

WebMBA 6060 – MANAGERIAL FINANCE – SPRING 2012

Professor: Charles Hodges Office Hours: Tuesdays/Wednesdays 2 to 5:30 Eastern time. I am in most days from 10 AM to 6 PM.	Emergency E-mail: chodges@westga.edu Office Phone: 678-839-4816 Cell Phone: 770-301-8648
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a study of financial risk and return, capital budgeting, valuation, capital structure, working capital management and current topics in financial management. It develops a student's knowledge, analytical skills and communication skills in the area of financial management. The course gives students tools to analyze a company's financial position relative to the industry, apply time value of money concepts to business cash flows, evaluate the acceptability of a short-term and long-term financial decision, and understand the relationship between capital structure, risk, and the cost of capital.

PREREQUISITES:

You should have completed a Corporate Finance class/module in which valuation, time value of money, and risk and return in which were major topics. You must possess a reasonable degree of knowledge related to using either Excel and/or a financial calculator. If you do not possess any Excel skills, you are strongly encouraged to obtain an Excel supplement or tutorial to aid you in working in Excel. Excel and/or financial calculators will be used extensively in this course and student output for the "Company Analysis Project" will be produced in an Excel worksheet.

SPECIAL OR UNIQUE STUDENT MATERIAL:

Unless you perform all analysis using a spreadsheet, a financial calculator with a "cash flow" button is necessary. It is preferred that you use a spreadsheet, but our textbook, and most of my audios and videos, assume you are using a calculator. The calculator must be programmed to compute net present value (NPV) and internal rate of return (IRR). Examples of sufficient quality calculators include the Hewlett Packard 10B, Texas Instruments BA II PLUS, Sharp EL-733A (not preferred), HP 12C (preferred, but I do know how to use this calculator) and Texas Instruments TI-83 Plus (most preferred but more expensive).

PROFESSOR AVAILABILITY:

I am usually in my office and welcome student contact. My office hours are largely irrelevant, since few WEBMBA students are physically located near my university. I have listed office hours above and am usually in the office at other times during the day and evening. You may call me at the office or cell at "reasonable" hours and you are welcome to email me via WebCT 24/7.

I will be available in WEBCT chat from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursdays. My experience with WebMBA is that no students will login to chat. Thus, the frequency and timing of WEBCT chat will be based on student preferences, with the possibility of cancellation if there is no demand.

However, it is the norm for Teams to meet at least weekly. I have set up a generic Horizon Wimba room for Team meetings. I am glad to meet with groups in Wimba. I am available on weekends. I generally login to WEBCT to respond to emails and to grade quizzes two-three times per week. My target turnaround on email is less than three business days. A Friday email may not have a response for five days.

My preferred methods of real-time contact is cell phone (770-301-8648). I am also available in real-time, via Skype (bufordshighway), Facebook (Charles Hodges), and QQ (1662726832). For delayed contact, use WEBCT email and LinkedIn (Charles Hodges). I strongly prefer real time contact (cell phone) to delayed contact (email).

TEXT BOOK:

Required is Corporate Finance: A Focused Approach, Ehrhardt and Brigham, Southwestern (copyright can be either 2010 or 2011), 4th edition. There are multiple ISBN, the one used by Amazon is 978-1439078082, and another is 978439078112.

Optional (but not recommended unless other people buy your books and you sell the book at the end of the semester) is Study Guide for Corporate Finance: A Focused Approach. If you wish to access the textbook publisher's web resources, you will need to buy a new version of the book. My experience is that you do not need access to the textbook publisher's web resources.

Other supplemental materials will be provided for each chapter through WebCT, including streaming video and audio, PowerPoint slides, professor's notes/readings, and other materials. See your WebCT account for other materials.

TEAM PHILOSOPHY:

You should consider the entire class as a group/team to support you during this course. You are allowed to work as a team to study, complete recommended practice homework, complete chapter quizzes, and for some parts of the individual project. You should communicate regularly with your team members and you can use WebCT's discussion tool, WIMBA, or chat tool to facilitate communication. No team assistance is allowed for the Midterm Exam and Final Exam. Although I suggest class members should communicate regularly and allow teamwork for some graded material, I will grade all of your work individually.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR:

You are encouraged to communicate with the professor on a regular basis. You can email the professor with questions or comments.

- **Email:** Use the email link in your WebCT account to email the professor. You will also receive emails from the professor in your WebCT Account. You should check it at least two times per week. Your professor will check WebCT email two-three times per week. Please do not use your personal email to email the professor since that would delay my responding.
- **Discussion Board:** You should post questions, responses and discussions related to each chapter to the course discussion area for that chapter/module. Also, use the discussion area to communicate with other students. You may post anonymously. I will check the discussions occasionally, but will only post if requested or if it seems appropriate.
- **Phone/Text:** I am available (numbers are above), call me for any reason. This is my preferred method of real-time communication. You can text me at 770-301-8648.
- **Social Media:** I am available on Facebook and LinkedIn as Charles Hodges, and QQ as 1662726832 . I am on Skype as bufordshighway. You are welcome to add me as a contact/friend on any of these services. I have various instant message capabilities, contact me for more information.

