

University of Pennsylvania
The Wharton School

Real Estate Finance: Investment and Analysis
Fall 2013
REAL/FNCE 721 – JMHH G50

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
(sign up on Canvas) and by appointment
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Course Objectives:

There are two primary goals of this class:

- 1) To expose you to the terms, issues, and topics in commercial real estate;
- 2) To give you the basic skills and intuition you need to begin to evaluate a variety of real estate investments.

Real estate is a multi-faceted field, encompassing both an operating industry and a broad category of investments. It has its own institutional features, jargon, and investment structures. As the survey course in the Real Estate Department, this class aims to provide a broad overview of the real estate field, rather than a narrow focus on any particular topic. We delve more deeply into a handful of aspects of the real estate field when I believe they are particularly relevant or when the example provides a more general insight. Higher-level classes in the Real Estate Department examine in more detail many of the topics from this class.

The presumption in this class is that you have no prior real estate experience, and no pre-existing knowledge of the real estate industry is necessary to do well in this class. However, if you have prior experience in the real estate industry, some topics might be familiar to you already.

Course Materials:

Textbook: *Real Estate Finance and Investments, Third Edition*, by Linneman is required. It is available in the Bookstore. In my opinion, the Linneman book is the best one available. However, I have made two alternative texts, *Commercial Real Estate Analysis and Investments* by Geltner and Miller and *Real Estate Finance and Investments* by Brueggman and Fisher, as well as two supplemental books, *Investing in REITs* (Block) and *A Primer on Securitization* (Kendall and Fishman), available on reserve at Lippincott. In addition, these books are available new or used at Internet bookstores. You may find them useful as supplemental resources or for additional background and context.

Class notes: Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in class will be posted in PDF format on

Canvas in advance of class time. Even if the slides are posted well in advance, I often update and modify them a day or two before class, so you should plan to print out the most current version shortly before class. These slides are a woefully inadequate substitute for attending class. Rather, they are intended to be a tool to aid in taking notes.

Readings: Available at Study.net, these fall into two categories:

- (a) Required readings
- (b) Recommended (but optional) readings

Calculator: You must have a financial calculator capable of computing annuities and present values. The calculator you were supposed to obtain for FNCE 601 will be more than adequate. You are also responsible for knowing how to use the annuity and present value functions. You will need the calculator for the exams.

Handouts: Occasional handouts will be distributed in class and billed by the bursar. I will bring handouts to class only once. After that, extra copies will be available outside my office door. You can pick them up there or, if I can convert them to electronic format, you will be able to download them from Canvas.

Class Preparation:

Required readings: These readings are listed on the syllabus with an asterisk (*) and are in bold print. They are drawn from the textbook and the readings bulkpack. You should read them in advance of the class in which they are listed.

Optional readings: For interested students, especially real estate majors, the syllabus lists recommended (but optional) readings. These readings either expand upon or reinforce the topics we cover in class.

Practice problems: A set of practice problems and detailed solutions will be available on Canvas. Doing these problems is a fundamental part of the class. Please do the practice problems after the topic set in which they are covered. (For example, do Practice Problems set #9 after we cover Topic #9.) I will neither ask you to hand in the problem sets nor grade them. This is not an indication that I consider them unimportant. In addition, the exams will have a similar format to the practice problems.

Old exams: Three years' worth of old exams will be available on Canvas. I encourage you to do these, timed and without looking at the solutions, in advance of the midterms.

Guest Speakers:

Guest speakers are scheduled outside of normal class time, and the dates are listed on the syllabus. These sessions are **required** material. Generally, I do not videotape these lectures so the guests feel comfortable speaking freely. You will need to get the notes from someone else if you are unable to attend. The guest lectures are:

- Tuesday, October 1, 6:00-7:15 p.m. PJ Yeatman, Head of Private Real Estate, CenterSquare Investment Management. JMHH F95.
- Tuesday, October 22, 6:00-7:15 p.m. Sam Zell, Chairman, Equity Group Investments. JMHH G06.
- Tuesday, November 19, 6:00-7:15 p.m. Darren Tangen, COO and CFO, Colony Financial Inc. JMHH G60.

Cases:

Workload: There will be three group projects.

Distribution: Cases will be handed out in class. They will not be available electronically.

Teams: You will choose your own case team of three to five members, and must work with the same team on all three cases. Your group may contain members from any of my sections of 721. It is your responsibility to find a team. You and your teammates should sign up under the “team sign-up” section on Canvas. The cases require a variety of skills, from financial savvy to management. You should try to have a mix of talents and backgrounds on your team. In addition, I strongly encourage you not to take the “divide and conquer” approach of having only one or two team members work on each case. You will be much more successful if the group uses a truly collaborative process.

