

Wharton

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

FNCE 731: International Corporate Finance Spring 2008

Professor Karen Lewis Office Hours
2446 SH-DH Monday: 1:30 – 3:00

Course Syllabus

Goal of Course:

The goal of the course is to address the special problems encountered by the international financial officer, specifically:

- Cash flows in multiple currencies and the associated problems related to nominal contracts;
- Exchange rates misalignment relative to local costs and the associated problems related to competitiveness;
- Calculating the costs of capital internationally in the presence of partially segmented capital markets;
- Repatriating cash flows from multiple tax jurisdictions and the associated problems of minimizing the tax burden.

These four issues will be addressed in this course with the objective of preparing the student for careers in corporations with large operations abroad or for careers in the investment banks or consulting firms that advise these corporations.

Course mechanics: The course will be in lecture format along with case discussions approximately every week.

Workload: Intensive. The readings, problem sets, and cases are complex and require a lot of work.

Grading: To arrive at a final course grade, a numerical weighted average will be computed for three components: (a) group assignments; (b) individual assignments; and (c) course participation. The numerical grade distribution will dictate the final grade, according to the faculty's required grade distribution of B+ average.

The numerical weighted average will be calculated as follows:

Group Assignments: 60% => 7.5% per case

Individual Assignments: 30% => 15% per case

Course Participation: 10% => 5% Class and 5% Group

Details on these components are given below.

Assignments - There are 12 assignments, typically in the form of business cases. As with actual practice in business, all of the cases are written to focus on issues, not answers, and as such are ambiguous. There are often no “right answers” to cases, only good arguments and bad arguments for taking particular actions or decisions. There is sometimes a limited amount of quantitative information on which to make a decision and thus it is often impossible to compute a precise numerical answer, as might be done in other finance courses.

Nine of the assignments are to be done in a group while three of the assignments are to be done individually. You may drop one of your group assignments and one of your individual assignments. If you hand all the assignments in, the lowest grade in each category will be dropped.

Each assignment requires a write-up that explains your answers. All of the assignments also include a computer submission either in the form of a simulation or a spreadsheet which you will prepare. The table below details the submission due dates. When specified as “both,” the computer simulation deadline is the same as the write-up deadline.

Assignment	Group or Individual	Due Date	Download Site	Upload Button
GE Toys	Group	Jan 30 Simulation Jan 31 Write-up	IEMAV #1	IEMAV #1
Livingston Chemicals	Group	Feb 6 Simulation Feb 7 Write-up	IEMAV #2	IEMAV #2
Metallgesellschaft	Group	Feb 13 Simulation Feb 14 Write-up	IEMAV #3	IEMAV #3
Hedging Security Returns	Individual	Feb 20 Simulation Feb 21 Write-up	Webcafe'	IEMAV #6 (Note: Out of Sequence)
Jaguar, PLC	Group	Feb 27 Simulation Feb 28 Write-up	IEMAV #4	IEMAV #4
Tektronix	Individual	Mar 5 Simulation Mar 6 Write-up	IEMAV #5	IEMAV #5
Royal Dutch Shell	Group	Mar 25 Both	Webcafe'	IEMAV #7
Petrobras	Group	Apr 1 Both	Webcafe'	IEMAV #8

Assignment (cont.)	Group or Individual	Due Date	Download Site	Upload Button
Hozho	Group	Apr 8 Both	Webcafe'	IEMAV #9
GM's Plant X Brazil Part 1: Cash Flow	Group	Apr 15 Both	Webcafe'	IEMAV #10
GM's Plant X Brazil Part 2: Cost of Capital	Group	Apr 22 Both	Webcafe'	IEMAV #11
LaFarge S.A.'s Acquisition of BCI	Individual	Apr 29 Both	Webcafe'	IEMAV #12

Course Participation - There are two components to course participation:

(a) *Class* – Every six weeks, I will summarize your participation in class as a combination of case discussion and class attendance. Case discussion points will be based upon the ability to articulate an answer to a case question when called upon. Attendance will be taken on a random basis.

(b) *Group* - Students will be required to form “groups” for every assignment consisting of one to five people. Each group will have a fixed “salary” which can be allocated across students depending upon who the group feels has made the most contribution. Students with a higher “salary” assigned by their group will be awarded a higher course participation grade.

