

FINA 4210: Applied Corporate Finance
Fall 2008
MWF, 9:05-9:55, Sanford 212

Instructor: Dr. Chris Pope
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Office Hours: 1-2 pm, Tuesday and Thursdays

Course Description:

This course develops a student's ability to make business decisions. Specifically, a student learns to gather information, evaluate the information in light of theory and standard practice, and arrive at value-creating decisions. In addition to identifying value-creating decisions, students must be able to communicate the basis for their decision to both sophisticated and unsophisticated audiences.

The approach to learning this material will be a combination of lecture and the preparation, presentation and discussion of business cases. This approach allows students to learn a topic and then see its application of concepts within a business context. My goal is to teach you to think independently about a business problem and to be able to communicate your results in a clear manner.

The course covers the following topics: ratio analysis, cost of capital, capital budgeting, mergers and acquisitions, valuation, dividend policy, short-term and long-term financial policy, and the corporate finance implications of market efficiency. As time allows, we will also look at topics such as corporate governance and real options.

Course Materials:

- Corporate Finance, Smart and Megginson. (Suggested, but any corporate finance text will be helpful)
- Any financial calculator. It should be able to calculate NPV at a minimum.
- Case Packet found at Bel-Jean copy center
- Occasional notes and problem sets posted to webct

Pre-Requisites:

Officially, this course only requires FINA 3000 and FINA 4200. If you do not have FINA 4200, you will struggle to keep up. Many of the assignments will be made easier with some competency in Microsoft Excel, so I would recommend taking FINA 4920 prior to this class or concurrently at the least.

Website

There is a WebCT website for this class. Students are responsible for all messages posted to that website. All solutions to class problems will be posted to the site. In addition, for every case we cover, the site includes clarifying comments and some suggested analyses with which one can begin to examine the case. Most importantly, the syllabus in the course content section of WebCT is the definitive syllabus for the course – it reflects the most recent information.

Policies

The following policies should be clearly understood by every student.

- ◆ Attendance is required for every class. Students should be aware that to obtain the equivalent understanding of one hour of class time will take three hours of additional study. Class attendance will be recorded for classes with case presentations.
- ◆ Students are responsible for all notices posted on the class website.
- ◆ Students are required to take exams and turn in assignments at their scheduled time. There will be no exceptions, make-up exams or alternative assignments. Students should be aware that later assignments tend to be more difficult than earlier assignments.
- ◆ Honesty is a fundamental principle of academic, business and community life. Students are expected to demonstrate the highest degree of honesty in performing work assigned to them. If there are any questions as to what is expected, these should be discussed with the professor. For example, unless otherwise explicitly stated, all work is to be done individually without any assistance. Students are always expected to conform to the University of Georgia academic codes of honesty as spelled out in the Student Handbook.

Course Evaluation:

Your grade will be determined from the scale below:

Test 1 (Wednesday, October 1st)	20%
Test 2 (Wednesday, November 19th)	20%
Final Exam	10%
Collected Case Writeups and Homeworks	30%
Group Case Writeup and Presentation	10%
Participation	10%

There will be two in-class tests during the semester and a cumulative final. The final will be the analysis of a case. During the semester, several of the assigned cases will have writeups collected for a grade. Your writeups will be graded for quality of analysis as well as the quality of your presentation. Towards the end of the semester, you will be assigned a group case that will require a writeup and formal presentation. The final component of your grade will be based on participation and the occasional collected homework assignment.

Groups:

Students are encouraged to discuss the assigned cases in groups outside of class. This will help you with your understanding of the material. However, collected work is expected to be your OWN effort. Violations of the Honor Code will be dealt with severely.

Other info:

Students are encouraged to come by my office whenever they have a problem with the material, (even if outside of posted hours). I can also be reached rather quickly through email. I only ask that you be prepared when you come by the office, so I can effectively help you with the material. The syllabus is subject to change.