

FBE 421 Financial Analysis and Valuation

Syllabus – Fall 2018

Professor Julia Plotts

Office: Hoffman Hall 221

Office Hours: Wednesdays before/after class by appointment

Section 15324 M-W 12-1:50pm JFF LL 105

Section 15325 M-W 2-3:50pm JFF 236

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Course Description

This course develops and uses tools of financial analysis to evaluate the performance and assess the value of companies. Through the use of various cases and examples, the course covers methods for utilizing financial data and applying valuation techniques to make strategic and financial decisions. The course covers valuation methods from both a conceptual and practical framework. It is an applications oriented course designed to provide a comprehensive set of tools and a conceptual framework for tackling the practical challenges of performance evaluation and business valuation. The course introduces topics such as mergers and acquisitions, private equity and venture capital and the valuation of private companies, financial restructuring, real options analysis, valuation of distressed companies, leveraged buyouts and the impact of financial leverage.

The course covers the theory and practice of financial analysis and valuation. Our coverage of the material is designed to allow you to become comfortable with the fundamentals so that you may improve your proficiency in participating in future financial and strategic discussions within a company or organization and with external analysts and service providers.

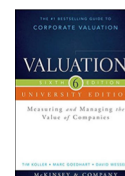
Learning Objectives

1. Gain knowledge of the following areas: accounting, finance, strategy and industry analysis.
2. Understand the key aspects of financial analysis for both performance evaluation and valuation; use and interpret financial data to make decisions about courses of action for a firm.
3. Perform valuations for public and private firms for purposes of fundamental research, strategic analysis, transactions such as an IPO or a merger, or a restructuring.
4. Gain proficiency in applying valuation frameworks such as the Enterprise Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) technique, market multiples approach (comps), and transaction-based approaches such as LBO analysis.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the application of techniques in financial analysis and valuation. Gather, categorize, analyze, interpret, and evaluate relevant qualitative and quantitative information and develop the ability to be creative and innovative through the completion of a final valuation project.
6. Develop communication strategies for discussing financial analysis and valuation.
7. Conduct research using a broad range of sources, synthesizing and judging the quality of collected information and support written or oral claims logically and persuasively.
8. Apply valuation in a global context, considering the interplay of international markets, and economic, social and cultural issues.

Required Materials

Required Textbook: *Valuation: Measuring and Managing the Value of Companies, University Edition (Wiley Finance) 6th Edition* by McKinsey & Company Inc., Tim Koller, Marc Goedhart, David Wessels Copyright © 2015 Wiley ISBN: 9781119556275

The publisher has arranged a special rate at the USC Bookstore for both the text and the workbook. You may also purchase on Amazon (or another source) but the 6th edition (University edition) is recommended.



Required Cases: Our course pack (CP) can be purchased online. It is \$38.25 and should be purchased directly through the HBS link: <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/559029>

Index of HBS Cases and Notes:

Notes:

- Identify the Industry
- Solving the Puzzle of the Cash Flow Statement (optional)
- Multiples in Firm Valuation
- Valuation of Late-Stage Companies and Buyouts

Cases:

- Hansson Private Label, Inc. Evaluating and Investment in Expansion
- Ferrari: The 2015 Initial Public Offering
- Spyder Active Sports—2004
- Buffett's Bid for Media General's Newspapers
- H.J. Heinz M&A

Course Notes

Slides, handouts and supplemental readings/articles will be posted on Blackboard. If you have any questions or need assistance with the Blackboard Course Pages, please contact the Marshall HelpDesk at 213-740-3000 or HelpDesk@marshall.usc.edu. Notes or recordings made by students based on a university class or lecture may only be made for purposes of individual or group study, or for other non-commercial purposes that reasonably arise from the student's membership in the class or attendance at the university. This restriction also applies to any information distributed, disseminated or in any way displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email or otherwise on the Internet, or via any other medium. Actions in violation of this policy constitute a violation of the Student Conduct Code, and may subject an individual or entity to university discipline and/or legal proceedings.

Optional Resources

The Wall Street Journal, *The Economist*, *Barron's*, *Forbes* (available through <http://mymarshall.usc.edu> or Gaughan & Tiberti Business Library). Wall Street Journal student subscription, 15-week digital-only membership or print + digital membership for only \$1 per week or 1 year for \$49, link to purchase: <http://r.wsj.net/hZrqm> A financial calculator is recommended for lecture and exams (discounting cash flows, IRR, etc.).

