Course Syllabus
FIR 4870/6870 – Risk Management
Fall 2018
3.0 Credit Hours

(Last updated: 06/30/2018)

Instructor: Brian Jones, Instructor
E-mail: Bjones12@memphis.edu
Office: Scheduled meeting times through Bluejeans
Office Hours: Virtual office hours can be scheduled through email to meet via Skype, phone, or Bluejeans (within eCourseware).

Course Overview:
This course provides an overview of risk management. It addresses problems faced by risk managers encompassing traditional aspects of risk management and insurance including insurance, reinsurance, hedging and capital markets as tools to manage or mitigate risk.

Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites:
FIR3410 Financial Management. Also, the student should have a good grasp of basic mathematics and applied writing skills.

Required Texts (and Related Materials):
Recommended Texts (and Related Materials):


Location of Course Materials:

This is a classroom course, but most of the associated course materials (lectures, discussion topics, news, etc.) are located on the eCourseware website: [https://elearn.memphis.edu](https://elearn.memphis.edu)

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with fundamentals of risk management. By successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the meaning of risk and how it affects decisions.

2. Learn the various strategies for handling risk such as insurance, hedging, etc.

3. Be able to explain the risk management process.

4. Understand types of insurance and how each uniquely handles a risk such as health, life, disability, and long-term care.

5. Understand education planning

Fogelman College: Learning Outcomes for Your Degree

This course is designed to help you to meet the overall learning objectives for the BBA degree offered by the Fogelman College. You should take the time to become familiar with the overall learning objectives as a student in the program.

[http://www.fcbeassessment.net/LearningOutcomes/PhDDegreeLearningOutcomes.pdf](http://www.fcbeassessment.net/LearningOutcomes/PhDDegreeLearningOutcomes.pdf)
Course Methodology

This is an online course and much of the learning will be self-managed and self-paced. This has the benefit of accommodating each student’s unique schedule and learning style. Everything will be done fully online and asynchronously (meaning the class will not meet at specific times).

Professor's Expectations of Students:

1. Your success in this class is important to us. We 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.

Student's Expectations of Professor:

In my role as your instructor, there are certain things you can expect from me including well-organized and engaging learning experience, response to emails within two (2) business days (most likely sooner) and feedback on all work submitted within 7-10 calendar days.

Grading and Evaluation Criteria

Over the semester, you will have a variety of opportunities to earn points towards your final (overall) letter grade in this course. This section of the syllabus describes the assessed work you will be doing and how overall (final) letter grades will be computed.
Final Course Grades:

The letter grade equivalent to the total points that you score in the course are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<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>

Graded Activities

Points earned on the assessed activities will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Multiple Choice Quizzes</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forum Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Topics and Schedule of Activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Basic Concepts in Risk Management and Insurance: Chapter 1 - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Introduction to Risk Management and Advanced Topics in Risk Management: Chapter 3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>The Private Insurance Industry: Chapters 5,6,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Government Regulation and Legal Principles in Risk and Insurance: Chapter 8-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Life Insurance: Chapter 11-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 6</td>
<td>Risk Management for the Individual Clients: Chapter 14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 7</td>
<td>Education Planning: Additional Reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final Exam Schedule:

*See detailed schedule of activities in eCourseware

There will be no final exam, but rather, 7 quiz grades which equal 56% of your final grade. The rest of your grade is comprised of 1 projects (24%) and discussion (20%).

**Conduct of the Course:**

The course includes 2 tracks. Track 1 (Tools track) focuses on tools and will be more beneficial for non-FIR majors. Track 2 (Advanced Finance track) focuses on advanced financial analysis and will be more beneficial to FIR majors. The course projects are tailored per the track and detailed in the course schedule.

1. **Please review the schedule 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.

