Finance 553
Problems in Capital Investment Planning
Winter 2014: Evening

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Office Hours: Mondays, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 p.m., and by appt.
Course materials available on Canvas

DESCRIPTION:

Capital Investment Planning is a case course examining corporate investment decisions and related issues in financial strategy. The course is organized into three sections:

1. Capital Budgeting
2. Business Valuation
3. Corporate Restructuring

Principal topics include: using discounted cash flow analysis to evaluate investment opportunities, estimating discount rates, valuing a company or division, real options analysis, and analyzing mergers, corporate restructuring, and bankruptcy.

When you complete this course, you should be able to:

- Estimate an investment’s relevant costs and benefits
- Estimate a company's weighted-average cost of capital and understand its role in investment decision making
- Use discounted cash flow techniques, comparable trades, and real options analysis to analyze investment opportunities
- Value companies and divisions
- Analyze highly leveraged investments
- Identify the relation between financial restructuring and value creation
- Use valuation techniques to analyze strategic business alternatives
PREPARATION:

Most of our class time will be devoted to discussion of assigned cases. To get the most out of class you must prepare conscientiously and participate actively in study group and class discussions. Failure to participate robs others of your perspective and increases the chances that the discussion will not be relevant to your interests and abilities. Please participate actively.

So what is conscientious case preparation? Read the case thoroughly; identify principal issues to be addressed in the case; attempt to analyze these issues using your common sense and any appropriate tools or techniques, and note any action recommendations implied by your analysis. Alternatively, if you find yourself hitting a roadblock, try to articulate what the problem is. Oftentimes, identifying roadblocks is as valuable as a complete analysis. You should expect to spend between two and three hours preparing each case.

For each case assigned you will note below that I have posed one or more preparation questions. The questions play several roles depending on the case. Usually the questions are simply guidelines to help you get started on your analysis. In some instances, I may give you additional information in the questions, or when the case is a mechanical one, I may ask you to perform specific calculations. You should not assume that answering all of the preparation questions necessarily constitutes a complete analysis. My general advice is always to read the preparation questions, but do not feel overly constrained by them.

Do not be surprised if after conscientious preparation you still feel there are some loose ends in the case you are not certain about. Your test of whether you are learning the material and progressing adequately should be how you feel after the class discussion, not before. You are doing fine if after a class discussion you believe you could adequately handle a similar situation in the future.

I will alternate between asking for volunteers and calling on individuals. **If you are not prepared, please notify me before class, and we can both avoid the embarrassment.** If you have spent appropriate time on the case but still feel unsure of your opinions, consider yourself prepared.

COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Your grade will be based on the following:

- Participation 30%
- Group Assignments (3) 30%
- Individual Assignments (4) 40%

The assignments are as follows:
More details about the assignments are provided in the syllabus. Please note that the specific deliverable for each case may differ from the study questions (provided as a basis for class discussion) also included in the syllabus.

**Participation.** Your participation grade will be based on your presence in class, my assessment of the extent to which you helped make the class a productive learning experience, and my assessment of the depth of your command of the material.

There are two types of written assignments, Group and Individual. All assignments are due at the beginning of the session during which we will be discussing the case. Please bring paper copy of your assignments to submit.

**Group Assignments.** During the quarter, you will be responsible for completing three group assignments. Each group should consist of from 3-5 students, and you should retain the same group for each assignment. If you would like to form your own group, please email me a list of names of students in your group by Friday, Jan. 10. If you would like me to help arrange a group for you, please let me know in the first class session.

**Individual Assignments.** You are also responsible for completing four individual written assignments. Although you are allowed to discuss the assignment with others as described below, you must each prepare and turn in your own work.

You are encouraged to discuss any of the written assignments with other students in the class or with me. You are also welcome to use the internet or any other written resources to research background on the case, although (except as otherwise noted) I don’t anticipate that you will need to do any outside research. Please do not use sample solutions from the internet or any other source for any of the case assignments.

**Final Exam.** There is no final exam for this class.
MATERIALS:

A required packet of cases is available from the University Bookstore under the Finance 553 course title.

I recommend the following text as an optional resource for this class:


In addition, there are two books on reserve at the Foster Business Library that may serve as useful background reading.


TECHNOLOGY POLICY:

I encourage the use of laptops in class for class-related purposes such as note taking and accessing your valuation models. Learning how to prepare financial models in Excel is an important objective of the class. However, I support the School’s policy against accessing mail, surfing the Internet, etc. during class. Please constrain the use of your laptop during class to class-related purposes.

MBA HONOR CODE:

I employ the policies and procedures espoused by the Foster School of Business Honor Code to maintain academic integrity in the course.
Course Schedule

CAPITAL BUDGETING

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Session 1: Introduction

Optional Reading: Higgins, pp. 247-266 (should be mostly review)

Session 2: Incremental Cash Flows – Replacement Problem

Prepare: Fonderia Di Torino S.P.A.
Optional Reading: Higgins, pp. 266-285

a.) What are the incremental cash flows associated with acquiring the machine?
b.) What is the appropriate discount rate? Why? What is the NPV of the project at this discount rate?
c.) What other factors might influence your recommendation? Are there any qualitative factors that you did not incorporate into the NPV? What would be the impact of an inflation rate of 3%?
d.) Should Francesca Cerini proceed with the project?

