

FINN 400 – Applied Corporate Finance

Fall Semester 2017

(Tentative-Under review)

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COURSE BASICS					
Credit Hours	3				
Lecture(s)	Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week	2	Duration		
Recitation/Lab (per week)	Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week		Duration		
Tutorial (per week)	Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week		Duration		

COURSE DISTRIBUTION				
Core	ACF - Core			
Elective				
Open for Student Category				
Close for Student Category				

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description: Applied Corporate Finance is a case-based course in intermediate level finance. It provides insights into the role of the financial manager, whose primary responsibility consists of acquiring funds needed by the firm and directing these funds into projects that will maximize the value of the firm for its shareholders. In reaching this objective, financial managers perform a variety of tasks such as financial analysis and forecasting of cash flows; analysis of working capital; project evaluation and risk analysis; evaluating financing choices available to the firm; valuation of financial and real assets including valuation of M&A candidates, and cross-border transactions involving foreign currencies and global financial markets.

Course Focus and Modules: As an applied course, the focus is on: (a) application of financial concepts, models, and tools to address typical problems faced by financial managers, (b) examining financial theories and concepts in light of corporate practices and empirical evidence for better understanding of the critical success factors and processes related to financing, investment, and payout decisions of firms, and (c) interaction of financing and investment decisions and how they interface with capital markets and impact firm value.

The course is divided into following four modules:

Module 1: Overview of Financial Analysis and Financial Forecasting Module 2: Cost of Capital, Capital Budgeting, and Resource Allocation Module 3: Financing, Capital Structure, and Dividend Policy Decisions

Module 4: Firm Valuation, M&A, and Special Topics in Finance

COURSE PREREQUISITE(S)				
FINN 200	Intermediate Finance			



COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate understanding of the fundamental concepts, mainstream theories, and practices in corporate finance;
- 2. Analyze financing and investment choices faced by financial managers based on financial theories and empirical evidence;
- 3. Apply relevant financial concepts, tools, and theories to critically analyze and evaluate business problems/financial decisions and recommend action consistent with the objective of creating value for shareholders;
- 4. Evaluate the interaction of firm specific variables with wider economic and financial factors in the securities markets and its impact on firm's choices;
- 5. Discuss and debate a variety of topics in finance relevant to financial managers including the ethical and global perspectives in making financial decisions;
- 6. Present and defend their analysis and recommendations effectively, both in oral and written forms. (General Learning Goal)

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM LEARNING GOALS & OBJECTIVES

General Learning Goals & Objectives

Goal 1 - Effective Written and Oral Communication

Objective: Students will demonstrate effective writing and oral communication skills

Goal 2 - Ethical Understanding and Reasoning

Objective: Students will demonstrate that they are able to identify and address ethical issues in an organizational context.

Goal 3 – Analytical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills

Objective: Students will demonstrate that they are able to identify key problems and generate viable solutions.

Goal 4 - Application of Information Technology

Objective: Students will demonstrate that they are able to use current technologies in business and management context.

Goal 5 – Teamwork in Diverse and Multicultural Environments

Objective: Students will demonstrate that they are able to work effectively in diverse environments.

Goal 6 – Understanding Organizational Ecosystems

Objective: Students will demonstrate that they have an understanding of Economic, Political, Regulatory, Legal, Technological, and Social environment of organizations.

Major Specific Learning Goals & Objectives

Goal 7 (a) - Program Specific Knowledge and Understanding

Objective: Students will demonstrate knowledge of key business disciplines and how they interact including application to real world situations. (including subject knowledge)

Goal 7 (b) - Understanding the "science" behind the decision-making process (for MGS Majors)

Objective: Students will demonstrate ability to analyze a business problem, design and apply appropriate decision-support tools, interpret results and make meaningful recommendations to support the decision-maker



Indicate below how the course learning objectives/outcomes specifically relate to any program learning goals and objectives.