COURSE COMPONENTS, GRADING, AND CLASS SCHEDULE:

Your course grade will consist of points accumulated for Online Quizzes, Graded Assignments, Mid-Term Exam, and Final Exam. Read details below for each component.

- **Online Quizzes:** There will be 13 online quizzes. The quizzes are primarily to allow you to evaluate your skill level and diagnose your weaknesses for a given Finance topic. The WEBCT WMBA 6060 class schedule shows the quizzes and the dates by which each quiz must be completed, but generally one, or two, quizzes are due every Tuesday by 11 pm. You generally have a two to three-week window in which to complete the quizzes. Upon request, I will usually extend the quiz deadline by two-three days. Quizzes are designed to keep you up to date with the materials and to prepare you for your individual project and the final exam. Quizzes will be timed (liberally) and will consist of true/false, multiple choice, short

answer, matching, and calculation problems. You are encouraged to use your course materials as an aid when taking quizzes. All quizzes are taken in WebCT using your ID and password to gain access. You are allowed to use help or assistance of another person in completing the quizzes. You may take/access each quiz up to five times during the specified period. Your highest grade will be used in calculating your course grade. Each quiz will be graded after the ending deadline. Quizzes are 35% of your course grade. I will drop your lowest quiz grade (of the 13 quizzes) before computing your quiz average. In past WMBA Finance classes, the average quiz score was above 95.

- **Two Minute Feedbacks:** This course, and technology used in this course, is constantly evolving. To aid me in improving the course, I require that you send me five emails (Subject: 2 minute feedbacks) on methods to improve the course. The suggestions can be on any topic that you feel will improve the course. Criticism is welcome and encouraged. You must send the emails before 5 p.m. on December 5. The feedbacks are 2% of your grade. All students who send the five feedbacks get full credit.
- **Graded Individual Assignment:** There will be a multi-part graded assignment. The project is **due on December 1**. The graded assignments and instructions are provided via the homepage link labeled "Company Analysis Project." The graded assignment makes up 10% of your course grade. This project requires you to apply much of the knowledge you obtain during the course of the semester. It allows you to examine an actual company by applying the analytical methods discussed in class. The project is designed to have a class average of above 90.
- **Midterm Exam:** The Midterm Exam is a timed exam (3 hours MAXIMUM) and consists of true/false, short answer, multiple-choice, and calculation questions relating to the topics previously tested via quiz and graded assignments. The Midterm Exam covers chapters 1-7. The Midterm exam is used to evaluate your individual conceptual understanding of topics addressed in the course. The Midterm exam will be taken in WebCT using your ID and password to gain access and you cannot use the help or assistance of another person in completing the exam. The Midterm exam can only be accessed/taken **once** and makes up 25% of your course grade. The Midterm Exam is available from **7:00 am on March 1 to 11:30 pm on March 8, 2012**. Let me know about system maintenance issue that arises which I hope will not happen. Assuming you do well on the quizzes and individuals assignment, you need only a low 80's average on the Exams to make an A in the class.
- **Final Exam:** There will be a non-comprehensive Final Exam at the end of the semester. The exam will be timed (3 hours MAXIMUM) and consist of true/false, short answer, multiple-choice, and calculation questions relating to the topics previously tested via quiz and graded assignments. The Final Exam covers chapters 8-11, 14, and 15. The Final Exam is used to evaluate your individual conceptual understanding of topics addressed in the second half of the course. The Final Exam will be taken in WebCT using your ID and password to gain access and you cannot use the help or assistance of another person in completing the exam. The Final Exam can only be accessed/taken **once** and makes up 30% of your course grade. The Final Exam is available from **7:00 AM on December 2 to 11:30 PM on December 5, 2011**.
- **Grade:** Your course grade will consist of points accumulated through quizzes, graded assignments, the Midterm Exam and Final exam, and other subjective and/or objective adjustments the professor may make. I reserve the right to curve grades. Below are the graded components and the weight of each component.

Component/Effort	% of Grade	Letter Grade % Requirement
Quizzes (Individual)	35%	A = 90% to 100%
Graded Assignment (Individual)	10%	B = 80% < 90%
Midterm Exam (Individual)	25%	C = 70% < 80%
Final Exam (Individual)	28%	D = < 70%
Two Minute Feedbacks	2%	

MAKE-UP POLICY:

I expect you to complete the individual graded assignment on time. You will receive a much lower grade, and possibly a zero, if these are turned in late. I am generally willing to extend a quiz deadlines for two-three days. I do not extend the deadline on the Midterm and Final Exams, thus one not completing the exam by the deadline will receive an exam grade of 0.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. Collaboration on exams will be considered cheating. Please review the section on TEAM PHILOSOPHY for further discussion. Ask the Professor if you have questions about where collaboration is allowed. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with guidelines set forth in your university's Student Conduct Code. The minimum penalty for a student caught cheating on an exam or other assignment will be a grade of zero on that work.

