



Corporate Finance

Prof. Todd Stonitsch, Ph.D., FRM / University of South Carolina

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

What adds value to a corporation? How does corporate decision-making improve a company's position in the market? Does financing matter? How have recent corporate scandals impacted the decision making process of a firm? This course is designed to look at the modern firm through the eyes of top-level executives/consultants in order to address these questions and more. By looking at real-world cases, students will be able to identify strengths/weaknesses of a firm and formulate a strategy to optimize business decisions. Lastly, using a hands-on approach, students will perform a valuation of a company of their own choosing – examining the vulnerabilities, risks, and opportunities of their chosen firm.

READING MATERIALS

Textbook: Financial Management – Theory and Practice, 17th edition (by Brigham & Ehrhardt) Cengage Learning; ISBN-13: 978-0357714485; **(required)** (eText or Hard-Copy)

Excel: Microsoft Excel **(required)** is used heavily throughout the course. Make sure to bring your computer/device to **EVERY** class meeting.

Case Studies: A packet of case studies will be required to use throughout the course on top of cases distributed directly. These cases will be purchased online with more information given during the term.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The primary method of instruction will be lectures and class discussions. The material in the course is such that it requires a significant amount of quantitative analysis. The text is meant to be a learning tool that supplements the lectures. In many cases, the lecture will present material in a manner quite different from that in the text. Attendance, therefore, is extremely important.

- **Exams:** There will be just one exam for the course; one midterm each representing 30% of your final grade. The exam will be a combination of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Numeric Problems. Points will only be given for correct answers (no partial credit).
- **Homework:** Homework will be given periodically throughout the semester. Though not graded, they are designed to be practice for the exams.
- **Attendance:** Students are required to attend a minimum of 80% of all classes. For each class missed beyond this minimum threshold, 5 points will be subtracted from the student's overall grade.

	Percent of total
Annual Report Project	30%
Valuation Project	30%
Case Presentation	10%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

Academic Dishonesty is never acceptable and will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

– WEEK I –

Monday (1 July)

Syllabus, Understanding Financial Statements

Tuesday (2 July)

Cash Flow Statements and Financial Statement Analysis

Wednesday (3 July)

Case 1: JB Supply Company

Thursday (4 July)

Case 2: Panera Bread (Harvard Business Publishing)

– WEEK II –

Monday (8 July)

Modern Corporate Scandals

Tuesday (9 July)

Case 3: California Choppers (Harvard Business Publishing)

Wednesday (10 July)

Case 4: Quality Furniture (Harvard Business Publishing)

Thursday (11 July)

Annual Report Presentations

– WEEK III –

Monday (15 July)

Projecting Firm Performance

Tuesday (16 July)

Financing Policy

Wednesday (17 July)

Valuation

Thursday (18 July)

Case 5: Jones Electrical (Harvard Business Publishing)

– WEEK IV–

Monday (22 July)

Case 6: More Vino (Harvard Business Publishing) and Project Workshop

Tuesday (23 July)

Final Exam

Tuesday (24 July)

Valuation Presentation