

Course	FINC 6290 Financial Strategies	
Term	Fall 2 2009	
Instructor	Name: Chris Wiley Phone: 816-721-4861 Email: cwiley@webster.edu	
Catalog Description	This course will be a final, comprehensive finance offering that will make use of cases and/or simulations to enhance the real-world applicability of the finance degree and to integrate all previous coursework.	
Prerequisites	Prerequisite: completion of all other required courses for the major.	
Course Level Learning Outcomes	Outcome	Expectation
	1. Students can calculate the value of fixed income securities	Students can compute Bond prices for use in unstructured case analysis. Applications include cost of capital computations for a corporation with a variety of divisions, optimal capital structure, leveraged buyouts, etc.
	2. Students can calculate the value of equity securities	Students can propose an appropriate value for equity in unstructured case analysis. Student can prepare a report detailing the impact of earnings growth, dividend payments and other factors on common stock values observed in a simulation.
	3. Students can discuss market functioning and the role efficient markets play in security valuation	Students can discuss market efficiency issues in case studies. They can identify situations that lead to market inefficiency (capital restrictions, market frictions, etc.) and develop plans to address or create value from the inefficiency.
	4. Students can analyze capital budgeting decisions using standard methodologies	Students can prepare a capital budgeting analysis justifying decisions made during the finance simulation. Students can also prepare case analyses addressing complex capital budgeting issues such as: large project financing, project selection with capital restrictions or the relationship between valuation with real options and discounted cash flows.
5. Students can explain the impact of capital structure decisions on financial performance and cost of capital	Students can determine the optimal debt-equity ratio needed to minimize cost of capital and maximize profitability in the finance simulation. They can also recommend capital structure decisions as part of case analysis.	

		Possible topics include: leveraged buyouts and the cost of financial distress and the use of payout policy to alter capital structure.
	6. Students can identify agency problems within a corporation and formulate strategies to address them	Students can make recommendations on actions the board of directors could/should take in order to mitigate the agency conflicts that exist in case studies.
Materials	<p>Materials will be selected from finance cases, journal articles, and web-based resources. A purchased computer-based simulation may also be used in the class.</p> <p>In order to enable our pulling and using information from a wealth of sources, without having to spend a fortune on texts, the professor will provide cases to be covered during the class. These will provided at the first class session.</p> <p>The Revolution in Corporate Finance, Edited by Joel M. Stern and Donald H. Chew, Jr., Blackwell Business publishers.</p> <p>Current finance academic journals</p> <p>The New Corporate Finance: Where Theory Meets Practice, Donald H. Chew, Jr., Irwin-McGraw Hill.</p> <p>Case Studies in Finance: Managing for Corporate Value Creation, Robert Bruner, McGraw-Hill Irwin.</p>	
Grading	<p>Grade will be a function of performance on article write-ups, and value added in course discussions.</p> <p>Written Article Summaries (case studies included) 100%</p> <p>The GRADUATE catalog provides these guidelines and grading options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/A- Superior graduate work • B+/B/B- Satisfactory graduate work • C Work that is barely adequate as graduate-level performance • CR Work that is performed as satisfactory graduate work (B- or better). A grade of "CR" is reserved for courses designated by a department, involving internships, a thesis, practicums, or specified courses. • F Work that is unsatisfactory • I Incomplete work • ZF An incomplete which was not completed within one year of the end of the course. ZF is treated the same as an F or NC for all cases involving G.P.A., academic warning, probation, and dismissal. • IP In progress • NR Not reported • W Withdrawn from the course 	
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies • Discussion of current finance literature 	

<p>Policy Statements:</p> <p>University Policies</p>	<p>University policies are provided in the current course catalog and course schedules. They are also available on the university website. This class is governed by the university's published policies. The following policies are of particular interest:</p> <p>Academic Honesty</p> <p>The university is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university's academic honesty policies for a definition of academic dishonesty and potential disciplinary actions associated with it.</p> <p>Drops and Withdrawals</p> <p>Please be aware that, should you choose to drop or withdraw from this course, the date on which you notify the university of your decision will determine the amount of tuition refund you receive. Please refer to the university policies on drops and withdrawals (published elsewhere) to find out what the deadlines are for dropping a course with a full refund and for withdrawing from a course with a partial refund.</p> <p>Special Services</p> <p>If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the accommodations you will require in this class so that these can be provided.</p> <p>Disturbances</p> <p>Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, disruption of class by inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.</p> <p>Student Assignments Retained</p> <p>From time to time, student assignments or projects will be retained by The Department for the purpose of academic assessment. In every case, should the assignment or project be shared outside the academic Department, the student's name and all identifying information about that student will be redacted from the assignment or project.</p> <p>Contact Hours for this Course</p>
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	It is essential that all classes meet for the full instructional time as scheduled. A class cannot be shortened in length. If a class session is cancelled for any reason, it must be rescheduled
Course Policies	<p>This syllabus may be revised at the discretion of the instructor without the prior notification or consent of the student. The schedule below presents an approximate expectation of course progress. The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or modify any weeks of this schedule. The instructor also reserves the right to change the overall course grade weighting.</p> <p>Students are expected to participate actively in all aspects of the course.</p>
Additional Information	None