Valuation

Course Objectives

This course builds on the financial theories, intuitions, and tools developed in BA 285T. It introduces valuation concepts related to the valuation of projects and business enterprises and to the claims on the cash flows that they generate. Topics covered include forecasting cash flows, discount rate estimation, the interaction between capital structure and value, as well as cost, market, income, and option-based valuation methods. Students are introduced to the relevant theories and tools, and are taught how to apply these theories and tools in realistic settings.

The prerequisite for this course is BA 285T.

Readings

The assigned readings for this course come from two sources:

1) A course packet which is available at the University COOP.


Students may also find the following books to be useful references at various times during the course.


Course-related information, including the syllabus and handouts, will be posted on Blackboard.
Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined as follows:

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<th></th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework Assignments</strong></td>
<td>45%</td>
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<td>There will be three homework assignments, each of which will count 15% of the final grade.</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>55%</td>
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<td>The final exam will be given at a time and place that will be announced on a later date.</td>
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Plus/minus grading will be used for final course grades.

McCombs Classroom Professionalism Policy

The highest professional standards are expected of all members of the McCombs community. The value of the Texas MBA and MPA experiences hinge 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 and MPA classroom experiences are 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.

- **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 and MPA programs 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 distractions and fellow students cannot benefit from the insights of the students who are not engaged. Furthermore, faculty office hours are more likely to be 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.

There are often cases where learning is enhanced by the use of laptops in class. I will let you know when it is appropriate to use them.

• **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 me prior to class. Remember, you are competing for the best faculty McCombs has to offer. Your professionalism and activity in class contributes to your success in attracting the best faculty to this program.

**Academic Dishonesty**

I have no tolerance for acts of academic dishonesty. Such acts damage the reputation of the school and the MBA or MPA 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](http://mba.mccombs.utexas.edu/students/academics/honor/index.asp). As the instructor for this course, I agree to observe all the faculty responsibilities described therein. By taking this course, you agree 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.

**Accommodations for Religious Holidays**

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Students with Disabilities**

Upon request, the University of Texas at Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. The Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office 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](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 at ssd@austin.utexas.edu if you have any questions.
Class Schedule/Readings

Jan. 13  Course overview, capital budgeting
        Readings: Review your BA285T notes on capital budgeting.
        Parrino R. et al., Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, scan Chapter 11.

15  Cost of capital, financing decisions and value

22  Financing decisions and value
        Readings: Parrino R. et al., Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, Chapter 16.
        Optional Readings: Berk J., and P. Demarzo, Corporate Finance, Chapters 14, 15, and 16 discuss related concepts if you want more detail.

27  Midland Energy Resources, Inc.: Cost of Capital case
        Readings: Case only
        Homework #1 due at the beginning of class

29  Introduction to business valuation
        Parrino R. et al., Corporate Finance, Chapter 18, pp. 580 – 594.

31  Note that this is a make-up class that is being held on a Friday
        The Free Cash Flow from the Firm (FCFF), Free Cash Flow to Equity (FCFE), Adjusted Present Value (APV), and Capital Cash Flow (CCF) approaches to valuation.

Feb. 3  The cost and market approaches to valuation
5  Berg Electronics case  
Readings: Case only

10  Additional valuation topics: Premiums, discounts, and valuation concepts specific to mergers and acquisitions  
Readings: Pratt, S. P., Business Valuation: Discounts and Premiums, scan Chapters 1, 2, 5, 9, and 13.  
**Homework #2 due at the beginning of class**

12  IBP valuation  

17  Sensitivity analysis, scenario analysis, and simulation analysis  

19  Financial options  
Readings: Parrino et al., Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, Chapter 20.  
*Optional Readings*: Berk J., and P. Demarzo, Corporate Finance, Chapters 20, 21, and 22.  
**Homework #3 due at the beginning of class**

24  Options in corporate finance  
Readings: None

26  Course wrap-up and final exam review  
Readings: Review your course notes.

27  Final Exam