

FIN3701A CORPORATE FINANCE

Last Updated: 5/12/2024

Session: Semester II, 2024/2025 (13 January 2025 – 10 May 2025)

Instructor

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Consultation: appointment through email.

Course Objectives

This course aims to introduce fundamental concepts and analytical knowledge of Corporate Finance. Cases and practical examples will be used to illustrate the concepts taught.

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- appraise investments and conduct project analysis;
- apply the valuation methods (DCF, DDM, and Relative Valuation) to evaluate real-life companies for capital raising and possible acquisition;
- analyse the impact of capital structure on the cost of capital and project value;
- understand capital structure decisions and payout policies.

Textbook and Reference

I will be using slides for the presentation. Copies of the presentation slides used in class will be posted on Canvas. The slides will be PDF files. The lecture slides are self-contained. Thus, no textbook is required. For those of you who wish to use a textbook in addition to the slides, I recommend:

Main Textbook: (RWJJ)

Fundamentals of Corporate Finance
International Student Edition, 2022 (13th Edition)
Ross, Westerfield, Jaffe, and Jordan
McGraw-Hill Education

<u>Assessments Methods</u>	
class participation	10%
4 quiz	4%
1 case study (group basis)	18%
2 critique (group basis)	8%
midterm test	20%
final exam	40%
total	100%

Test

Many of the questions require the use of financial calculators, which are allowed. Please consult instructor if you are not sure about the type of financial calculator required/allowed. The test may consist of multiple-choice questions, quantitative and open-ended questions that examine the total understanding of the student with respect to the course materials. Details on how the test is conducted will be announced later in the semester.

Please note the dates for the test – there will be no makeup. The exact test time will be announced later. Students not participating in a test will receive a zero mark for that test. Exceptions will only be granted according to NUS policies and will require formal verification of the reason for absence by the BBA Office. In such exceptional cases, a substitute form of assessment may be given.

Test: Saturday, 15 March 2025, TBD.

Final Exam: Wednesday, 2 May 2025, 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

Quizzes

We will have four quizzes posted on Canvas. Each quiz will consist of only multiple-choice questions. You can take the quiz as many times as you like, and your score will be the highest score among all your attempts. You will have about one week to respond to quiz questions.

Class Arrangement

Classes will, unless otherwise advised, be delivered in a normal face-to-face (F2F) classroom setting.

Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

Class Participation

Students are expected to have done pre-class readings and be actively involved in class discussions. Extra credit will be granted to those who can contribute towards class discussions and the discussion forum. The discussion by the non-presenting group members will be an important part of the class participation grade. Note that this will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Cases

Each class will be divided into (up to) 9 groups for case assignments. We will cover 3 cases during the semester. Out of the 9 groups, there will be 3 primary groups for each case. Groups 1A, 1B & 1C will take on the primary responsibility for case 1; groups 2A, 2B & 2C for case 2 and groups 3A, 3B & 3C for case 3. The 3 primary groups for the case will each submit a comprehensive report **NOT exceeding 12 pages** including texts, tables and appendices by the due date. The page limit excludes the front cover and the references page. The report must be typewritten on A4 size paper with double-spacing and font size 11. Its due date can be found in the table at the bottom of this document. The report will be made available to the entire class. Primary groups are also expected to submit their presentation slides by the due date denoted in the table at the bottom of this document.

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The 6 non- primary groups are each required to submit a short critique of one of the reports. The critique is limited to **one page** (A4 sized, font 11, double spacing) and must be submitted by the due date denoted in the table at the bottom of this document. During the case presentation, the 3 groups with primary responsibility will be given 20 minutes each to present their analysis. All students are expected to actively participate in the case discussions. The assignment of the primary and non-primary groups is as follows:

Case Number	Presenting (Primary) Group	Critique (Non-Primary) Group
1	1A	2A, 3A
1	1B	2B, 3B
1	1C	2C, 3C
2	2A	1A, 3A
2	2B	1B, 3B
2	2C	1C, 3C
3	3A	1A, 2A
3	3B	1B, 2B
3	3C	1C, 2C

Case assignment and guidelines will be made available two weeks before the due date.

At the end of the semester, you can assign a peer grade to other members of the same group by filling out a form. Filling out the form is **optional**, i.e., you don't need to do it. Peer grading might affect group members' grades. Due to differences in peer grading, a given group member may obtain different grades from other members in the same group.

Tutorial and Discussion

Several tutorials with their answers will be made available during the semester. Please note that you **don't need to submit** your analysis. However, please work on the tutorials during the semester.