2. **Each unit on E-learn course contains following types of materials** for the relevant chapter of the textbook. Choose the media that you like the best: reading the chapter; watching a video slideshow; or all of the above if you have the time:

   - **i.** Read the Chapter in the textbook
   - **ii.** Regular powerpoint slides that you can print or review online.
   - **iii.** Narrated powerpoint slideshow or Screencast videos created by the instructional team 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 to an iPad. iPad is optional and not required for the course. VLC software can be downloaded free for playing the clip on your computer from their website [http://www.videolan.org/vlc/](http://www.videolan.org/vlc/). A google search also offers solutions for playing MP4 in windows player etc. For example, see [http://www.afterdawn.com/guides/archive/how_to_play_mp4_files.cfm](http://www.afterdawn.com/guides/archive/how_to_play_mp4_files.cfm).

   - **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.
3. **Discussion Forum 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 purposes 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,

   *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 the 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.

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

5. **Quizzes:** Each quiz is available for several days on the e-learn website. Note that we are using the elearn.memphis.edu quizzes and NOT the ones on the 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% weight for the 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.

6. **Project/Report:** See course website for a detailed project description.

**Track 1:** Students on the Tools track will develop their modeling and data analysis skills throughout the semester and deliver their work in a report format. **Track 2:** Equity research and valuation report should be completed individually. Company picks and details of the assignment shown in a separate file on the course website. For peer evaluation teams of judges will evaluate the individual reports.

7. **Peer Evaluation:** Managers frequently evaluate the work of their peers and subordinates in the 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. The suggestions 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.

**Course Policies**

**E-MAIL:**

All students are required to maintain and access their University of Memphis (@memphis.edu) email account. You will receive all official course correspondence at this email account. Any inability to receive incoming mail in a timely fashion (e.g., not regularly checking your email, having a “full mailbox” condition, etc.) is the student’s responsibility.

**Attendance:**

Since this is an online class taught asynchronously, there are no scheduled meeting times. Thus, formal attendance will not be taken. However, you are expected to stay active and engaged throughout the academic term and keep
up with the schedule of activities. Your full engagement in the class begins on
the first day of the semester and should be maintained until the last assignment
is submitted. For students receiving federal student loans, any lack of
engagement in the course may be treated as non-attendance and potentially
impact access to student loans in the future.

Adding/Dropping:

If you have questions about adding or dropping classes, please refer to this
page on the Registrar’s website.

Academic Integrity:

The University of Memphis has clear codes regarding cheating and classroom
misconduct. If interested, you may refer to the Student Handbook section on
academic misconduct for a discussion of these codes. Note that using a
“Solutions Manual” is considered cheating. Should your professor have
evidence that using a “Solutions Manual” has occurred, he/she may take steps
as described on the campus’ Office of Student Conduct website. If you have
any questions about academic integrity or plagiarism, you are strongly
encouraged to review the Fogelman College's Website on Academic Integrity.

Participation:

All participants in the course should be considerate of the other course
participants and treat them (as well as their opinions) with respect. The class
will operate under the assumption that any and all feedback offered is positive
in nature and that the intentions of the person(s) providing feedback are strictly
honorable. Insensitivity in this area will not be tolerated. If you have any
questions about online communication, you should review the Fogelman
College's Netiquette website.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted, except under extraneous
circumstances, and as arranged in advanced between instructor and student.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit offered in this course. Your final grade will be computed
based on your work on the formal/assessed activities previously described in
this syllabus.
Reporting Illness or Absence:

Due dates and deadlines have been established for each graded assignment. In this course, deadlines are taken very seriously. Please do not wait until the last day to submit assignments or to take quizzes and exams. If an emergency should arise, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor prior to the deadline to discuss the matter. A deadline extension will be considered only if all of the following conditions are met: (1) Extreme emergency and (2) Instructor contacted prior to the due date.

Inclement Weather:

In the event that inclement weather requires the cancellation of classes at The University of Memphis, local radio and television media will be immediately notified. Additionally, The University of Memphis has established an Inclement Weather Hotline at 678-0888 as well as TigerText, an emergency alert text messaging service to students, faculty and staff. This optional service is used in the event of an on-campus emergency, an unscheduled university closing, or a delay or cancellation of classes due to, for instance, inclement weather. Click Here for information on TigerText.

Syllabus Changes:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and by posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

Student Services:

Please access the FCBE Student Services (New Window) page for information about:

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