

Online/Blended Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number/Section ACCT 6344.0W1
Course Title Financial Statement Analysis
Term 2016 Fall (08/22/2016 to 12/13/2016)

Professor Contact Information

Professor Dr. Umit G. Gurun
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Online Office Hours Wednesday 8:30-11:30
Other Information Please post your questions on the eLearning Discussion Board

About the Instructor

Dr. Gurun is a professor and has been teaching at University of Texas at Dallas for 10 years. He teaches financial statement analysis and investment courses at UTD. He was a visiting faculty at University of Texas at Austin (2010-2011) and Harvard University (2014). His research interests include disclosure strategies of firms to communicate investors using financial statement analysis.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

ACCT 6201 or equivalent. The quantitative aspects of the course will require only elementary computational skills; however, a calculator and/or some spreadsheet knowledge will be required. I assume that you are familiar with basic finance/accounting concepts (such as definitions of debit/credit, balance sheet/income statement etc.) and have introduction level of accounting knowledge.

Course Description

Analysis of financial statements for evaluating firm performance and risk. Topics include interpretation of financial statements and footnotes, managers' incentives for earnings manipulation, comparative analysis of firms, and ethics in financial reporting.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

This course provides you with a framework for business analysis and valuation using financial statement data. The focus is on integrating key concepts from accounting, economics, finance, and strategy areas and applying them to financial decision-making. You can expect to develop the following skills:

- (1) Extract relevant information from financial statements and other disclosures to see the underlying business activities and strategy,
- (2) Assess firm performance and risk,
- (3) Assess managerial strategic motives in reporting financial information and ways to adjust for such motives,
- (4) Forecast firm future performance
- (5) Value the firm or project

By the end of the course students should have answers to the following questions:

- How are fundamental values (or “intrinsic values”) estimated?
- How is “value created for shareholders” identified?
- What is the relevance of cash-flows? Of earnings? Of book values?
- How does profitability tie into valuation?
- What is growth? How does one analyze growth?
- How does one analyze the quality of financial reports?
- How does one deal with the accounting methods used in financial statements?

Required Textbooks and Materials

Required Texts

- "Financial Statement Analysis & Valuation" by Peter Easton, Mary Lea McAnally, Patricia Fairfield, Xiao-Jun Zhang, and Robert Halsey. 4rd edition (ISBN: 978-1-61853-104-9)
- The book is available at the UTD bookstore and this website:
<http://www.cambridgepub.com/product/book/financial-statement-analysis-valuation-4th>
Make sure that the book you purchase has “mybusinesscourse” package.

Required Materials

- You will also need to get access to “www.mybusinesscourse.com”, the book’s website that contains several course materials we will utilize throughout the course. To access to this site, please do the following:
 - Go to <https://mybusinesscourse.com/?code=2979-41006>
 - Create a username/password. **Make sure that your username is your “UTD email address”.**
 - Pick one of the purchase options for the online access.
 - mybusinesscourse will contain quizzes and video solutions to some of the end of chapter problems.

Other Suggested Course Materials

- Financial Statement Analysis and Security Valuation Hardcover – by Stephen Penman
- Financial Statement Analysis Hardcover – by K. R. Subramanyam
- The Intelligent Investor: The Definitive Book on Value Investing. A Book of Practical Counsel, by Benjamin Graham
- The Essays of Warren Buffett: Lessons for Corporate America, by Warren E. Buffett (Author), Lawrence A. Cunningham

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online through Off-Campus Books <http://www.offcampusbooks.com> or the UT Dallas Bookstore <http://www.bkstr.com/texasatdallasstore/home>. They are also available in stock at both bookstores.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#techreqs> on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html>.

Course Access and Navigation

The course can be accessed using the UT Dallas NetID account at: <https://elearning.utdallas.edu>. Please see the course access and navigation <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#courseaccessandnav> section of the site for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html>.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp> services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the eLearning Tutorials webpage <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html> for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the eLearning Current Students page <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/cstudents.htm> for details.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online eLearning Help Desk <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>. The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

UNIT/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
1 8/22 – 8/28	Module 0: Course Access and Self-Orientation Module 1: Framework for Analysis and Valuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus • Instructor's video • Online Lecture • Text Module 1 	Post Self-Introduction on Discussion board Quiz 1 (publisher's website)	8/28 at 11:59 pm
2 8/29 – 9/4	Module 2: Overview of Business Activities and Financial Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 2 	Quiz 2 (publisher's website)	9/4 at 11:59 pm
3 9/5 – 9/11	Module 3: Profitability Analysis and Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 3 	Quiz 3 (publisher's website)	9/11 at 11:59 pm
4 9/12 – 9/18	Module 4: Credit Risk Analysis and Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 4 	Quiz 4 (publisher's website)	9/18 at 11:59 pm
5 9/19 – 9/25	Module 5: Revenue Recognition and Operating Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 5 	Quiz 5 (publisher's website)	9/25 at 11:59 pm
6 9/26 – 10/2	Module 6: Asset Recognition and Operating Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 6 	Quiz 6 (publisher's website)	10/2 at 11:59 pm
7 10/3 – 10/9	Module 7: Liability Recognition and Non-owner Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 7 	Quiz 7 (publisher's website)	10/9 at 11:59 pm