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Session 3: Cost of Capital

Prepare: Hewlett Packard: Cost of Capital (case available on Canvas)
Optional Reading: Higgins, pp. 304-317

Graded Assignment I (Individual Assignment)
Please submit a 1-2 page memo with your estimate of the cost of capital for Hewlett Packard. In your memo, please explain your assumptions and provide a specific value for the WACC.

a.) Calculate the cost of equity using at least three different techniques.
b.) What is your estimate of the WACC for HP?
c.) Is the WACC for HP appropriate to use as a discount rate for the printer part buy vs. build decision? Why or why not?

Session 4: Incremental Cash Flows – Relevant Cash Flows

Prepare: Hewlett Packard Printer: Buy vs. Build (case available on Canvas)

a.) How would you define the “project”?
b.) What are the incremental cash flows for the project?
c.) What is the NPV of the printer project? Should HP undertake this project?
Wednesday, Jan. 22

Session 5: Incremental Cash Flows – Framing an Analysis

Prepare:  Stryker Corp.: In-sourcing PCBs

Graded Assignment II (Group Assignment)
Please submit a spreadsheet with the NPV of the in-sourcing alternative (option #3) relative to the status quo. For your spreadsheet, you may calculate incremental free cash flows on an annual basis; there is no need to worry about the timing of quarterly cash flows within the year. Clearly note your major assumptions, either directly in the spreadsheet or in a brief, attached memo.

a.) Should Stryker Corp. begin manufacturing its own printed circuit boards? What leads you to this conclusion?

Session 6: Capital Budgeting Systems

Read: Higgins and Schall, “Capital Budgeting Systems: Missing Link in Project Appraisal” (available on Canvas)

Prepare: Stryker Corporation: Capital Budgeting
The Evolving Finance Function: Judy C. Lewent at Merck & Co., Inc.

a.) How do resource allocation decisions get made at Stryker? What are the pros and cons of this approach?
b.) As CEO of a company like Stryker, what types of projects (in general) do you want the firm to undertake? Does this always happen? Why or why not?
c.) How does capital budgeting take place at Merck? What are the advantages and disadvantages compared to Stryker’s system? Where would you rather work?
d.) What changes, if any, would you recommend at Stryker?

Wednesday, Jan. 29:

Session 7: Divisional/Project Cost of Capital

Prepare: Teletech Corporation, 2005

a.) How does Teletech currently use the hurdle rate?
b.) Estimate segment WACCs for Teletech. As you do this, carefully note the points of judgment in your estimate.
c.) Interpret Rick Phillips’s graph (Figure 2 in the case). How does the choice of constant versus risk-adjusted hurdle rates affect the evaluation of Teletech’s two segments? What are the implications for Teletech’s resource-allocation strategy?
d.) Do you agree “all money is green”? What are the implications of this view? What are the arguments in favor? Opposed?

e.) Is Helen Buono right that management would destroy value if all of the firm’s assets were redeployed into only the telecommunications business segment? Why or why not?
f.) Has Products and Systems destroyed value? What evidence or illustration can you give to support your opinion?
g.) What should Teletech say in response to Victor Yossarian?

BUSINESS VALUATION

Session 8: Lecture: Alternative Approaches to Valuing a Business.

Read: Higgins, “Three Equivalent Ways to Value a Business Using DCF” (available on Canvas)

Optional Reading: Higgins, pp. 349-363, pp. 334-340, and pp. 318-320

Wednesday, Feb. 5:

Session 9: NPV Valuation

Prepare: Full Pull Wines (case available on Canvas)

Graded Assignment III (Individual Assignment)
Please submit a spreadsheet with your valuation of Full Pull. Use the NPV method to answer this question. Clearly note any assumptions, either on your spreadsheet or in an attached memo.

a.) What is Full Pull Wines worth today?

Session 10: Lecture: Alternative Approaches to Valuing a Business (cont.).


Wednesday, Feb. 12:

Session 11: Equity Valuation

Prepare: Wind Resources, Inc. (case available on Canvas)

Graded Assignment IV (Group Assignment)
Prepare and submit responses to the five study questions, below. For question (b), also restate the cash flows for 2007 from Exhibit 5 in the format described in the Higgins Valuation Note ("Three Equivalent Ways to Value a Business Using DCF") assigned for class session 8.
a.) Which alternatives are available to Wind Resources now? What are the pros and cons of these alternatives?
b.) How do the cash flows presented in Exhibit 5 relate to cash flows for the equity method of valuation?
c.) What is the financing structure underlying the valuation in Exhibit 5? How was this capital structure chosen? Does the resulting capital structure satisfy the required conditions?
d.) Based on the analysis in Exhibit 5, at what price should WRI be willing to sell the project?
e.) Exhibit 5 indicates that equity investors should be willing to pay $26.828 million for the Canyon Wind farm. How much of this value is due to the production tax credit? How much is due to accelerated depreciation? How important are government tax incentives to this project?