Independent work: You may discuss the cases with other groups and give and receive assistance. However, each group must separately prepare their own case materials and write-ups.

Due dates: Cases will always be due before 10 a.m. on the day the case is discussed in class.

Late cases will not be accepted nor will extensions be given.

Examinations:

Workload: Two midterm exams will be held in regularly scheduled class time.

- Wednesday, October 16
- Monday, December 9.

Material covered: Exams will cover the material examined in class and during guest lectures, the class notes, the cases, the practice problems, and the required readings. Exam 2 is not cumulative in content, but assumes proficiency in basic skills taught in the first portion of the class.

What you can bring in: The exams are closed-book, but you are allowed to bring one 8.5 x 11” piece of paper (double-sided) of notes into each exam. You will need to bring a financial calculator to the exams. You will not be allowed to use a computer.

Exam seating: Seats will be randomly assigned on exam days.

Passing the exams: Both exams must be passed in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Exam makeups: Exams must be taken at the assigned time. ***If you cannot attend class on the exam dates, please drop the class now.*** Make-ups are not given unless you have a Wharton Dean’s Office-approved excuse. For a medical excuse, you must have been admitted for treatment by student health services or the hospital, or have a doctor’s note explaining that you were incapacitated. Being seen is not enough.

Grading:

Weights: The course grade will be based on the following:

- Exams: 50 percent (25 percent each); you must pass each individually
- Cases: 50 percent (16.7 percent each).

Attendance: I will not explicitly grade your attendance in the class, but I will consider superb or sub-par class participation when deciding grades. This factor could account for up to one-third of a letter grade.

Curve: Each individual assignment is curved by section and the variance is standardized so no one assignment contributes more variance to your final grade than another. The curved scores are totaled for each student and the total is curved again within section. In practice, this means that your grade is determined by how many standard deviations your assignment scores are above or below your section's mean and whether you have correlated over- or underperformance across assignments.

Regrades: My policy on regrades is appended to the syllabus.

Seating:

Assigned seats: Whatever seat you choose on the *fourth* class meeting (September 11) is yours for the entire semester. Please sit there every class.

Switching sections:

- In general, no switching sections. You must attend the course section in which you are officially enrolled.
- With advance permission from me, you may attend a different section if you have an unavoidable conflict on occasion.
 - Email me at least one day in advance of the class.
 - I will limit how many times you can switch during the semester.
 - I cap the total number of switchers on any given day; first-come, first-served.

Classroom Expectations:

Be on time: I will start on time and end on time. Do not arrive late.

Electronics: You may not use computers, smartphones, Blackberries, etc., unless medically necessary. You may use an iPad or other tablet to read and annotate the class notes.

Name tents: I appreciate it if you display your name tents.

Be prepared: Completed the *required* readings in advance of the lecture and be ready to comment on or discuss the class material.

Participation: Be willing to participate in class discussions, and to speak up if you're bewildered.

Guest speakers: Be physically present for the talks by outside speakers unless you have a conflict with another class.

Good sport: I expect that you will not find every topic we cover to be of interest to you, but that you will be a good sport about it. Students who are considering a career in real estate development, for example, are interested in very different things than students who are considering a career on Wall Street. All the topics we will cover are of interest to someone in the class, but few are of interest to everyone. Please recognize that your classmates and you do not necessarily share the same tastes when I go into depth on a topic that you feel is not especially relevant to you.

Getting help:

Canvas: I rely on Canvas to communicate with you and provide class materials:

- Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in class (in PDF format)
- Sample Excel spreadsheets from the in-class examples
- Practice problems, old exams, and solutions
- Supplemental class material, such as newspaper articles
- Announcements, updates, and clarifications
- Discussion threads for Q+A (e.g., about a case)

Email: Do not think that a question is too “basic” to ask me. I am happy to help students understand any material they are having difficulty with. All I ask is that you take a serious stab at it yourself before turning to me.

Office hours: I hold regular office hours Tuesdays 2:00-3:30. Sign up on the Calendar. If you can't make that time, email me and we'll schedule an appointment.

Disclaimers:

Schedule: The class schedule is an ambitious goal and may not reflect the actual timing, or even sequence, of covering material.

