FIR 7155 M50 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. J (Dr. Jordan)
Virtual Office Hours: Email: sjordan@memphis.edu
Phone: Available upon request
Course web site: https://elearn.memphis.edu
Technical support: Contact Instructional Team or contact helpdesk 901-678-8888
Discussion Board are main communication medium and better than E-Mail: First ask your questions in the https://elearn.memphis.edu discussion board. It’s more efficient, you get quicker and better responses, help your fellow classmates who might have the same questions, and possibly earn grade points; Use email only for issues containing personal information that cannot be posted for public display.

Internet Browser Preparation: - Turn off pop-up blocker software or set it to allow for https://elearn.memphis.edu
- Add https://elearn.memphis.edu to trusted sites in your browser security setting.
- Run the Pre-Login System Check: Checks browser version, settings, plug-ins and computer display settings.

Instructional Team: In addition to Dr. J, Kelley Anderson (kndrsn13@memphis.edu) and Vivek Sharma (vsharma@memphis.edu) will handle day to day administrative matters and will also answer your questions routinely.

Course Goals:
This course is designed to accomplish the following learning outcomes:
(1) Develop leadership, critical thinking & problem solving skills in financial decision making.
(2) Provide you with the intuition, technical knowhow, and technological expertise in:
   a) Valuation of assets, investments, and securities
   b) Sources and cost of financial capital.
(3) Help you attain personal & professional success and lifetime financial security.

Required Textbook:
Essentials of Corporate Finance, 8 th edition (7e & 6e also acceptable)
Authors:
   Stephen A. Ross, MIT
   Randolph W. Westerfield, USC
   Bradford D. Jordan, U. Kentucky
Publisher: McGraw-Hill Irwin

You might find the narrated slides on this site to be useful learning tool

8 th edition has more current examples. However, test questions and quizzes can be answered with the generic concepts that are well rooted in the older editions too. Used books are fine. No access code is needed.

Older Editions (7e and 6e) images are also fine to use in this course.
I personally create and publish scientific knowledge in journals and keep myself abreast with the latest financial information at the SEC, Wall Street Journal newspaper (discount forms available from professors), and the Journal of Finance and will share this knowledge in the discussion boards.

**Grading distribution:**

Please see the “Schedule Activities and Deadlines.xls file” for detailed break-down of grade points assigned for each activity. You letter grade will be based on your accumulated total. The letter grade equivalent for the total points that you score in the course are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96.1 – 100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92.1 – 96</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88.1 – 92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>84.1 – 88</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.1 – 84</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.1 – 80</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.1 – 75</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.1 – 70</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.1 – 65</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.1 – 60</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.1 – 56</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 50</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policies:**

1. Your success in this class is important to me. I will be available to assist you in every possible way of enhancing your learning experience.
2. Students are expected to stay current in their reading assignment preparation and regularly visit the course website.
3. Utmost ethical conduct is expected from everyone. Academic dishonesty and cheating will result in the appropriate academic and university penalties to the extent that an "F" may be assigned for the course grade and the student may be dismissed from the University for Disciplinary Reasons.
4. Caution: The course instructor does not have access or control over administrative issues such as meeting admissions criteria for the Graduate School or completion of prerequisites, if any, by the students. Please contact the program director for any administrative questions.

**Information about the conduct of the course:**

5. Please review the “Schedule, Activities and Deadlines File” carefully. Although the course provides you with the flexibility to read the materials and listen to lectures at your convenience, you must do so BEFORE the important deadlines for each unit.
6. The deadlines, grade weights and activities assigned to each part are included in “Schedule, Activities and Submission Dates.xls” on the course website.
7. Each unit on Elearn course contains following types of materials for the relevant chapter of the textbook. You can pick the media that you like the best: reading the chapter, watching a video slide show, or listening to an audio presentation; or all of the above if you have the time:
   i. Read the Chapter in textbook.
   ii. Regular PowerPoint slides that you can print or review online.
   iii. Narrated PowerPoint slideshow in MP4 video format. Screencast videos can be played directly in streaming format. Please adjust the view or zoom of your internet browser so that the entire presentation is visible on the screen. You can also download the file to play on your computer with VLC software or upload them a video iPod. iPod is optional and not required for the course. VLC software can be downloaded free for playing the clip on

iv. Audio only podcasts in the mp3 format that can be played on an iPod, mp3 player in your car, or with a variety of players on your computer.