PROGRAM LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES	COURSE ASSESSMENT ITEM
Goal 1 –Effective Written and Oral Communication	Students get a number of opportunities to demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively (CLO #6)	CP, Cases, and Exam
Goal 2 –Ethical Understanding and Reasoning	Ethical perspectives in some of the case studies are highlighted (CLO #5)	Cases and Exam (minor component)
Goal 3 – Analytical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills	Major Goal: Analytical thinking and problem solving skills are essential for success in this course (CLO #1-4)	CP, Quizzes, Assignments, Cases, and Exam
Goal 4 – Application of Information Technology	Application of information technology in preparing cases analyses and assignments	Assignments, Cases
Goal 5 – Teamwork in Diverse and Multicultural Environments	Students work in groups of 3-4 persons each to prepare case analyses and case briefs. Most case settings are global and multicultural.	Cases
Goal 6 – Understanding Organizational Ecosystems	Develop students understanding of the interaction of firm specific variables with the securities markets, industry, and the economy (CLO #4)	CP, Quizzes, Assignments, Cases, and Exam
Goal 7 (a) – Program Specific Knowledge and Understanding (Subject Knowledge)	Major Goal: Comprehensive coverage of topics in Applied Corporate Finance (CLO #1-5)	CP, Quizzes, Assignments, Cases, and Exam
Goal 7 (b) – Understanding the "science" behind the decision-making process	NA	NA

GRADING BREAKUP AND POLICY

The course grade is based on the following criteria:

Source	% of Total
Class Participation	15
Quizzes/Assignments	30
Mid-Term Exam	25
Final Examination (comprehensive)	30
Total	100

Class Participation and Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes. If you are not present at the beginning of a class or leave class during the session without instructor's prior permission, you will be considered absent for the day. You must review the assigned materials in advance of the class in order to contribute meaningfully to class discussions.

Quizzes: Several unannounced quizzes will be given on the assigned material (readings, cases assignments, etc.) during the term. No make-up quizzes will be given. However, the lowest quiz grade including a zero for a missed quiz will be disregarded.

Assignments: Spreadsheet-based assignments are designed to sharpen your financial analysis skills. The format and other requirements will be specified by the instructor. All assignments must be submitted on the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Examination: Both exams (mid-term and final) will comprise a blend of MCQs and open-ended questions, caselets, or case-like situations.

Calculator Requirement: You will need a financial calculator capable of performing present value/future value functions. For example, Texas Instrument BA II meets these criteria. Many other brands are equally suitable for this course.



EXAMINATIO	EXAMINATION DETAIL					
Midterm Exam	Yes/No: Yes Combine/Separate: - Combined Duration: - 3 Hours Preferred Date: - Exam Specifications: Financial calculator and 1-Page A-4 size formula sheet is allowed					
Final Exam	Yes/No: Yes Combine Separate: Duration: 3 Hours Exam Specifications: Financial calculator and 1-Page A-4 size formula sheet is allowed					

COURSE SCHEDULE							
MODULE/ SESSION	SESSION TOPIC AND CASE	READING MATERIAL	SESSION OUTCOME(S) (STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO)				
	Module 1: Overview of Financial Analysis and Financial forecasting						
Session 1	Topic : Overview of Corporate Finance Reading: Note to the Student: How to Study and Discuss Cases	RWJ Ch 1: Introduction to Corporate Finance (Optional) ¹	-Appreciate the scope of corporate finance and how finance can be a source of value for a firm. (CLO # 1) -Understand how to study and benefit from the case method approach. (CLO # 1-6)				
Session 2	 Topic: Analyzing the Firms Operations and Environment Case: Z-Factor Rescue by the Numbers 	BS Chapter 6: Analyzing the Firm's Operations	Analyze the firm's operations and its environment. (CLO # 1)				
Session 3	Topic: Financial Analysis & Performance Assessment Case: Krispy Kreme Doghnts, Inc.; BES #8	BS Chapter 6: Analyzing the Firm's Operations	Examine linkages between corporate strategy and firm's performance. (CLO # 1)				
Session 4	Topic: Free Cash Flows and Building Financial Models Case: The Thoughtful Forecaster, BES #6	BS Chapter 4: Building Pro- Forma Financial Statements	Estimate and forecast free cash flows and its applications in building financial models for valuation. (CLO # 1)				
Session 5	Topic: Financial Analysis & Forecasting Case: The Body Shop International PLC 2001: An Introduction to Financial Modeling; BES #9	BS Chapter 4: Building Pro- Forma Financial Statements	Evaluate firm's health and forecast performance. (CL # 1)				
Session 6	Topic: Corporate Financial Strategy and Financial Markets Case: Bill Miller and Value Trust; BES #2	Market Efficiency	Understand linkages between corporate financial strategy and financial markets. (CLO # 5)				