Prerequisites and/or Recommended Preparation:

Prerequisite: BUAD 215 or BUAD 306. This course assumes knowledge of intro corporate finance and accounting. It will be assumed that students are comfortable with the topics of standard corporate finance texts such as Ross, Westerfield and Jaffe or Brealey & Myers. Please review your basic finance and accounting concepts. The pace and schedule of topics covered in this class does not allow for review of these concepts. Working knowledge of excel is also important.

Grading Policies:

Final grades represent how you perform in the class relative to other students. Historically, the average grade target for this class is a 3.3/4 (B+). Three items are considered when assigning final grades: 1) your average weighted score as a percentage of the available points for all assignments (the points you receive divided by the number of points possible) 2) the overall average percentage score within the class 3) your ranking among all students in the class.

Grading Policies (continued):

ASSIGNMENTS		% of Grade
TESTS	Mid-Term Exam	25.0%
	Final Exam	30.0%
TEAM CASE ANALYSIS		20.0%
CLASS PARTICIPATION		5.0%
TEAM VALUATION PROJECT		<u>20.0%</u>
TOTAL		100.0%

Class Participation

Class participation is an extremely important part of the learning experience in this course as the richness of the learning experience will be largely dependent upon the degree of preparation by *all* students prior to each class session.

A course that incorporates the frequent use of case analyses to illustrate the practical application of concepts and practices requires the student to diligently and thoroughly prepare cases and actively offer the results of the analyses and conclusions derived as well as recommendations during each class session. My expectation and that of your classmates are that you are prepared for *all* classes and will actively participate in and meaningfully contribute to class discussions.

In-class participation is also a critical part of this course's learning experience. Cold calling may take place to encourage active participation and to gain multiple perspectives and points of view, thus lending itself to the richness of the learning experience. In-class participation grading will be based on students' demonstrated willingness to participate and the quality of the comments expressed, rather than quantity. While some students are far more comfortable than others with class participation, *all* students should make an effort to contribute meaningfully.

The evaluating of in-class participation is based on the following:

- *Relevance* – Does the comment or question meaningfully bear on the subject at hand? Irrelevant or inappropriate comments can detract from the learning experience.
- *Responsiveness* – Does the comment or question connect to what someone else has said?
- *Analysis* – Is the reasoning employed consistent and logical? Has data from course materials, personal experience, or general knowledge been employed to support the assertions/findings?
- *Value* – Does the contribution further the understanding of the issues at hand?
- *Clarity* – Is the comment concise and understandable?

During class sessions, I frequently assume the role of a facilitator to encourage a discussion that includes perspectives from a variety of viewpoints and, secondly, to help pull together prevailing analyses and recommendations. The direction and quality of a discussion is the *collective responsibility of the class*.

Excellent Performance

- Initiates information relative to topics discussed
- Accurately exhibits knowledge of assignment content
- Clarifies points that others may not understand

- Shares personal experiences or opinions related to topic
- Offers relevant / succinct input to class
- Actively participates in class exercises
- Demonstrates ability to apply, analyze, evaluate & synthesize course material.
- Demonstrates willingness to attempt to answer unpopular questions
- Builds on other students' contributions
- Very high levels of professionalism manifested in interactions with speakers and classmates.

Average Performance

- Participates in group discussions when asked
- Demonstrates knowledge of course material
- Offers clear, concise, “good” information on class assignments
- Offers input, but tends to reiterate the intuitive
- Attends class regularly

Unacceptable Performance

- Fails to participate even when directly asked
- Gives no input to discussions
- Does not demonstrate knowledge of the readings
- Shows up to class: does nothing
- Distracts group / class
- Irrelevant discussion

Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam, which will consist of various multiple choice and short answer theoretical concept and practical valuation questions and problems. The questions will be both quantitative and qualitative in nature and will be based on material presented in lecture, cases, readings and guest speaker sessions. Electronic devices are not permitted during exams. Calculators are permitted (assuming they are not on a mobile phone or other communications device.) Students with exam accommodations must arrange to take the exam with the Office of Disability Services and Programs (DSP).

The date/time of the Final Exam is determined by the University. You are required to be present for both exams. Make-up exams will not be administered. If an exam is missed due to a legitimate reason (such as illness), documentation must be provided and we will discuss how to handle the situation.