Submission Policy

Case reports, presentations, and critiques are done on a group-basis. They must reach the instructor by the due date and time. Late submissions will be penalized.

Communication

The preferred way to communicate with me is by email.

Students are encouraged to always send me comments and suggestions that may help the class to learn better.

Students are expected to check Canvas weekly for announcements.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty is essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to

acknowledge the source, or falsification of information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is 'the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own' (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism. Students should adopt this rule - You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard. **In case of any doubts, you should consult your instructor.**

Additional guidance is available at:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct>

Course Content (Each topic may take longer than one class):

1. Introduction to Corporate Finance
 - Separation of ownership and control
 - Agency costs
 - Firm and the financial markets
2. Risk and Return
 - Review of portfolio theory
 - CAPM
 - Estimating cost of equity and cost of debt
 - Risk, return and cost of equity
3. Capital Budgeting
 - Decision trees
 - Sensitivity analysis
 - Scenario analysis
 - Break-even analysis
 - Real options
4. Capital Structure
 - Raising capital
 - IPO
 - Rights issue
 - Theories of capital structure
 - Tax effects
 - Limits to the use of debt
 - Costs of financial distress
 - Is there an optimal capital structure?
 - Efficient market hypothesis
5. Mergers and Acquisitions
 - Merger motives
 - Types of acquisitions

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- Value of corporate control
- Merger valuations
- Empirical evidence

6. Dividend Policy

- Is dividend policy relevant?
- Share repurchase and dividend policy

Schedule Thursday Session I 12:00-15:00; Session II 15:00-18:00 HSS 4-2

Please note: The topic contents in each week may take longer or shorter than one class! But the cases presentations related weeks are fixed.

Week	Topic and Readings
Week 1: January 16	Topic 1: Introduction Course overview Corporation and agency issues Review of risk and return Readings: RWJ Chapter 1, 10, 11, 13
Week 2: January 23	Topic 2: Capital Budgeting Review of portfolio theory and CAPM Risk, return, and cost of capital Sensitivity, scenario and break-even analysis Real options Readings: RWJ Chapter 6, 7
Week 3: January 30	Topic 3: Capital Structure I Raising capital Issuing securities IPO Rights issue Readings: RWJ Chapters 15, 20 No class and no make-up for either section, since it is the Chinese New Year Public Holiday.
Week 4: February 6	Topic 4: Capital Structure II Theories of capital structure Tax effects Readings: RWJ Chapter 16
Week 5: February 13	Topic 5: Capital Structure III Limits to the use of debt Costs of financial distress Agency costs Is there an optimal capital structure? Efficient Market hypothesis Readings: RWJ Chapters 14, 17, 18

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Week 6: Sep February 20	Topic 6: Dividend Policy Is dividend policy irrelevant? Share repurchase and dividend policy Readings: RWJ Chapter 19
Recess Week: February 22 – March 2	Assignment due by <u>9 pm Thursday February 27</u> : Case 1. Case reports will be made available to the whole class. Assignment due by <u>9 pm Monday March 3</u> : Case 1 presentation slides. Presenting groups need to submit their presentation slides. Assignment due by <u>9 pm Monday March 3</u> : One-page Critique of Case 1 from all non-presenting student groups.
Week 7: March 6	Presentation and discussion of Case 1
Week 8: March 13	Midterm Test Date: March 15, TBD Q & A Zoom only
Week 9: March 20	Topic 7: Mergers and Acquisitions Merger motives Types of acquisitions Value of corporate control Merger valuations Empirical evidence Readings: RWJ Chapter 29
Week 10: March 27	Catch up the unfinished parts
Week 11: April 3	Assignment due by <u>9 pm Thursday April 3</u> : Case 2. Case reports will be made available to the whole class. Assignment due by <u>9 pm Monday April 7</u> : Case 2 presentation slides. Presenting groups need to submit their presentation slides. Assignment due by <u>9 pm Monday April 7</u> : One-page Critique of Case 2 from all non-presenting student groups.
Week 12: April 10	Presentation and discussion of Case 2 Assignment due by <u>9 pm Thursday April 10</u> : Case 3. Case reports will be made available to the whole class. Assignment due by <u>9 pm Monday April 14</u> : Case 3 presentation slides. Presenting groups need to submit their presentation slides. Assignment due by <u>9 pm Monday April 14</u> : One-page Critique of Case 3 from all non-presenting student groups.
Week 13: April 17	Presentation and discussion of Case 3
Week 14: April 19-25	Reading Week
May 2	9:00-11:00 Final Exam