Objective: The purpose of this course is to provide a conceptual and theoretical foundation for the activities of student managers involved with the on-going operations of The MBA Investment Fund, LLC. Using a blend of academic- and practitioner-oriented readings, case studies, projects, and group analytical sessions, managers will be introduced to both the conventional wisdom and state-of-the-art methods used in performing many of the Fund's functional tasks, including security research, security trading, economic forecasting, and organizational coordination. After establishing a background in the technical aspects of managing a security portfolio, we will focus on developing a solid intuition about what an investment professional in each of these positions must know to do his or her job well. It is assumed that students have completed (or are concurrently enrolled in) the relevant prerequisite courses in finance, accounting, and statistics.


Packet of Readings (Available at Paradigm Printing, 24th and Guadalupe)


Strongly Recommended - *Wall Street Journal* or *Barron's Business Week*

*Institutional Investor*

*Forbes*

*Financial Analysts Journal*

*Journal of Portfolio Management*

Grades: There will be two general areas of evaluation in this course:

- Course Projects 50%
- Class Presentations & Participation 50%
- Total 100%
There will be three formal assignments spread throughout the course, two of which will be done on an individual basis and one on a group basis. The first of the projects will involve the investment analysis of a publicly traded company. The other assignments will involve additional aspects of the investment management process and will be distributed during the semester.

As indicated on the Daily Class Schedule, the Morning Meeting sessions will comprise roughly one-third of the class meetings. These will be the only formal presentations that managers will make during the semester, as well as the best opportunity for non-presenting managers to participate in the general discussion. Each manager in a presenting group will be assigned an individual grade based on the quality of their preparation and the effectiveness of his or her communication skills. A separate grade will also be assigned to the entire group for the effectiveness of the overall presentation. For every manager in a given group, these scores will then be averaged across the two presentations to create an overall presentation grade for the semester.

Procedures: As a rule, class will meet almost every Tuesday and Thursday of the semester. However, there will be a few exceptions. A special class (i.e., field trip) will be held in Houston on Friday, January 23 from approximately 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. In recognition of this commitment, there will be no class meeting on April 15.

The assigned classroom for our regular meetings is UTC 1.104, although we will frequently meet in the EDS Financial Trading and Technology Center (FTTC) classroom. The planned locations for each class session are listed on the Daily Class Schedule and will be posted on the course website. Other schedule and location changes may be announced as necessary.

The reading list and class preparation for this course is lengthy and relatively ambitious. Student managers will be expected to have read the assigned material in sufficient depth to ask insightful questions during class, or make otherwise meaningful additions to the discussion. Also, as reflected by the Course Outline, preparation of solutions to the assigned end-of-chapter problems and case studies will be an important focus of this class. The discussions of the theoretical and conceptual material that will take place during our sessions are linked closely with these exercises and so it is vital that you consider them before each class meeting. You will be responsible for being prepared to discuss answers to all of the questions pertaining to a particular topic, even if some of the questions are not eventually covered in class. Performance during these sessions will contribute to the overall class participation grade.

Policies: Enrollment in this course is restricted to the current set of student managers for The MBA Investment Fund. While this exclusivity creates a more convivial atmosphere than you will experience in most classes, it is important to keep in mind that there is a serious academic purpose to this course that is distinct from the day-to-day activities of the Fund. Accordingly, when evaluating the quality of your work and effort at the end of the semester, I will curve together the scores for the entire section to determine the final distribution. In each class, a full range of grades will be considered. In borderline situations, both class participation and your general effort throughout the semester will be determining factors.

You should treat this course as you would any of your other Fund responsibilities; that is, missing a class session is comparable to missing a Fund business meeting. Whether present or not, you will be held responsible for everything covered or assigned in class.
Further, your general conduct in class (including your attendance and promptness) will be a part of your class participation grade. Finally, accessing network resources during class (e.g., internet browsing, instant messaging) without explicit permission is forbidden and will not be tolerated.

The course home page (which can be located by accessing the web address listed on the first page of this syllabus) will serve as an important mechanism for communicating course-related information. However, anything material to your class performance that is posted online will also be available through more traditional outlets (e.g., e-mail, class handouts), or by request. The website will contain electronic versions of many of the materials distributed in class as well as a file that specifies the required readings for the next session, when that information is relevant. These files will be updated—assuming there are no network problems—no later than 9:00 am on the morning before a class day.

It will be assumed that all students in this course will act as if an Honor Code of Conduct is fully operational in the McCombs School of Business. Specifically, for those course projects that require you to work in a group, all members of the group are expected to contribute equally. Failure to do so may result in failure on the project. Finally, academic dishonesty (as defined by the Office of the Dean of Students) will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the most severe manner possible.
COURSE OUTLINE & READING LIST

The following outline lists the topic coverage and reading requirements for the semester. The "Assignment" listings refer to either: (i) case studies, or (ii) the end-of-chapter problems that can be found in the Reilly and Brown's (RB) Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management textbook. For the RB assignments, the question and problem numbering system refers to the relevant chapter and question or problem (e.g., Problem Q1.2 refers to the second question in Chapter 1, P2.3 refers to the third problem in Chapter 2. Finally, note that most of the non-textbook readings and case studies can be found in the course reading packet; those marked with an asterisk (*) will be distributed before class.