Assignments and Team Case Analysis

We will analyze real companies and work through problems by analyzing different scenarios and courses of action. In your analysis of the case studies you should place yourself in the role of the decision maker as you read through the situation and identify the problems and issues. In class we will probe underlying issues, compare different alternatives, and finally, suggest courses of action in light of the objectives of the case.

The cases have been included in the curriculum as a means to provide this self-study and practice in analysis. The case questions are posted in the assignment folder on Blackboard. For many of the HBS cases you will receive supplementary excel spreadsheets and some additional information. You do not need to do outside research for any of the cases.

Please work on your cases in teams of **4-6 students**. Do your best to work through the case utilizing readings and other supporting materials. Seeking assistance or “hints” from the instructor or past students is not authorized. A written case analysis should consist of a **2 page** written executive summary using a standard font and font size (such as Times New Roman size 11-12), addressing the case questions with supporting computations and tables in a separate appendix (if relevant). Case grades will be determined relative to the analyses of other groups in the class. Groups may be randomly selected to verbally present their findings on the cases during the class session. The quality of work product should be reflective of what you would be comfortable presenting to a current or prospective employer.

I will not become involved in any group problems. Teams may change composition during the course of the semester. If a set of teammates decides they can no longer work together, they are free to separate. If any member of the team cannot find another suitable team to join, he or she will have no choice but to hand in the rest of the cases individually. In choosing teammates, consider the skills your team will want to possess: accounting, finance and excel modeling expertise. Also make sure that your teammates’ expectations for their performance in this course are consistent with your expectations for yourself.

In addition to the team cases, there will be individual assignments to help you apply the material or prepare for a guest speaker session. These will be posted on Blackboard and are designed to complement the textbook and lecture material.

Your case analysis will be turned in as a group written deliverable. Only one team member should submit on the due date/time electronically via the Blackboard assignment link.

Team Valuation Project

The Team Valuation Project is a research report due on November 19th by 5pm PST. The deliverable description will be introduced in class (and posted to Blackboard) the week of October 8th. Team presentations will be held on November 26th. Attendance is mandatory at this session.

Peer Evaluation

You will be asked to complete a peer evaluation for both the team cases and valuation project. The sample form is included in Appendix I.

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments must be turned in on the due date/time electronically via Blackboard. The cover sheet of each written assignment should contain the first and last names of the students submitting the assignment arranged alphabetically. All of the names of the members in the team must appear at the top of the memo to receive credit.

Retention of Graded Coursework

Final exams and all other graded work which affected the course grade will be retained for one year after the end of the course *if* the graded work has not been returned to the student. If I returned a graded paper to you, it is your responsibility to file it.

Technology Policy

Laptop and Internet usage is not permitted during academic or professional sessions unless otherwise stated by the respective professor and/or staff. Use of other personal communication devices, such as cell phones, is considered unprofessional and is not permitted during academic or professional sessions. Videotaping faculty lectures is not permitted due to copyright infringement regulations. Audiotaping may be permitted if approved by the professor. Use of any recorded or distributed material is reserved exclusively for the USC students registered in this class.

Academic Integrity and Conduct

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own (plagiarism).

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>. Failure to adhere to the academic conduct standards set forth by these guidelines and our programs will not be tolerated by the USC Marshall community and can lead to dismissal.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://dps.usc.edu/contact/report/>. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services* (RSVP) <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <https://sarc.usc.edu/reporting-options/> describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.
<https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class.
<https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tabs for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu

Students with Disabilities

USC is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If you have a disability, which may impact your performance, attendance, or grades in this course and require accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Services and Programs (www.usc.edu/disability). DSP provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to your TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in GFS (Grace Ford Salvatori Hall) 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. Email: ability@usc.edu.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, the *USC Emergency Information* web site (<http://emergency.usc.edu/>) will provide safety and other information, including electronic means by which instructors will conduct class using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.

Other

The material presented and the classroom discussions is not intended to be financial advice to students in connection with any issue(s) they or others may have. If students have a financial matter, they are advised to promptly consult an experienced professional who can fully review the facts and advise them accordingly.

