There is no text for the course, but I will be posting material throughout the semester on the canvas site and I expect you to keep up with the readings that I post and read them before we meet.

Course Schedule

meeting	DAY	DATE	TOPIC
1	Wed	Aug 26	Introductions and meet and greet
2	Wed	Sept 2	Review and discussion of current portfolio; brief presentation on current picks from the Spring Discuss potential pairs for analyses; sectors, sizes Discussion of valuation methodology, model components and goals, report and presentation components and goals.
3	Wed	Sept 9	Review and discuss Green Street piece on Corporate Governance and any other relevant research I can find; Choose pairs for analysis and schedule presentations.
4	Wed	Sept 16	Pairs presentations (2 or 3)
5	Wed	Sept 23	Pairs presentations (2 or 3)
6	Wed	Sept 30	Pairs presentations (2 or 3)
7	Wed	Oct 7	Pairs presentations (2 or 3)
8	Wed	Oct 14	Pairs presentations (2 or 3)
9	Wed	Oct 21	Pairs presentations (2 or 3)
10	Wed	Oct 28	Pairs presentations (2 or 3)
11	Wed	Nov 4	Pairs presentations (2 or 3)
12	Wed	Nov 11	Discussion and planning of REIT Fund memo
13	Wed	Nov 18	Work on memo and determine trades
13	Wed	Nov 25	<i>No class – Thanksgiving travel</i>
13	Wed	Dec 3	Finalize memo and determine trades; class finishes at Cain and Abel's upstairs.