Module 2: Cost of Capital, Capital Budgeting, and Resource Allocation				
	Topic: Cost of Capital – Theory and			Examine various approaches and issues
Session 7	Practice	•	BS: Capital Structure and Cost of Capital	in estimating cost of capital of a firm. (CLO # 1)
	Case: Roche Holding Ag: Funding the Genentech Acquisition; BES # 14			
Session 8	Topic: Estimating Cost of Capital of the Firm Case: Nike, Inc.: Cost of Capital; BES # 15	•	Survey: "Best Practices" in Estimating the Cost of Capital: An Update, 2013.	Apply theory and insights from practice to estimate a firm's cost of capital. (CLO # 3,6)
Session 9	Topic: Multifaceted Capital Investment Decisions Case: The Investment Detective BES # 18	•	RWJ Ch 6-7: Making Capital Investment Decisions and Risk in Capital Budgeting (Optional)	Plan and evaluate multifaceted capital investment projects. (CLO # 2,3)
Session 10	Topic: Capital Budgeting – Relevant Cash Flows Case: Victoria Chemicals plc (A): The Merseyside Project; BES # 24		RWJ Ch 6-7: Making Capital Investment Decisions and Risk in Capital Budgeting (Optional)	Estimate relevant cash flows to evaluate capital project(s) of a firm. (CLO # 2,3,6)
Session 11	Topic: Risk in Capital Budgeting Case: The Procter and Gamble Company - BES # 23	•	RWJ Ch 18: Valuation and Capital Budgeting for the Levered Firm (Optional)	Apply scenario analysis in capital project decision. (CLO # 2,3)
Session 12	Topic: Working Capital Management Policies Case: Dell's Working Capital	•	RWJ Ch 26-28: Short-Term Financing, Cash, Receivable and Inventory Management (Optional)	Appraise a firm's working capital policies and short-term financing requirements. (CLO # 1, 2,3)
		pita	l Structure, and Dividend Poli	icy Decisions
Session 13	Topic: Structuring Corporate Financial Policy Case: Structuring Corporate Financial	•	BS: Capital Structure and Cost of Capital	Examine and evaluate various financing choices available to modern corporations and their impact on firm value. (CLO # 2,3)
Session 14	Policy; BES # 32 Topic: Analysis of Leverage Restructuring *Case: The Wm Wrigley Jr. Co.; BES # 34	•	BES: An Introduction to Debt Policy and Value (#31)	Analyze change in capital structure and its impact on firm's value. (CLO # 2,3,4,6)
Session 15	Topic: Financial Flexibility and Alternative Sources of Financing Case: Deluxe Corp.; BES # 35	•	BES: Structuring Corporate Financial Policy (#32)	Understand the value of financial flexibility and its impact. (CLO # 3,4)
Session 16	Topic: Introduction to Leasing	•	RWJ Ch 21: Leasing (Optional)	Understand leasing as an alternative to corporate borrowing. (CLO # 2,3)
Session 17	*Case: Primus Automation Division, 2002- BES # 40	•	RWJ Ch 21: Leasing (Optional)	Evaluate lease financing as an alternative to borrowing. (CLO # 2,3,6)