Pass/fail: Be aware that it is the policy of the Real Estate Department that MBA students who take the class pass/fail cannot count the course toward the five credits necessary to complete the real estate concentration.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Preparation
1. August 28	Topic #1: Course requirements, class overview, and overview of real estate markets	* BP #1: <i>Emerging Trends in Real Estate 2013</i> , chapters 1-2. Linneman, chapter 2: “What Is Real Estate?”, pp. 12-35.
2. September 4	Topic #2: Property-level income; sources, risk, and value	* Linneman, chapter 4: “Property Level Pro Forma Analysis”, pp. 43-55. * Linneman, chapter 5: “Financial Modeling” * Linneman, chapter 7: “The Use and Selection of Cap Rates” Linneman, “Prerequisite I: The Basics of Discounted Cash Flow and Net Present Value Analyses” Linneman, “Prerequisite II: IRR: What It Is and What It Isn’t” Brealey and Myers, <i>Principles of Corporate Finance</i> , chapter 3: “How to Calculate Present Values.”
3. September 9	Topic #2: Property-level income; sources, risk, and value, continued	
4. September 11	Topic #3: Debt financing and simple mortgages	Choose your seats today! (Get to class early.) * Linneman, chapter 4: “Property Level Pro Forma Analysis”, pp. 56-58. * Linneman, chapter 13: “The Use of Debt and Mortgages” Linneman, chapter 11: “Real Estate Bankruptcy Basics” Linneman, chapter 12: “Should You Borrow?” Linneman, “Prerequisite III: Amortization Fundamentals”
5. September 16	Topic #3: Debt financing and simple mortgages, continued Topic #4: Appraisals and Evaluating Pro Formas	* BP #2: <i>Nine Abuses Common in Pro Forma Cash Flow Projections</i> * Linneman, chapter 8: “Development Pro Forma Analysis” OPT #1: <i>How Reliable Are Commercial Appraisals? Another Look</i>
6. September 18	Topic #4: Appraisals and Evaluating Pro Formas, continued Case #1 handed out	
7. September 23	Topic #5: Taxes and Real Estate	* Linneman, chapter 4: “Property Level Pro Forma Analysis”, pp. 55-56, 59-63. * Linneman, chapter 16: “Real Estate Exit Strategies.”
8. September 25	Topic #5: Taxes and Real Estate, continued	* Linneman, chapter 3: “The Fundamentals of Commercial Leases.”

	Topic #6: Introduction to leases and the economics of retail malls	OPT #2: <i>Mall Myths</i> OPT #3: <i>The Changing Design of Shopping Places</i> OPT #4: <i>The Evolution of Retailing in the United States</i>
September 30	No class.	
9. October 1 6 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.	Tuesday evening guest lecture. PJ Yeatman, CenterSquare Investment Management	
10. October 2	Topic #6: Introduction to leases and the economics of retail malls, continued.	First part of Case #1 due before 10 a.m. No discussion.
October 7	No class.	
11. October 9	Case #1 discussion Hand out midterm exam review sheet	Remainder of Case #1 due before 10 a.m.
Fall Break		
12. October 14	Topic #7: Debt structures and managing real estate risk	*BP #3: <i>Guide to Real Estate Capital Markets: Participating Debt and Equity. [This article is a bit dry. Do your best to wade through, and don't worry about the "Parameters" sections.]</i> *Linneman, Chapter 15: "Ground Leases as a Source of Finance." *Linneman, chapter 17: "Real Estate Private Equity Funds" OPT #5: <i>Real Estate Private Equity Funds</i>
13. October 16	Midterm Exam 1	
End of quarter 1/start of quarter 2.		
14. October 21	Case #2 handed out. Topic #8: Real estate cycles	*BP #4: <i>Adjustment Mechanisms in Real Estate Markets</i> *BP #5: <i>The Making of an Asset Class</i> Linneman, chapter 20: "Real Estate Cycles" Linneman, chapter 9: "Development Feasibility Analysis" OPT #6: <i>Superstar Cities</i> OPT #7: <i>Will We Need More Office Space?</i> OPT #8: <i>Living Downtown</i> OPT #9: <i>Developer: Villain or Hero?</i> OPT #10: <i>(When) Will We Do It Again?</i>
15. October 22	6 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Tuesday evening guest lecture: Sam Zell, Chairman, Equity Group Investments	
16. October 23	Topic #9: Securitization of Debt Interests: Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities	*BP #6: <i>How to Build a Bond</i> *BP #7: <i>The Past, Present, and Future of CMBS</i> *Linneman, chapter 14: "Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities Basics" Linneman, "Supplemental II: A Look at a Real CMBS Issue"