8. **Discussion forums and Team learning:** Each unit has a discussion forum link. This is where you can post your questions about the materials in the given unit. As a general rule, discussion boards must be used for learning the materials and not for the purpose of cheating on specific quiz or assignment questions. It is acceptable to ask questions or provide insights about the materials at a broad level. You are strongly encouraged to participate by replying to other posts. Original replies and new posts with meaningful insights that add to class learning on the relevant topics will count towards participation points, if you choose the discussion forum option for course integration activity. Moreover, by becoming the first person to answer a question correctly on the discussion forums you indirectly benefit as follows:

   i. Improve your own understanding of the concepts.
   ii. Create goodwill among your peers which will likely reflect in their peer evaluations.
   iii. Create a positive impression with the professor.

If you have any questions, please post them on the course discussion boards to get participation credit. You will get the quickest responses to your questions by posting them on the discussion forums in the course. So to the extent possible use discussion forums instead of emails as your mode of communication and let’s all help each other learn the materials throughout the course. Repetitive messages are not counted. Also please use subject line to clarify what’s inside so people can avoid opening messages that are simply “Thank you, or Agreed etc.” Please limit direct emails only to issues containing personal information. Use discussion boards extensively for most purposes.

9. **Assignment links:** Whenever applicable, the unit will have a link to the assignment, quiz, report, or case pertaining to unit. A couple of units are for introduction or concept review only. Rest of the units will have a deliverable from your side.

10. **Quizzes:** Each quiz is available for several days on the Elearn website. Note that we are using the elearn.memphis.edu quizzes and NOT the ones on a textbook website. Please submit the quizzes before the respective deadlines. Quiz questions are randomly selected from a pool, making each quiz unique for each student. Quizzes are to be completed individually. You can consult the textbook during the quiz. However, you must read the materials beforehand to avoid running out of time allocated for the quiz. Each quiz has 20 questions to be answered in total 120 minutes for a maximum score of 10 points.

    Please ensure that you take the practice quiz in the Course Structure and overview unit (0% weigh for actual grade) to familiarize yourself with the format and submission process for the quiz. Any glitches should be resolved at this stage as the subsequent quiz score cannot be modified on the basis of submission problems.

11. **Report:** Equity research and valuation report can be completed either individually or the students assigned the same company can work as a team. Company picks and details of the assignment shown in a separate file on the course website.

12. **Peer Evaluation:** Managers frequently evaluate the work of their peers and subordinates in supervisory capacity. The peer evaluation system in this course explicitly aims at honing your review skills. This activity will also provide team learning opportunities where you can learn from the strengths of the best presentation and provide your feedback for improvements. Please list the biggest strength and 2 suggestions for improvements for each report. Finally, rank the reports from best (#1) to last. The format for peer evaluation feedback is available on the course website. 5% of your grade will be determined by how your peers evaluate you and also how you complete the peer evaluation assignment.
13. **Course Integration:** There are several options to complete this final assignment of the course. Choose one of the following (i) Equity report presentation with PowerPoint slides on YouTube video or (ii) Extraordinary Discussion contributions throughout the course or (iii) Google Hangout or Skype Interview on Finance (iv) Critical Summary of Academic Article, or (v) Capital Budgeting Case.

14. All reports, cases, quizzes, and evaluations should be submitted on or before due date specified in the “Schedule, Activities and Deadlines File. DELAYED REPORTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS for any course activity. Those who are waiting until the last day are gambling that no hurdle will come in their way. Unexpected circumstances (like a server being down) can happen at any time so it is good policy to turn in your materials 2 or 3 days in advance.

15. Once again, you success in this course and your career is very important for me. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any help with the materials.

**MBA Degree Program Goals and Objectives:**
This course assists students in achieving the following MBA degree learning outcomes:

**Goal 1: Graduates will be leaders.**
- Understand how leaders can be positive role models.
- Understand how leaders motivate and inspire groups and individuals.
- Understand how leaders communicate a vision.

**Goal 2: Graduates will be technologically competent.**
- Demonstrate proficiency in the use of business application software packages for financial analysis of data.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using the internet to accomplish common business research tasks and market structures.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using technology for communication and presentation.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the use of analytical tools and their applications.

**Goal 3: Graduates will be knowledgeable of social and ethical issues and trends affecting business.**
- Understand how social, ethical, and cultural trends affect business.
- Understand differences across markets and customers.
- Understand how social and ethical issues affect organizational strategies, structures, and systems.

**Goal 4: Graduates will be knowledgeable in functional areas and their integration.**
- Understand and use disciplinary knowledge and skills.
- Integrate disciplinary expertise across functional areas.

**Goal 5: Graduates will be critical thinkers and problem solvers.**
- Demonstrate proficiency in identifying and framing common organizational problems.
- Determine the relevant decision criterion for solving the problem.
- Given the decision criteria, identify and analyze relevant alternatives.