Course Syllabus
FIR 4610-6610-001 Cases in Managerial Finance
Fall 2015
3 Credit Hours

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

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Office: FAB 446
Office Hours: MW 11:00 am-12:30 pm & TR 10:00 am-11:15 am
Class Times & Location: TR 11:20-12:45 pm in FCB 261

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, December 10 from 8:00 to 10:00 am 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 Aug 25  Orientation
Th Aug 27  Intro to Case Methodology
Tu Sept 1  Case 1 Warren Buffett
Th Sept 3  Case 2 Bill Miller
Tu Sept 8  Case 7 Financial Detective
Th Sept 10 Case 3* Ben & Jerry's
Tu Sept 15 Case 4* Fed Ex-UPS
Th Sept 17 Case 5* Krispy Kreme
Tu Sept 22 Case 11 Horniman Horticulture
Th Sept 24  TBA
Tu Sept 29 Case 12* Guna Fibres
Th Oct 1   CFA Ethics Overview
Tu Oct 6   Sokol Ethics Case
Th Oct 8   Midterm Exam

Tu Oct 13  Fall Break
Tu Oct 20  Case 15 Nike
Th Oct 22  Case 16* Teletech
Tu Oct 27  Case 18 Investment Detective
Th Oct 29  Case 19 Worldwide Paper
Tu Nov 3   Case 20* Target
Th Nov 5   Case 24 Victoria Chemicals (A)
Tu Nov 10  Case 28 U of Virginia Health System
Th Nov 12  Case 29* Gainesboro
Tu Nov 17  Case 30* Auto Zone, Inc.

Th Nov 19  Case 43* American Greetings
Tu Nov 24  Case 45 Jet Blue
Th Nov 26  Thanksgiving
Tu Dec 1   Recap

Th Dec 10  8am-10 am Final Exam