UNIT/DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
<p align="center">Proctored Exam 1 Exam Window : 10/13 – 10/15</p>				
8 10/17 – 10/23	Module 8: Equity Recognition and Owner Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 8 	Quiz 8 (publisher's website)	10/23 at 11:59 pm
9 10/24 – 10/30	Module 9: Inter-corporate Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 9 	Quiz 9 (publisher's website)	10/30 at 11:59 pm
10 10/31 – 11/6	Module 10: Off- Balance Sheet Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 10 	Quiz 10 (publisher's website)	11/6 at 11:59 pm
11 11/7 – 11/13	Module 11: Forecasting Financial Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 11 	Quiz 11 (publisher's website)	11/13 at 11:59 pm
12 11/14 – 11/20	Module 12: Cost of Capital and Valuation Basics Module 13: Cash Flow Based Valuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 12 • Text Module 13 	Quiz 12 (publisher's website) Quiz 13 (publisher's website)	11/22 at 11:59 pm
13 11/21 – 11/23	Thanksgiving week!			
14 11/28 – 12/4	Module 14: Operating Income Based and Market Based Valuation Module 15: Market Based Valuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Lecture • Text Module 14, 15 	Quiz 14 (publisher's website) Quiz 15 (publisher's website)	12/4 at 11:59 pm
	<p align="center">Proctored Exam 2 Exam Window : 12/8 – 12/11</p>			

Proctored Exam Procedures

This course requires 2 proctored examinations. Please read the following instructions carefully. Local students can take their exams on-campus at the **UTD Student Success Center (Testing Center)** (free of charge) during these time windows: **(First Exam: 10/13/16 – 10/15/16; Second Exam: 12/8/16 – 12/11/16).**

- Please see the [UTD Student Success Center - Testing Center Website](#) for more information and check the hours of operation and testing center policies.
- Please be sure to view and follow the [Test Center Student Guidelines](#).
- If an exam is scheduled with multiple-day exam time window, students are required to make an appointment using the [RESERVE-A-SEAT](#) application to take the exam during the required exam test window as specified.
- If an exam is scheduled only for one day (or set with a specific time window within the same day), students can just walk in to the UTD Testing Center to take the exam during that scheduled date (or on the set time). No reservation is needed.
- The UTD Testing Center is located at the McDermott Library basement (**Room MC 1.304**).
- When you arrive to take your exam, you will sign in with your **Comet Card** (or a **photo ID & UTD ID number** if you do not have a Comet Card).
- Students are allowed to bring a calculator (financial or simple) and a one sheet A4 size (8.27 × 11.69 inches) formula sheet to the exam. You can use one side of this formula sheet to write formulas that you don't want to memorize.

Students who find UTD geographically inconvenient may use a testing service of their choice at a convenient location to have the exam proctored. All exams must be completed within these required time windows: **(First Exam: 10/13/16 – 10/15/16; Second Exam: 12/8/16 – 12/11/16).**

- All students must inform the instructor of their outside testing location.
- A proctored exam application **must** be completed before **(First Exam: 10/13/16 – 10/15/16; Second Exam: 12/8/16 – 12/11/16).**
- Please go to the [Proctored Exam Information](#) page to check out **Procedures for Arranging an Individual Proctored Exam** and to access and complete the **Online Proctored Exam application**. Please note students are responsible for any fee charge of their testing services.
- Students are responsible for the cost of taking exams at external testing centers.

The UTD Testing Center requests all students strictly follow the proctored exam scheduling deadlines. If any student needs special accommodations, please seek the instructor's approval in advance. If you have any questions about using either UTD or outside testing center service, please email TestingCenter@utdallas.edu.

Grading Policy

Weights

Exam 1	45%
Exam 2	45%

Participation	10%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

Grading Scale

Scaled Score	Letter Equivalent
95-100	A
90-94	A-
85-89	B+
80-84	B
75-79	B-
70-74	C+
65-69	C
Less than 65	F

Grading Policy

10% of the course grade will be given based on participation under eLearning. I will utilize the publisher's supplementary materials under mybusinesscourse.com to prepare and disseminate weekly quizzes. These quizzes will not be graded however they will constitute the base for discussion board issues as well as office hour discussions.

Accessing Grades

Students can check their grades by clicking "My Grades" on the course menu after the grade for each assessment task is released.

Assignments

Weekly self quizzes provided under www.mybusinesscourse.com.

Participation/Discussions

10% of the course grade will be given based on participation under eLearning.

Course Policies

Make-up exams

No make-up exam will be given unless a proper document is provided (such a doctor's report) to explain the unanticipated absences.

Extra Credit

None.

Late Work

Late work will get no credit.

Class Participation

Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in eLearning and mybusinesscourse to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion board, chat or conference sessions. Class participation will count 10% towards your end of semester grade.

Classroom Citizenship

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the professor.

Academic Integrity

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding academic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the [UTD Judicial Affairs](#) web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on academic honesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UTD Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.