

Wharton

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

FNCE 208: International Corporate Finance

Spring 2016

<Preliminary Version– Subject to Change>

Professor Karen Lewis Office Hours
2446 SH-DH: Tuesday 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

Course Syllabus

Learning Objectives:

In this course, you will learn how to evaluate problems encountered by the international financial officer of a corporation, including how to:

- Assess the company's risk exposure due to cash flows that may be denominated in foreign currency and how to manage that risk;
- Consider the effects of inflation differences across countries on company competitiveness and profitability;
- Calculate the cost of capital internationally
- Understand issues involved with company valuations across countries;
- Decide when to repatriate foreign cash flows in view of multiple international tax jurisdictions.

Who Would Benefit From This Class?

Studying the topics in this course generally benefits students who are preparing for careers that either work directly with international corporations or else evaluate these corporations. For example, understanding these topics is often useful for work in:

- Companies with operations abroad or
- Firms that consult or work with these international companies or
- Private equity or hedge funds that potentially invest in these companies.

Course expectations: In order to focus upon real world problems faced by companies, this course uses many case examples. I will present some in lecture to highlight business problems. Other cases require group write-ups or problem set solutions. In addition, there will be two in-class midterm exams. The calendar for these cases and exams are below as well as on Canvas.

Overall Grading: To arrive at a final course grade, a numerical weighted average will be computed for six components: (a) 2 in-class midterm exams; (b) 3 group case write-ups; (c) a group capstone case write-up; (d) 2 problem sets, and (e) course participation. Also, three of the write-ups include a computer simulation.

All assignments may be done with a group, or individually, according to your preference.

The numerical weighted average will be calculated as follows:

1. Midterm Exams (2 total): 40% => 20% each
2. Write-ups (3 total): 27% => 9% each
3. Capstone Case (1 total): 15%
4. Problem Set (2 total): 8%=> 4% each
5. Class Participation: 10%

Details on these components are given below.

1. Exams – There are two in-class midterm exams. Summary reviews of the topics covered will be presented in a lecture format during the class period before each exam. Old exams will be posted to provide sample questions and answers.

2. Regular Write-ups – Four of the business cases require write-ups addressed both qualitative and quantitative issues. As with actual practice in business, all of the cases are written to focus on issues, not answers, and as such may be ambiguous. There are often no “right answers” to cases, just 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 may be impossible to compute a precise numerical answer. The lowest grade among the regular write-ups will be dropped so that only 3 write-ups matter for the grade. Therefore, you may choose not to turn in one of these assignments.

3. Capstone Case – To synthesize the topics you will have learned throughout the semester, there will be an extended capstone write-up at the end of the course. This write-up cannot be dropped.

4. Problem Sets – For three of the business cases, a “problem set” will be assigned that will require only submitted the answers to some objective quantitative questions. The lowest grade for the problem set assignments will be dropped and you may therefore choose not to turn in one assignment so that only 2 problem sets matter for the grade.

5. Class participation: There are two components to the participation grade.

(a) Attendance: Attendance counts two-thirds towards the participation grade. It will be taken every case discussion day and on a random basis on other days. I take attendance promptly at the beginning of the class so as not to take up class-time. Therefore, if you are late to class, I will likely record you as absent. As such, if you are late, please let me know at the end of that class period that you were in attendance if you want to be counted as present.

(b) Discussion: A discussion grade will count one-thirds towards the participation grade. The discussion grade will depend upon your willingness to give answers when called upon (whether right or wrong) and also your willingness to volunteer to help discuss case questions. A participation grade will be posted twice a semester on Canvas as “check”, “check+” or “check –”.

Groups - To submit assignments, you will form a “Group” through the IEMAV site (accessible through Canvas). This step must be followed whether you are working alone or with others. *Please note that you will follow this step every time you submit an assignment.* The group sign-up procedure will be covered in detail during class. Generally, students prefer to form a group early in the semester and keep with that group throughout. Nevertheless, students sometimes prefer to submit some assignments individually or to join a different group during the course of the semester. These changes are straightforward through the IEMAV site and do not require permission from me. *The maximum number of students permitted in a group is 4.*

Course Materials, Submissions, and Other Basic Information:

All course materials will be accessible through the Canvas site. All submissions will be done on the IEMAV site (accessible through Canvas). The table below summarized the due dates and submission buttons on IEMAV.

