Course Syllabus
FIR 4610-6610 Cases in Managerial Finance
Spring 2019
3.0 Credit Hours

Instructor: Mr. Leslie Mathis, MS, CFA
Phone 1: 901.678.4642
E-mail: lrmath@memphis.edu
Office: FAB 446
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:30-12:30 in FAB 446
Class Times & Location: Monday and Wednesday 2:20-3:45 in FCB 385

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.

Pre-Requisites:
FIR 4440 (Intermediate Managerial Finance) or FIR 7155

Required Texts (and Related Materials):
Case Studies in Finance: Managing for Corporate Value Creation, 8th edition by Bruner, Eades, & Schill.

Students should also obtain the Hewlett Packard 10 bii financial calculator.

Course Objectives:
--Students (in groups of 2 or 3) should demonstrate their presentation and discussion leadership skills by making a lengthy case presentation.

--Students need to recognize the importance of following corporate governance procedures and incorporating value creation into the firm’s activities.

--Students must understand 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 determine if capital projects are profitable or not.

--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**

Goal 1: Graduates will be effective communicators.

Goal 2: Graduates will demonstrate critical thinking skills.

Goal 3: Graduates will be knowledgeable about ethical factors in the business environment.

Goal 4: Graduates will be knowledgeable about the global business environment.

Goal 5: Graduates will be proficient users of business presentation and analysis technology.

**Course Methodology**

**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/Discussion 25%

**Final Course Grades**

The final grading scale will be as follows:

92.0 and above = A

90.0-91.9 = A-

88.0—89.9 = B+

82.0-87.9 = B

80.0-81.9 = B-

78.0-79.9 = C+

72.0-77.9= C
70.0-71.9 = C-
60-69 = D
Below 60 = F

**Final Exam Schedule**
The final exam for this class will be on Wednesday, May 1 at 10 am in the regular classroom.

---

**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:**
Students are required to attend all classes. I plan to track attendance on a daily basis. Students who miss more than 2 classes will lose 10 points on their attendance grade for each class session missed.

**Academic Integrity:**
During tests, students should not use answers generated by other students. If I believe that an exam has been compromised, I reserve the right to have the suspected student retake the exam. Furthermore, students will not be able to use a cell phone in class during exams. Please turn off all cell phones and keep them out of sight.

**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.

**Extra Credit:**
There is no extra credit offered in this course. Your final grade will be computed based on your work as previously described in this syllabus.

**Exams:**
The midterm and final exams will be in class and will comprise written discussion questions on cases that students have done 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.
Plus or Minus Grades

I plan to use plus or minus grades for the overall grades in this course.

Presentations

Students in teams of 2 or 3 will each present a case during the semester. Each presentation will last about an hour or slightly longer. 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.

Course Outline

M Jan 14 Orientation
W Jan 16 Intro to Cases
M Jan 21 Labor Day
W Jan 23 Case 1 Warren Buffett

M Jan 28 Case 2* Fed Ex-UPS
W Jan 30 Case 3 Puglia & Blue-Chip Growth Fund
M Feb 4 Case 6 Financial Detective
W Feb 6 Case 8^ Horniman Horticulture

M Feb 11 Case 9* Guna Fibres
W Feb 13 Case 10 Best Practices
M Feb 18 Case 12^ HJ Heinz
W Feb 20 Case 14 Chestnut Foods

M Feb 25 Case 15* Target
W Feb 27 Midterm Exam
March 4-10 Spring Break

M March 11 Case 16^ Investment Detective
W March 13 Case 17 Centennial Pharmaceutical
M March 18 Case 18^ Worldwide Paper
W March 20 Case 20* Victoria Chemicals (A)
M March 25 Case 24 U. Va. Health System
W March 27 CFA Ethics
M April 1 Sokol Ethics Case
W April 3 Case 26* Rockboro Machine Tools
M April 8 Case 28* Autozone
W April 10 Case 36 J.C.Penney

M April 15 Case 39 Vale, S.A.
W April 17 Case 46 Ferrari IPO
W April 22 Case 45^ American Greetings
W April 24 Recap
W May 1 10 am Final Exam