Course Calendar

	Topics	Readings and Deliverables*
8/20 8/22	Course Overview and Syllabus Principles of Value Creation	Syllabus Chapters 1-2 Watch first 2 segments (12 minutes) of online video “Creating value: An interactive tutorial” http://tinyurl.com/qd5hdnf Review Exhibit 2.2 Value Inc. vs. Volume Inc. (pages 19-23) Optional practice: Chapter 2 review questions 1-5
8/27 8/29	Conservation of Value Markets and Fundamentals Financial Statement Analysis (FSA)	Chapter 3 Watch the third segment (12:15-22:14) of video Chapter 5 (pages 65-78), Barron’s article “ <i>Are Value Stocks Ready to Grow Again?</i> ” 4/28/18 https://tinyurl.com/yb43gncu “FSA-Identify the Industry” (CP)
9/3 9/5	<i>Labor Day – No Class Scheduled</i> FSA and Cash Flow Analysis	“Solving the Puzzle of the CF Statement” (CP)
9/10 9/12	Return on Invested Capital & Growth Reorganizing Financial Statements	Chapters 6-7, WSJ article 5/3/16 “ <i>The Hottest Metric in Finance: ROIC</i> ” https://tinyurl.com/y8pygx2n Chapter 9, optional practice: chapter 9 review questions 1-6
9/17 9/19	Capital Budgeting Review and FSA Market Approach (Using Multiples)	Hansson Private Label Case Due 9/17 (CP) “Multiples in Firm Valuation” (CP)
9/24 9/26	Frameworks for Valuation and TV IPO Valuation	Chapters 8, 12 Ferrari IPO Case Due 9/26 (CP)
10/1 10/3	Cost of capital/WACC and moving from EV to value per share Midterm Exam	Chapter 13, Review exhibit 14.1 (page 318) Closed Note/Closed Book Midterm Exam 10/3
10/8 10/10	Project Introduction Evaluating Strategic Alternatives	<i>See Blackboard for Description of Deliverable</i> Spyder Active Sports Case Due 10/10 (CP)
10/15 10/17	Mergers and Acquisitions Real Options and Valuing Flexibility	Chapter 27 Chapter 35
10/22 10/24	M&A continued, Private Equity Private Equity	“Valuation of Late-Stage Companies and Buyouts” (CP) <i>See Blackboard for readings</i>
10/29 10/31	Private Equity Valuation in a Declining Industry	Buffett/Media General Case Due 10/31 (CP)
11/5 11/7	Real Estate Finance Distressed Valuation & Restructuring	<i>See Blackboard for readings and individual assignment</i> <i>See Blackboard for readings</i>
11/12 11/14	Special Topic TBD Leveraged Buyouts	Heinz M&A Case Due 11/14 (CP)
11/19 11/21	Submit Team Valuation Project <i>Thanksgiving -No Class Scheduled</i>	Team Valuation Project Due 11/19 by 5pm PST
11/26 11/28	Team Valuation Project Presentations Review/Wrap Up	<i>Mandatory Attendance and Participation</i>
12/7	12noon (15324) section Final Exam 11am-1pm 2pm (15326) section Final Exam 2pm-4pm	

*All Chapter references are for the Koller text 6/e University Edition. CP = HBS Course Pack

Schedule is subject to change based on guest speaker availability (with the exception of exam dates).

Appendix I

PEER EVALUATION FORM FOR GROUP CASES AND VALUATION PROJECT

Grades for individual student contributions to team projects are assigned by me, based on my observations of the team's working dynamics, my assessment of the team's project quality, and thoughtful consideration of the information provided through your peer evaluations. *The peer evaluations will be conducted through a survey link in the final week of classes.*

Peer Input/Evaluation Form

Complete one form for each of your teammates/group members, including yourself.

Name of group member:

<i>Assess your teammate's contributions on a scale of 1-5 (5 is excellent)</i>	5	4	3	2	1
Attended and was engaged in team meetings from beginning to end					
Asked important questions					
Listened to and acknowledged suggestions from every team mate					
Made valuable suggestions					
Took initiative to lead discussions, organize and complete tasks					
Contributed to organizing the assignment					
Contributed to writing the assignment					
Contributed to the financial analysis and calculations in the assignment					
Reliably completed tasks on time in a quality manner					
Demonstrated commitment to the team by quality of effort					
Was cooperative and worked well with others					
I would want to work with this team member again.					
Describe your teammate's (or your) contributions to the cases and final project. Was there consistency throughout the semester or any issues?					
How might your teammate (or you) have made more effective contributions to the assignment?					