October 28	No class.	
17. October 30	Topic #9: Securitization of Debt Interests: Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities, continued	*BP #8: <i>Defaults in Securitized Real Estate Loans</i> OPT #11: <i>The Mortgage REITs: Dynamos or Duds?</i>
18. November 4	Case #2 discussion	Case #2 due before 10 a.m.
19. November 6	Topic #10: Equity securitization and the REIT market	*BP #9: <i>Basic Valuation of a Real Estate Investment Trust</i> *Linneman, chapter 18: "REITs and Liquid Real Estate" OPT #12: <i>REIT Share Prices and the Declining Relative Importance of Commercial Real Estate</i> OPT #13: <i>Liquid Real Estate</i> OPT #14: <i>REITs as an Alternative Investment in Volatile Financial Markets</i>
20. November 11	Topic #10: Equity securitization and the REIT market, continued. Case #3 handed out	*Linneman, chapter 10: "Real Estate Company Analysis." *BP #10: <i>UPREITs: A Vehicle for Tax Deferral and Asset Growth</i> *BP #11: <i>Forces Changing the Real Estate Industry Forever</i> *BP #12: <i>The Five Overlooked Features of the Real Estate Capital Markets</i> OPT #15: <i>REITs and Taxes</i> OPT: <i>Linneman, Chapter 18 Supplement A: The Forces Changing Real Estate Forever: Five Years Later</i>
21. November 13	Topic #11: The rent/own decision in corporate real estate.	*Linneman, chapter 19: "Corporate Real Estate Decision Making"
22. November 18	Topic #11: The rent/own decision in corporate real estate, continued	
23. November 19 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.	Tuesday evening guest lecture. Darren Tangen, Colony Financial	
24. November 20	Topic #12: Return and Risk in Housing Markets (with a parallel to commercial real estate)	OPT #16: <i>Assessing High House Prices: Bubbles, Fundamentals, and Misperceptions</i>
25. November 25	Case #3 discussion	Case #3 due before 10 a.m.
November 27	<i>No class – Friday schedule due to Thanksgiving</i>	
26. December 2	Topic #12: Return and Risk in Housing Markets, continued.	*BP #13: <i>Safety in Renting</i>

	Hand out midterm exam review sheet.	
27. December 4	Cover remaining material. Sum up. Midterm exam review.	
28. December 9	Midterm Exam 2	

Regrade Policy

I strive for accuracy and equity in the grading for this class. However, despite my best efforts, grading is sometimes imperfect. The following set of rules provides a mechanism for requesting regrades to correct grading errors. If you do not follow these rules, you will forfeit your right to a regrade. The rules are designed to maintain fairness by not rewarding gratuitous regrade requests while also not penalizing students for bringing errors to my attention.

The onus for bringing any errors to my attention falls upon you. Pick up your assignments promptly so you can check the grading and make sure that your grade on Canvas matches the grade on your assignment.

1) If we made an error in adding up your points to obtain your total score, all you need to do is *type* up a short explanation describing the points we failed to add, attach it to your assignment, and place both in my mailbox in SHDH.

2) My intent is that you only lose points *once* for a mistake. Sometimes, an error in one part of an assignment creates incorrect answers in another part of the assignment. In that case, we look for internal consistency. If your answer would have been correct had you not made your earlier mistake, we will note the mistake but not deduct further points for it. Similarly, if in a case you repeat the same calculation in a number of circumstances, we will deduct points only once for a calculation error but we will try to note it every time.

If you believe that we inadvertently deducted points multiple times for the same error, please *type up a detailed* explanation and submit it along with the assignment to my mailbox in SHDH. Be sure to take the time to make sure you understand the errors you made before submitting the regrade request. Also, if an error is circled but no point deduction is noted, we did not take off points for it.

3) To aid your understanding of the material and of the grading philosophy, I typically provide an explanation of how the points were allocated. If you believe your grading was not consistent with the stated guidelines, please *type up a detailed* explanation and submit it along with the assignment to my mailbox in SHDH. Be sure to take the time to make sure you understand the errors you made before submitting the regrade request. If not, you run the risk that you actually did worse than you thought and were too generous with the points given. In addition, under no circumstances will I consider regrade requests that allege that the grading guidelines are unfair. The guidelines are applied equally to everyone, thus are equitable. Rather, the regrade request is intended to correct errors in adhering to the rubric.

4) If you merely would like an explanation of the grading on an assignment, submit your assignment with a typed cover letter letting me know what you would like me to explain. We will set up a time to meet and I will explain it to you. Under no circumstances will I go over the grading of your assignment in “real time,” with no forewarning.

General policies:

1) I personally do all the regrades, in conference with the graders.

2) If you request a regrade, the entire assignment will be reviewed. Errors tend to be random and offset each other. It would be unfair to the rest of the class to correct only the grading errors

that went against you but not the ones in your favor.

- 3) Regrade requests will be accepted for *three weeks* following the *return* of an assignment. If an assignment has multiple parts, the deadline for a regrade request for *any* part of the assignment is three weeks after the return of the *last* part of the assignment.
- 4) The acceptable margin of error on a 100-point assignment is +/- 2 points. Please do not submit regrade requests for one or two points total. The exception is if we totaled up your points incorrectly: In that case I will correct any size error.
- 5) Do not submit regrade requests by email.