FIR 4610/6610 Cases in Managerial Finance, Sections 1 & 2

Instructor Information:
Instructor’s Name: Mr. Leslie Mathis, MS, MBA, MIM, CFA
Office Hours: M W 11:15-12:15; Tu Th 4:00-5:30
Office Telephone Number: 678-4642
Office Location: FAB 446
E-Mail: LMATHIS@memphis.edu
Class Time and Location: Section 1 Tu Th 11:20-12:45 in FCB 121
Section 2 Tu Th 5:30-6:55 in FCB 365

Course Information:
Required Textbook and Materials:
Business Calculator of the Student’s Choice

Course Policies:

Course Assignments:
The emphasis in this course will be on having quality discussions on the finance cases assigned. In order to be prepared for class discussions, students must read and analyze the cases at home. The ideas presented in the case should be familiar from previous coursework in finance or business. Students may need to refer to finance textbooks in order to refresh their memories on certain topics. It is important to focus on the most important concepts presented in the case without being sidetracked with details that are mostly irrelevant. Some cases may overwhelm students with information. Concentrate on the big picture, and use the details to support the main idea of your argument.

Grading Policy:
I will determine the grades based on students’ performances on the final exams, 1 presentation, attendance, graded assignments, a book review paper, and a series of occasional pop quizzes. The breakdown of final grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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The final exam 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. Students 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.

Students in teams of 2 or 3 will present 1 case during the semester. Each case presentation will take a class session. I expect each group to provide a synthesis of the background of the case and 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.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance at class sessions is mandatory. Students will be allowed 2 absences without penalty. After the initial 2 misses, students will lose 10 points on their attendance grade for each session missed. There will be no such things as excused or unexcused absences. Everyone gets two free chances. Make any necessary absences count as the two freebies.

Academic Integrity Statement:
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 retest the whole class or any individual in the class. 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.

Plus and Minus Grades:
I plan to use plus and minus grades for the overall grades.

Prerequisites:
Students must have taken FIR 4440 (Managerial Finance) in order to be registered for this class.

Warning: A prerequisite and upper division check will be completed once the first class roll has been issued. You must meet the following requirements to be enrolled in any 3000-4000 level business course. Any student seeking a degree in the Fogelman College of Business must (1) have completed all required lower division Business Administration courses with a minimum grade of C (2.0) in each; (2) have a minimum quality point average of 2.25 (ACCT major 2.5) in all required lower division business courses and Math 1312;
and (3) have accumulated 55 hours of course work including the required 9 semester hours of English. Non-business majors must have junior or senior standing and have met specific prerequisites of courses.

If you have not met these requirements, it is your responsibility to correct the situation during the official add period. If you have not met these requirements and have not corrected the situation, you may be administratively dropped.

**Course Outline**

**Th Jan. 14** Orientation

**Tu Jan. 19** Intro to Case Methodology  
**Th Jan. 21** Case 1 Warren Buffett

**Tu Jan. 26** Case 2 Bill Miller & Value Trust  
**Th Jan. 28** Case 3* Ben & Jerry's

**Tu Feb. 2** Case 4* Fed Ex & UPS  
**Th Feb. 4** Case 6 Ratios

**Tu Feb. 9** Case 7* Krispy Kreme  
**Th Feb. 11** Case 9 Horniman Horticulture

**Tu Feb. 16** Case 10 Kota Fibres, Ltd.  
**Th Feb. 18** Case 11* Deutsche Brauerei

**Tu Feb. 23** Case 12 Value Line Part I  
**Th Feb. 25** Case 12 Value Line Part II

**Tu March 2** Case 26* Gainesboro  
**Th March 4** Case 27 EMI Group

**March 8-12** Spring Break

**Tu March 16** Case 13 Best Practices  
**Th March 18** Case 14 Nike

**Tu March 23** Case 15* Teletech  
**Th March 25** Case 17 Investment Detective

**Tu March 30** Case 18 Worldwide Paper  
**Th April 1** Case 19* Target

**Tu April 6** Case 21 Compass Records  
**Th April 8** Case 24* Euroland Foods
Tu April 13  Case 28*  Jet Blue
Th April 15  Case 29 TRX

Tu April 20  Case 35 Deluxe
Th April 22  TBA

Tu April 27  Recap

Th May 6  Final Exam  Section 1 8-10 am; Section 2 5:30-7:30 pm

* Student-led Presentation