	Topic: Dividends and Alternative	•	RWJ Ch 19: Dividend and	Evaluate corporate dividend polices in
	Payouts		other Payouts (Optional)	light of finance theory and business
			(Cp:::::::)	practices.
Session 18	Case: Gainesboro Machine Tools			(CLO # 2,3)
	Corporation - BES # 29			
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			on, M&A, and Special Topics in	
	Topic: Alternative Methods of Firm	•	BS: Valuation by Multiples	Understand alternative methods of firm
	Valuation			valuation. (CLO # 3)
Session 19				
	Case: Methods of Valuation for			
	Mergers and Acquisitions – BES #42	₩		
C: 20	Topic: Valuation of the Firm	•	BS: Valuation by Multiples	Apply free cash flows and market
Session 20	Case: American Greetings – BES #43			multiples approaches to value a firm. (CLO # 2,3,6)
	Topic: Raising Capital Through Public	•	RWJ Ch 20: Issuing	Understand why companies go public.
Session 21	Offerings: IPO Valuation		Securities to the Public	(CLO # 2,3,6)
		<u> </u>	(Optional)	
	Topic: The IPO Process	•	RWJ Ch 20: Issuing	Understand the IPO process and apply
Session 22			Securities to the Public	valuation techniques in an initial offering.
	Case: The First Meat Sector IPO: Al		(Optional)	(CLO # 2,3,6)
	Shaheer Corporation, LUMS	₽		
	Topic: Introduction to Adjusted	•	RWJ Ch 18: Valuation and	Understand adjusted present value (APV)
C! 22	Present Value (APV)		Capital Budgeting for the	and its applications as an alternative to
Session 23	Constituing ADV. A Dotton Tool for		Levered Firm (Optional)	WACC based valuation. (CLO # 1,5)
	Case: Using APV: A Better Tool for			
	Valuing Operations Topic: Merger and Acquisition	╁	BES # 42: Methods of	Apply various valuation methods to
	Evaluation	•	Valuation for Mergers and	appraise merger and acquisition
Session 24	Lvaldation		Acquisitions)	candidates. (CLO # 3,6)
	Case: Sun Microsystems; BES # 48		Acquisitions	Canadates. (CLO # 3,0)
	Topic: Financial Distress and	•	RWJ Ch 30: Financial	Appreciate special situations such as
	Corporate Restructuring		Distress and Restructuring	financial distress that typically require
Session 25			(Optional)	corporate restructuring & reassessment.
	Case: Massey Ferguson, 1980		· · · /	(CLO # 5)
	Topic: International Corporate	•	RWJ Ch 31: International	Appreciate issues and complexities in
Session 26	Finance – Currency Risk Management		Corporate Finance	evaluating cross border investing and
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	Case: Carrefour S.A. – BES #37 (CDC)	<u> </u>		
	Topic: Ethical Perspectives in Finance			Understand the ethical perspective in
Session 27				financial decisions and its implications for
3033.311 27	Case: Ethics in Finance			firm value. (CLO # 5)
	Final Exam Review	\vdash		
Sessions 28	Final Exam Review			

¹Note: Reading material designated as "Optional" is not part of the study pack. You may use any standard Corporate Finance textbook of your choice to review the session topic.



TEXTBOOK(S)/SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Casebook:

Bruner, Eades, and Schill, Case Studies in Finance: Managing for Corporate Value Creation, 7th Edition, McGraw Hill/Irwin Series in Finance, 2014. (BES)

Textbook:

No specific textbook is required for this course. You may use any standard corporate finance textbook to review the assigned topic. A number of corporate finance textbooks are listed below. The course schedule refers to relevant chapters from Corporate Finance by Ross, Westerfield, and Jaffe (RWJ) for your convenience (indicated as "Optional"). Material indicated as "Optional" is not mandatory reading. You can substitute this material with any textbook of your choice. The study pack does not contain readings designated as "Optional".

Reference Books:

- Ross, Westerfield and Jaffe, *Corporate Finance*, 9th Edition, McGraw Hill, 2010. (RWJ)
- Benninga, Simon and Sarig, Corporate Finance: A valuation Approach, McGraw-Hill, 1997. (BS)
- Brigham, Eugene and Daves, P., *Intermediate Financial Management*, 8th (or a later edition), Thomson, South Western.
- Brealey, Myers, and Allen, Principles of Corporate Finance, 8th Edition, McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2006.

Additional Recommended Readings:

Students are encouraged to read financial publications such as The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times; Business Recorder to stay abreast of developments related to this course.