BPHD 8230-090: Theory of Corporate Finance  
Fall Semester, 2019

Professor: David C. Mauer  
Office: Friday Building Room 349, phone (704) 687-7707  
Email: dmauer@uncc.edu  
Class: Monday 5:30 pm – 8:15 pm, FRIDAY 207  
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Objective

The purpose of this course is to broaden your understanding of the key concepts and theories in corporate finance. In the initial class sessions, I will lecture on theories of capital structure. The following class sessions will be paper presentations and discussions.

Course Materials

1. Lecture Notes. I will provide copies of my lecture notes.

2. Papers. See the list of topics/papers on the following pages. All papers are available online and can be downloaded through the Atkins Library web portal (https://library.uncc.edu/) by searching under ‘Journals’.

Grading

1. Paper Presentations  30  
2. Class Participation  10  
3. Final Exam  30  
4. Research Paper  30

1. Paper Presentations

Each student will present several papers during the course. Following my class lectures, there will be 2 paper presentations per week.

Paper Presentation Guidelines: Each paper presentation should include the following components: (1) problem statement and motivation; (2) brief survey of the relevant literature; (3) concise and
intuitive explanations of theoretical arguments and/or empirical methodology; (4) summary of main results and contributions; (5) critical examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the paper; and (6) possible extensions for future research. The presentation should be approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. You will be evaluated on the organization of your presentation, your ability to synthesize and explain the material, and your ability to answer questions from me and the class.

A typical class session will be organized as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper presentation 1</td>
<td>5:30-6:45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>6:45-7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper presentation 2</td>
<td>7:00-8:15 pm</td>
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2. Class Participation

I have high expectations for attendance, preparation, and participation in class discussions. You should carefully read all assigned papers before class.

3. Final Exam

There will be a final exam on Monday, December 9 from 5:30 pm to 8:15 pm. The exam will cover my lectures and the papers that we discuss in class.

4. Paper

The minimum requirements for the paper are as follows:

1. The paper must be on a topic in corporate finance and the paper must be single-authored.
2. Conduct a literature review. Briefly discuss key papers that are related to your research topic.
3. Explain how your research idea contributes to the existing literature.
4. Discuss testable hypotheses.
5. Discuss research methods appropriate for testing your hypotheses. For example, if you plan to implement a difference-in-differences econometric methodology provide the specification and discuss the interpretation of the coefficient estimates.
6. Discuss data sources, key variables, and control variables.

It would be nice if you could provide some initial results. However, I realize that you have limited time to complete this portion of the course requirements by the deadline (see below).

Discuss with me corresponding content/requirements if you plan to write a theory paper.

Your paper is due Friday, December 6. It should be sent to me as an email attachment.
Papers by Topic Area

We will discuss a subset of the following papers in class.

Banks


Capital Structure


**Cash**


**Compensation**


**Convertibles**


**Corporate Governance**


**CSR**


**Debt Maturity**


**Diversification**


**Dividends**


**Equity Issues**


**Financial Constraints**


**Innovation**


**Investment**


**Labor**


**Mergers and Acquisitions**


**Priority**


**Product Market**


**Turnover**

College and University Policies

Disability Services

If you have a disability that affects your ability to do the work in this course, please contact the Office of Disability Services to obtain a Letter of Accommodation and provide it to the instructor. The office is 230 Fretwell and the phone number is 704-687-4355.

Codes of Conduct

All students are required to read and abide by the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity and the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Responsibility (http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407). Violations of the Codes will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Codes.

It is the student’s responsibility to be fully and accurately informed of University policies, including, but not limited to, rules regarding dropping and adding classes, graduation requirements, and student conduct. The Dean of Students Office is the authoritative source for these policies.

Statement on Diversity

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.