Session 12: Real Options Valuation

Prepare: Wind Resources, Inc. (Continued)
Optional Reading: Berk and DeMarzo, Chapter 22 (Real Options)

a.) Is the ability to postpone redevelopment of the site for up to three years valuable to the developers? Why? How might you estimate this value?
b.) Value the redevelopment project using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. What values will you assume for the various inputs to the Black-Scholes model? (I have posted a link to an option pricing calculator on Canvas, so given your assumptions you can use the online calculator to value the option.)
c.) As a potential buyer, what is the most you would bid for the Canyon Wind Farm redevelopment rights? As Mr. Bittner, what is the lowest price you would accept?

CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

Session 13: Bankruptcy and Restructuring (APV Valuation)

Prepare: Infinity Carpets, Inc.

a.) Why did Infinity Carpets get into financial difficulty? Was it bad luck, bad strategy, or bad execution?
b.) How pressing is the situation? Can Infinity get by without restructuring?
c.) What do you think Infinity would fetch in liquidation? How would these proceeds be divided among the claimants?
d.) What is a reasonable, conservative estimate of Infinity’s firm value?
e.) How much debt do you think a reorganized Infinity could prudently support?
f.) As Sylvia Benson, recommend an action plan to Infinity’s controlling stockholder, SLP.
Session 14:  IPOs (Valuation using Comparable Trades)

Prepare:  TRX, Inc.: Initial Public Offering

a.)  In general, what attributes make a company a good candidate for an IPO?  How does TRX compare on these dimensions?
b.)  How favorable is the market climate for the TRX IPO?
c.)  How does the strategic repositioning of the company and the use of the IPO as an exit for minority shareholders affect the attractiveness of the IPO?
d.)  Estimate a preliminary filing range for TRX’s shares.
e.)  Given the situation Davis faced in September 2005, what would you recommend that he do with respect to the offering?

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Sessions 15 and 16:  Leveraged Buyouts

Prepare:  RJR Nabisco

Optional Reading:  Higgins, pp. 368-381

Graded Assignment V (Individual Assignment)
Please submit your responses to questions (a.i) and (b) below. For question (a), use the APV method to value RJR Nabisco. You only need to submit your valuation under the pre-bid scenario; please submit your spreadsheet for this valuation, along with a brief discussion of your assumptions. Express your valuation as a stock price per share. Your response to question (b) should be one or two paragraphs, and should be based on the case discussion and the cash flow projections provided in the case. Please see Canvas for some additional assumptions to help you with your analysis.

a.)  What is the value of RJR Nabisco under
   i.  The pre-bid operating strategy?
   ii.  The Management Group’s operating strategy?
   iii.  KKR’s operating strategy?
b.)  What accounts for any difference in the value among the three operating plans?
c.)  Evaluate the Special Committee’s use of an auction of RJR Nabisco.
d.)  Which bid should the Special Committee select, if any?  What other actions should the Special Committee take?

Wednesday, March 5

Session 17:  Current Event Valuation

For this class session, we will use the Comparable Trades method to value a company.  I plan to choose which company about two weeks before this session. My goal is to choose a
company that is in the news for valuation-related reasons.

**Graded Assignment VI (Group Assignment)**
Please submit a spreadsheet with your valuation of the chosen company using the Comparable Trades method. Clearly note any assumptions, either on your spreadsheet or in an attached memo. Please see Canvas for more details.

**Session 18: Acquisitions**

**Prepare:** Flinder Valves and Controls Inc.
**Read:** Appendix for Flinder Case (on Canvas)

a.) Using the case and the supplementary data in Appendix 1 (posted on Canvas), how do you see FVC’s situation? What are the strengths and weaknesses of FVC and RSE? Why should the two companies want to negotiate?
b.) What is FVC worth as a stand-alone company?
c.) What is the value of synergies that would potentially be created through a merger with RSE?
d.) What opening price do you think Flinder should offer to sell the company to RSE? At what price should he walk away from the negotiation? How did you estimate these values?

**Wednesday, March 12**

**Session 19: Acquisitions**

**Prepare:** Dow’s Bid for Rohm and Haas

**Graded Assignment VII (Individual Assignment)**
Please submit written responses to all four study questions, below. In responding to question (b), you should estimate the value of Rohm both when Dow originally announced the deal (July 2008) and based on the revised expectations as of early February 2009. Be sure to discuss clearly your main assumptions.

a.) Why does Dow want to buy Rohm and Haas?
b.) How much is Rohm worth per share on a standalone basis? How much is Rohm worth to Dow? Was the $78 per share bid reasonable?
c.) What are the major deal risks inherent in this merger transaction? How and to whom does the merger agreement allocate these key risks? (Hint: Analyze some of the provisions in case Exhibit 4. What risk does each provision address and which party ultimately bears the risk?)
d.) As of early February 2009, what should Liveris do, and what should Gupta do?

**Session 20: Summary and Course Overview**