Class #1: Tuesday, January 20 (FTTC Classroom)
Topic: Investment Fundamentals & Equity Analysis I: Measuring Risk and Expected Return
Reading: RB Chapter 1 (pp. 16-27)  
Chapter 8 (pp. 247-271)  
Chapter 9  
Assignment: RB P9.6, P9.7 (Note: You can download an Excel spreadsheet from the class website with the data for these problems)

Class #2: Thursday, January 22 (FTTC Classroom)
Topic: Equity Analysis II: Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Models: Theory & Application
Reading: RB Chapter 11 (pp. 368-388, 393-402)  
Chapter 13 (pp. 436-449)  
Assignment: RB Q15.27, P15.11 (Note: These problems do not require reading Chapter 15)

Class #3: Friday, January 23
Topic: Houston Field Trip (Fayez Sarofim, Goldman Sachs, AIM Capital Management)
Reading & Assignment: None

Class #4: Tuesday, January 27 (FTTC Classroom)
Topic: Equity Analysis III: Relative Valuation Techniques & Earnings Forecast Models
Reading: RB Chapter 11 (pp. 388-393)  
Chapter 15 (pp. 549-565)  
Assignment: RB P15.13, P15.14, P15.26
Class #5: Thursday, January 29 (FTTC Classroom)

Topic: Equity Analysis IV: Industry Analysis & Company Analysis

Reading: RB Chapter 14 (pp. 486-524)
Chapter 15 (pp. 540-549, 565-588, 597-600)


Assignment: RB P14.8
Case Study: Merck & Co. - *

Class #6: Tuesday, February 3 (FTTC Classroom)

Topic: Equity Analysis V: Equity Portfolio Strategies & Private Company Valuation

Reading: RB Chapter 17 (pp. 652-678)


Assignment: RB P17.5
Case Study: Mirth Press

Class #7: Thursday, February 5 (FTTC Classroom)

Topic: Security Markets & Trading

Reading: RB Chapter 4 (pp. 105-108, 111-136)


Assignment: None

Class #8: Tuesday, February 10 (FTTC Classroom)


Reading: RB Chapter 26 (pp. 1106-1130)


Assignment: RB P26.5
Class #9:  Thursday, February 12  (FTTC Classroom)
Topic:  Performance Measurement II: Risk Decomposition & Attribution Analysis
Reading:  RB Chapter 26 (pp. 1130-1140, 1147-1152)
          J. Bogle, “The Implications of Style Analysis for Mutual Fund Performance Evaluation,”
          Journal of Portfolio Management, Summer 1998
          J. Davis, "Mutual Fund Performance and Manager Style," Financial Analysts Journal, January-
          February 2001
Assignment:  RB P26.9, P26.10

Class #10:  Tuesday, February 17  (FTTC Classroom)
Topic:  Morning Meeting – Group #1
Reading & Assignment:  None

Class #11:  Thursday, February 19  (FTTC Classroom)
Topic:  Morning Meeting – Group #2
Reading & Assignment:  None

Class #12:  Tuesday, February 24  (FTTC Classroom)
Topic:  Morning Meeting – Group #3
Reading & Assignment:  None

Class #13:  Thursday, February 26  (FTTC Classroom)
Topic:  Morning Meeting – Group #4
Reading & Assignment:  None

Class #14:  Tuesday, March 30  (FTTC Classroom)
Topic:  Fixed-Income Analysis I: Fundamentals, Yield Curve Analysis, and Valuation
Reading:  RB Chapter 18
          Chapter 19 (pp. 730-764)

Class #15:  Thursday, April 1  (FTTC Classroom)
Topic:  Fixed-Income Analysis II: Analytical Techniques
Reading:  RB  Chapter 10 (pp. 312-350)
          Chapter 19 (pp. 764-792)

Assignment: RB Q19.8, P19.7, P19.10, P19.18

*Class #16: Tuesday, April 6 (FTTC Classroom)*

Topic: Fixed-Income Analysis III: Portfolio Management Strategies

Reading: RB Chapter 20 (pp. 808-840)


Assignment: RB Q20.15, P20.12, P20.13

Case Study: Greydanus, Boeckh & Associates

*Class #17: Thursday, April 8 (FTTC Classroom)*

Topic: Portfolio Optimization & Asset Allocation

Reading: RB Chapter 7

Chapter 17 (pp. 678-685)


Assignment: RB P7.5, P17.8, P17.10

*Class #18: Tuesday, April 13 (FTTC Classroom)*

Topic: Morning Meeting – Group #1

Reading & Assignment: None

*Class #19: Tuesday, April 20 (FTTC Classroom)*

Topic: Morning Meeting – Group #2

Reading & Assignment: None

*Class #20: Thursday, April 22 (FTTC Classroom)*

Topic: Capital Market Foundations & Economic Forecasts

Reading: RB Chapter 12 (pp. 407-422)


Assignment: P12.2

**Class #21: Tuesday, April 27 (FTTC Classroom)**

Topic: Morning Meeting – Group #3

Reading & Assignment: None

**Class #22: Thursday, April 29 (FTTC Classroom)**

Topic: Behavioral Finance: Theory & Practice


Assignment: Q17.8, Q17.9

**Class #23: Tuesday, May 4 (FTTC Classroom)**

Topic: Morning Meeting – Group #4

Reading & Assignment: None

**Class #24: Thursday, May 6 (FTTC Classroom)**

Topic: Organizational Structure in the Money Management Industry

Reading: RB Chapter 25 (pp. 1066-1084, 1092-1094)

G. Brinson, "Organizational Culture," from *Managing Investment Firms: People and Culture* (J. Squires, ed.), Association for Investment Management and Research, 1997


Assignment: Case Study: Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co

THIS OUTLINE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE UPON PROPER NOTIFICATION.