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. WEBCT may mark answers incorrect and you may lose quiz and exam points due to the format of your numerical answers. WEBCT will mark answers incorrect if you use \$, or % signs in your answers. If you lose points due to format and the answer is correct otherwise, please email me and I will review your quiz/exam for any needed adjustments.
2. I will use WebCT to grade your work. On each quiz/exam/assignment, some or all grading will need to be done by the professor. Unless other factors enter in, I plan to have all grades posted within 48 hours of the deadline for submission. I typically grade quizzes two to three times per week, so the normal turnaround for quiz grading is 72-96 hours.

COURSE CALENDER:

Week:	Event Topic
January 11	Classes Begin, Course is open, Orientation Video
January 12	Chat Session in WEBCT, every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm (optional, suggested)
January 19	Chapter 1 Quiz Due (Overview of Financial Management)
January 26	Chapter 2 Quiz due (Review of Financial Statements)
February 2	Chapter 3 Quiz Due (Financial Statement Analysis)
February 9	Chapter 4 Quiz Due (Time Value of Money)
February 23	Chapter 5 Quiz Due (Bonds and their Valuation)
February 16	Chapter 6 Quiz Due (Risk, Return, and the Capital Asset Pricing Model)
March 1	Chapter 7 Quiz Due (Stocks and their Valuation)
Mid-Term Available: March 1 to 11:30 pm on March 8 (no extensions will be granted)	
March 15	Chapter 8 Quiz Due (Option Valuation)
March 19-23	Spring Break
March 29	Chapter 9 Quiz Due (Weighted Average Cost of Capital)
March 29	Chapter 10 Quiz Due (Capital Budgeting Basics)
April 5	Chapter 11 Quiz Due (Capital Budgeting Cash Flows)
April 12	Chapter 14 Quiz Due (Capital Structure)
April 16	Chapter 15 Quiz Due (Dividends)
April 16	Final Part of Project Due
Final Exam Available: April 16 to 11:30 p.m. on April 19 (no extensions will be granted)	

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course has several learning objectives. There are some learning objectives for which WMBA 6060 has primary responsibility. Below are the course learning objectives along with the methods used to assure of student learning for primary responsibility objectives.

GSLO: 1.0 Decision Analysis: Graduate students will analyze and evaluate alternative courses of action using appropriate qualitative and quantitative tools to create value. (knowledge & skill)
SSLO: 1.1 Analyze, interpret, and apply business data using descriptive or inferential statistics. (knowledge & skill)
Course Goal: WMBA 6060 (1.1.3): Students develop models for risk and return and use descriptive and inferential statistical methods to estimate and project risks and expected returns for alternative investments.
AOL Vehicle Applied Individual Project where students calculate and interpret averages, standard deviation, coefficient of variance. Students regress data where you try to predict your dependent variable using independent variable, and then interpret the results.
GSLO: 1.0 Decision Analysis: Graduate students will analyze and evaluate alternative courses of action using appropriate qualitative and quantitative tools to create value. (knowledge & skill)
SSL: 1.2 Comprehend and apply accounting information to support a business decision. (knowledge & skill)
Course Goal: WMBA 6060 (1.2.2): Students comprehend and apply accounting information to evaluate financial performance, value financial securities, value the firm, and make value enhancement decisions.
AOL Vehicle: In course examinations, with reference questions previously used at other universities.
GSLO: 1.0 Decision Analysis: Graduate students will analyze and evaluate alternative courses of action using appropriate qualitative and quantitative tools to create value. (knowledge & skill)
SSLO: 1.3 Evaluate a resource allocation; and a marketing, production or service management decision using appropriate quantitative or qualitative tools. (knowledge & skill)
Course Goal: WMBA 6060 (1.3.4): Students evaluate capital allocation decisions using appropriate models and quantitative tools.
AOL Vehicle (Exhibit 1): In course examinations, with reference questions previously used at other universities.

There are other learning objectives for which WMBA 6060 is responsible, but does not have primary responsibility. These paraphrased objectives are as follows: 1. Improve communication effectiveness in written presentations, 2. Apply basic quantitative skills to business problems, 3. Have an understanding of political, legal, and ethical considerations that affect the economic environment and decision making in corporations, 4. Develop the ability to read financial statements and use financial information, 5. Expand mastery of spreadsheet and word processing skill, and 6. Understand in detail financial principals, institutions, and management in corporate activities.