Groups for Assignment Submissions:

For each of the cases and exercises, the students will form groups of maximum size five. Sign up for groups will be done on-line via the IEMAV (International Exposure Management and Valuation) site. A link to this site is available under “Link” on Webcafe’.

Reading material: There are two bulkpacs at Wharton Reprographics.

- a. Required bulkpack - includes the cases is available at Wharton Reprographics.
- b. Optional bulkpack – includes all other reading material. This material is also available on Webcafe’. Therefore, this optional bulkpack is for students who prefer to purchase a copy rather than printing it out. Ask for the “pre-pay” through Reprographics if you want this bulkpack.

Prerequisites: A thorough knowledge of FNCE 601 is assumed. A working knowledge of a spreadsheet package is also assumed.

Re-grade procedure:

1. Please write a brief explanation of why you believe a question on your assignment was improperly graded. *Send an email to me with this explanation.* The assignment will be

reviewed by the TAs and me. I will then inform you about whether the grade is has been changed and the reason why.

2. Requests for regrades may be submitted *only up to two weeks* after the graded assignment or exam has been returned to your mailfolder.

3. I reserve the right to regrade the entire assignment or exam, which can result in a lower grade.

Course Topics by Class

Note: For Class numbers, please see class calendar.

Part 1: International Cash Flow Risk and Exchange Rate Hedging

1. Overview: Exchange Rates and Cash Flows

Readings: My Notes (MN), Section I,

2. Interest Rate Parity and Forward Rates

Readings: MN, Section II

3. Standard Hedging with Forward Exchange

Readings: MN, Section III

4. Hedging I: Standard Hedging with Options

Readings: MN, Section IV

Assignment 1: IEMAV # 1 Computer Decision Submission

5. Assignment 1: GE Toys Case Discussion

6. Hedging II. Multi-year cash flows

Readings: MN, Section V

Assignment 2: IEMAV # 2 Computer Decision Submission

7. Assignment 2: Livingston Chemical Case Discussion

8. Hedging III. Hedge Ratios

Readings: MN, Section V

Assignment 3: IEMAV # 3 Computer Decision Submission

9. Assignment 3: Metallgesellschaft Case Discussion

10. International portfolio investment

Readings: MN, Section VI

Assignment 4: Hedging Security Returns Computer Decision Submission

11. Assignment 4: Hedging Security Returns Discussion

12. Real Exchange Rate Risk

Readings: MN, Section VII

Assignment 5: Expose' #1 Computer Decision Submission

13. Assignment 5: Jaguar Case Discussion

14. Foreign Exchange Exposure

Readings: MN, Section VIII

Assignment 6: Expose' #2 Computer Decision Submission

15. Assignment 6: Tektronix Case Discussion

SPRING BREAK

Part 2: Valuing Cash Flows Across Borders

16. Shareholders International Portfolio Risk

Readings: MN, Section IX

17. International Corporate Governance and Financing

Readings: MN, Section XII

18. Assignment 7: Royal Dutch and Shell Case Discussion

19. The tax dimension

Readings: MN, Section IX

20. Assignment 8: Petrobras Evaluates Pecom Discussion

21. Tax planning and intra-corporate fund flows

Readings: Baker, J. C., International Finance, chapter 17: "Taxation of International Operations".

22. Assignment 9: Hozho Case Discussion

23. International Capital Budgeting

Readings: MN, Section X

Readings: Dumas, B., "Capital Budgeting: an Analytical Framework," classnote, February 2002.

24. Assignment 10: GM's Plant X Brazil Part 1 Case Discussion

25. International Cost of Capital

Readings: MN, Section XI

Lessard, D. R., "Incorporating Country Risk in the Valuation of Offshore Projects," *Journal of Applied Corporate Finance*, 1996, 52-63.

Diermeier, J. and B. Solnik, 2001, "Global pricing of equity: analysts and asset managers take note: a corporation's stock price is influenced by international factors in proportion to the extent of the company's foreign activities," *Financial Analysts Journal*, 57, 4, 37-47.

26. Assignment 11: GM's Plant X Brazil Part 2 Case Discussion

27. International Valuation

28. Assignment 12: LaFarge Case Discussion