

Course Syllabus

Cases in Finance MBA 682-50 3 Credit Hours

Course Description

By employing a case study approach focusing on complex problems, students gain a deeper understanding of corporate forecasting, capital budgeting, cost of capital analysis, and the financing of capital investments. The impact of financial decisions on strategic investment completes the course.

The course combines a theoretical approach to the understanding of finance, with examples of how this theoretical knowledge is applied in practical situations. Through such key concepts as cost of capital, term structure of interest rates, capital budgeting, optimal capital structure, and maximization of shareholder value, students learn the analytical techniques necessary to make rational financial decisions.

Course Objectives

At completion of the course, students will be able to:

- ⇒ Identify and successfully use the appropriate financial tool(s) in analyzing data
- ⇒ Perform financial analysis by applying relevant formula and models
- ⇒ Critically evaluate the financial decisions of selected cases
- ⇒ Process financial theory and apply it to practical situations
- ⇒ Develop solutions to case studies involving complex variables

Instructor

Dr. Matthew W. Will

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Class Format & Meeting Times

Tuesday 5:45 pm – 8:45 pm

Face-to-Face

Required Materials

Case Studies in Finance: Managing for Corporate Value Creation by Bruner, Eades, Schill, 7th edition, New York, NY, 2014 ISBN: 978-0-07-786171-1

EMail Account - (Send EMail to instructor BEFORE 2nd class)

Office Hours – By appointment

Recommended Material

Principles of Corporate Finance by Richard Brealey, Stewart Myers, and Franklin Allen

Required Stuff

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

You must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without giving an appropriate acknowledgement to the source. You must give due credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness wherever you:

- Quote another person's actual words, either oral or written;
- Paraphrase another person's words, either oral or written;
- Use another person's ideas, opinions, or theories; or
- Cite facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.

All assignments must be your original work and not the work of other students. Neither group work nor the individual work of another student may be submitted by you. Submission of such work will be considered academic misconduct. Incidents of academic misconduct, dishonesty and/or plagiarism will be handled as per the Student Handbook.

According to the Student Handbook:

Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct: The students, faculty, and administrators of the University of Indianapolis commit themselves to the highest level of ethical conduct in academic affairs. The University of Indianapolis, therefore, adopts regulations concerning Academic Misconduct to safeguard the academic integrity of the institution. Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following circumstances: (A) Cheating, (B) Fabrication, (C) Plagiarism, (D) Interference, (E) Violation of Course Rules, (F) Facilitating Academic Dishonesty, and (G) Abuse of Confidentiality. For a full statement of the policy refer to the University of Indianapolis Student Handbook, Section I, Academic Information.

ADA & Disability Accommodation

The professor will provide accommodation for students qualifying for disability-related needs. The student should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) to begin the process. (see <http://www.uindy.edu/ssd> for more information).

Class Attendance, Preparation & Participation

Class attendance is an important part of the academic process, and you are expected to attend classes regularly and to manage your schedule in order to meet the demands of this course. If you are absent, you will be responsible for arranging makeup work to be completed prior to the absence or immediately upon return to class at the instructor's discretion. As per the student handbook, reasonable documentation or verification of claims regarding absences may be requested.

Class preparation is critical to success in this course. You are expected to:

- (a) read the assigned material prior to arriving to class, as well as
- (b) review the solved problem illustrations in the chapter and
- (c) prepare a list of questions that you have about the topic.
- (d) participate in class discussions

Please note that the course topics build upon prerequisite knowledge of fundamental business concepts, algebra and basic spreadsheet skills. If you feel you may be deficient in any of these areas, you are encouraged to review them and/or seek tutoring outside of class.

Recording & Copyright Policy

Recording of course lectures and reproduction of class content is not permitted without his expressed permission of Dr. Will. All content created by Dr. Will is copyrighted and he reserves all rights of reproduction and distribution.

Important Stuff

Course Requirements

40% Presentations

40% Analyses

20% Final Exam

Grading

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

F 0-69%

Pluses and minuses are assigned at the instructor's discretion.

Presentations – Students will self select groups and work together to present assigned cases. This will include problem identification, core questions to be answered, analysis and recommendations. The presentation must utilize PowerPoint slides and “Presenters” should provide copies of the slides to each student. The Presenters must be prepared to respond to the critique from student analysts. Grading will be based upon appropriate identification of questions, accurate and thorough analyses, quality of decisions, and response to Analysts’ critiques. Presentations should include a BRIEF review of the *relevant* case facts and consume no more time than is necessary to cover the relevant questions, analysis and decision.

Analyses – Students not presenting the case will be randomly selected as “Analysts” of the presentation. They are responsible to prepare for the case presentation by reading and understanding the case issues. Some preliminary analyses may be helpful. Analysts must critique, question, challenge, discover inconsistencies, and provide additional insights to the Presenters. Grading will be based on the quality and quantity of these contributions to the case discussion. Part of the analysis requirement of the course includes participation in current events analysis and other non-presented cases. Students are required to participate.

Final Exam – The final exam will be a comprehensive case analysis. It is a take home case and will be submitted electronically.

MBA 682 Schedule

Date	Topic	Case 1	Case 2
17-May	Class Introduction	Disney (download)	
24-May	Market Efficiency and Value Creation	(2) Bill Miller Team 1	(4) Federal Express Team 2
31-May	Capital Budgeting	(21) Aurora Textile Team 3	(20) Target Team 4
7-Jun	Current Events	Team 1	Team 2
14-Jun	Cost of Capital	(34) Wrigley Team 3	Chrysler Warrants Team 1
21-Jun	Payout Policy	Brown-Forman Distillers Team 4	(17) Boeing Team 3
28-Jun	Current Events	Team 3	Team 4
5-Jul	NO CLASS		
12-Jul	Firm Valuation	(29) Gainsboro Team 1	(30) Autozone, Inc. Team 4
19-Jul	Firm Valuation	(45) Jet Blue Team 3	(50) Flinder Valves Team 2
26-Jul	Class Case	British Aerospace (download)	Review Final Exam
2-Aug	FINAL EXAM DUE	Exam Discussion	