Course Syllabus
FIR 4610-6610-001 Cases in Managerial Finance
Spring 2016
3 Credit Hours

Instructor:  Mr. Leslie Mathis, MS, MBA, MIM, CFA

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Office:  FAB 446
Office Hours:  Mondays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm; Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Class Times & Location: TR 1:00-2:25 pm in FCB 265

Course Overview

Application of tools and principles introduced in previous courses to develop up-to-date problem solving techniques. Cases are approached from the standpoint of top level management and utilize both quantitative and qualitative analyses.

Prerequisites:
FIR 4440 or FIR 7155

Required Texts (and Related Materials):


Students should also obtain a financial calculator. My preferred model is the HP 10bII.

Course Objectives:

--Students (in groups of 3 or 4) should demonstrate their presentation and discussion leadership skills by making a lengthy presentation of a case.

--Students should learn about CFA ethics rules and show their mastery by analyzing a case involving questionable behavior by corporate officials.

--Students need to recognize the importance of following corporate governance procedures and incorporating value creation into the firm’s activities.
---Students must realize the importance of effective working capital management in a firm’s operations.

---Students must know how real world companies can estimate the firm’s cost of capital. They should also recognize how to use this cost of capital in the firm’s financial management.

---Students should be able to recognize the relevant cash flows and know how to use appropriate capital budgeting techniques to recognize profitable and unprofitable capital projects.

---Students must understand how to use stock repurchases and dividend payouts to maximize the firm’s valuation.

---Students should be able to analyze a firm’s financial statements and calculate ratios to make quality business decisions.

**Fogelman College: Learning Outcomes for Your BBA Degree**

http://www.fcbeassessment.net/LearningOutcomes/BBADegreeLearningOutcomes.pdf

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**Grading and Evaluation Criteria**

I will determine final grades based on the following criteria:

Midterm Exam 25%

Final Exam 25%

Attendance 12.5%

Quizzes/Assignments 12.5%

Group Presentation 25%

**Final Course Grades**

I plan to use plus or minus grades for the overall grade. The final grading scale will be as follows:

90 and above = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

Below 60 = F
Final Exam Schedule
The final exam will be held on Thursday, May 5 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the regular classroom.

The final exam for this class will be scheduled according to the Registrar’s academic calendar website.

Course Policies

Attendance:
Students are required to attend all classes. I plan to track attendance on a daily basis. Students missing more than 2 classes will lose 10 points on their attendance grade for each class session missed. There will be no excused or unexcused absences. I give you two absences before I deduct points on your attendance grade.

Academic Integrity:
During tests, students should not use answers generated by other students. Furthermore, they need to keep their test papers flat on their desks, and answers should be covered. If I believe that an exam has been compromised, I reserve the right to have the suspected student or students to retake the exam. Violations may result in academic penalties, including receiving an “F” in the course.

Students will not be allowed to use a cell phone in class during exams. Please turn off all cell phones and place them out of sight.

Students should follow all university and FCBE policies on academic integrity. For further information, refer to http://www.memphis.edu/fcbe/integrity/.

Participation:
I encourage students to participate actively in the discussion. However, we must talk in an organized manner. Raise your hand and wait until you have been recognized.

Exams
The midterm and final exams will be in class and will comprise written discussion questions on cases that students have studied in class during the semester. Students will not have access to the questions before taking the exam. They will be expected to make up any exams missed because of personal illness or emergency. All students will be required to take the final exam.

Reporting Illness or Absence:
You may report any necessary absences by e-mailing me at lmathis@memphis.edu.

Plus or Minus Grades
I plan to use plus or minus grades for the overall grades in this course.
Presentations

Students in teams of 3 or 4 will each present a case during the semester. Each presentation will take a class session. I expect each group to provide a synthesis of the background of the case and to lead the class in a discussion of the most important ideas from the case.

In evaluating your presentation, your instructor will give a grade based on (1) the overall quality and effectiveness of the presentation; (2) the group’s ability to involve the class in a meaningful discussion of the case; (3) how well the group shows mastery of the concepts of the case; and (4) the extent to which the group covers the case completely focusing on the most important ideas. Group members are expected to participate equally in the preparation and in the presentation.

Student Services

Please access the FCBE Student Services page for information about:

- Students with Disabilities
- Tutoring and other Academic Assistance
- Advising Services for Fogelman Students
- Technical Assistance
Course Outline

Tu Jan 19  Orientation
Th Jan 21  Intro to Case Methodology
Tu Jan 26  Case 1 Warren Buffett
Th Jan 28  Case 2 Bill Miller
Tu Feb 2   Case 7 Financial Detective
Th Feb 4   Case 3* Ben & Jerry’s
Tu Feb 9   Case 4* Fed Ex-UPS
Th Feb 11  Case 5* Krispy Kreme
Tu Feb 16  Case 11 Horniman Horticulture
Th Feb 18  Case 12* Guna Fibres
Tu Feb 23  CFA Ethics Overview
Th Feb 25  Sokol Ethics Case
Tu March 1 Midterm Exam
Th March 3 Case 18 Investment Detective

March 8 & 10  Spring Break

Tu March 15 Case 13 Best Practices in Estimating the Cost of Capital
Th March 17 Case 15 Nike
Tu March 22 Case 16* Teletech
Th March 24 Case 19 Worldwide Paper
Tu March 29 Case 20* Target
Th March 31 Case 24* Victoria Chemicals (A)
Tu April 5  Case 28 U of Virginia Health System
Th April 7  Case 29* Gainesboro
Tu April 12 Case 30* Auto Zone, Inc.
Th April 14 Case 43* American Greetings
Tu April 19 Case 45  Jet Blue
Th April 21 Case 46  Rosetta Stone
Tu April 26  Recap

Th May 5   10:30 am-12:30 pm Final Exam