Assignment	Type	Due Date*	Submission Location
1. GE Toys	Simulation* & Write-up	Feb 3	IEMAV
2. Livingston Chemicals	Simulation* & Write-up	Feb 10	IEMAV
3. Expose’ and Jaguar	Simulation* & Write-up	Feb 17	IEMAV
Midterm #1	In Class Exam	Feb 24	Class
4. Global Cost of Capital at AES	Problem Set	Mar 16	IEMAV
5. Foreign Company Analysis	Problem Set	Mar 23	IEMAV
6. Hozho	Problem Set	Mar 30	IEMAV
7. AES Tiete	Write-up	Apr 6	IEMAV
Midterm #2	In Class Exam	April 13	Class
8. The Return of LaFarge	Capstone Write-up	Apr 27	IEMAV

** Simulations are due by 8:30 AM*

Reading material:

- a. *Cases*: All copyrighted cases are available for purchase in a bulkpack at Wharton Reprographics through Study.Net. All non-copyrighted cases are available on Canvas.
- b. *Lecture Notes* (labeled “My Notes” or MN below), Slides, Additional Reading: All these material are posted on Canvas. Slides will be posted prior to the class in which they are discussed.

Prerequisites: A thorough knowledge of Corporate Finance (FNCE 100) is 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 has been changed and the reason why.
2. Requests for regrades may be submitted to me *only up to two weeks* after the graded assignment or exam has been returned to your mail folder.
3. Please note that regrades may potentially result in lowering the grade.

Course Topics by Class

Note: For dates of each Class numbers, please see class calendar under Canvas.

Part 1: International Cash Flow Risk and Exchange Rate Hedging**Module 1. Overview: Exchange Rates and Cash Flows**

Class Number: 1- Overview

Readings: My Notes (MN), Chapter 1

Module 2: Interest Parity and Hedging Single Cash Flows with Forwards

Class Numbers: 2 to 3 - Interest Rate Parity and Standard Hedging with Forwards

Readings: MN, Chapter 2

Module 3: Hedging Single Cash Flows with Options

Class Numbers: 4 – Standard Hedging with Options

Readings: MN, Chapter 3

Class 6. GE Toys Case Discussion**Module 4: Hedging Multi-Period Cash Flows**

Class Numbers: 5 – Hedging Multi-Periods

Readings: MN, Chapter 4

Class 8. Livingston Chemical Case Discussion

Module 5: Real Exchange Rate Risk and Exposure

Class Numbers: 7 – PPP and Real Exchange Rate Risk

Readings: MN, Chapter 5

Class Numbers: 9 – Exchange Rate Exposure

Readings: MN, Chapter 6

Class 10. Expose’#1 (Jaguar) Case Discussion

Module 6: IN CLASS MIDTERM – Part 1 Summary

Class 11. Midterm Review

Readings: Old Exams on Canvas

Class 12. MIDTERM 1: In class

Part 2: Valuing Cash Flows Across Borders

Module 7: Shareholders Risk

Class Numbers: 13 & 14: International Portfolio Risk

Readings: MN, Chapter 7

Module 8: International Cost of Capital

Class Number 15 & 17: International Cost of Capital Lectures

Readings: MN, Chapter 9

Class 16. AES Globalizing the Cost of Capital Discussion

Class 18. Foreign Company Analysis Discussion

Module 9: International Taxes, Corporate Fund Flows, and Inversions

Class Number 17 & 19: International Taxes Lectures

Readings: MN, Chapter 8

Readings: International Tax Notes HBS

Class 20. Hozho Case and Corporate Inversions Discussion

Module 10: International Capital Budgeting

Class Number 21: International Budgeting Lecture

Readings: MN, Chapter 10

Class 22. AES Tiete Case Discussion

Module 11: IN CLASS MIDTERM – Part 2 Summary

Class 23. Midterm Review

Class 24. MIDTERM 2: In class

Module 12: International Valuation

Class Number 25: International Valuation Lecture

Readings: MN, Chapter 10

Class 22. AES Tiete Case Discussion

Module 13: Assessing Country and Sovereign Risk

Class Numbers: 26-27 Country and Sovereign Risk Lecture

Readings: MN, Chapter 11

Module 14: COURSE SUMMARY – Capstone Case

Class 28. LaFarge Case Discussion