

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
THE WHARTON SCHOOL**

**MGMT-249**

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**MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS**

**SYLLABUS – FALL 2018**

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Section 1: Monday/Wednesday 3:00pm-4:30pm  
Office Hours: By Appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

As product and factor markets globalize, technology rapidly evolves, and competition intensifies, companies worldwide are fundamentally changing their structures and processes to keep pace and take advantage of new opportunities. We are witnessing the emergence of the disaggregated and distributed global firm that leverages internal and external capabilities around the world in real-time, blurring traditional organizational boundaries and leading to the creation of virtual enterprises. To catalyze this transformation and stay ahead in competency, cost, and time to market, companies are utilizing an array of powerful but often risky inorganic strategies, in the hopes that they can “plug and play” with local and global entities, and gain the needed resources to compete effectively.

This course explores the various modes of corporate development available to managers to drive firm growth and change, including alliances, outsourcing, corporate venturing, and particularly mergers and acquisitions. The objectives are three-fold: (1) to arm you with a set of tools to facilitate the selection of the appropriate growth strategy in a given situation; (2) to provide you with insights into how to manage partnerships like alliances, outsourcing, and corporate venturing; and, (3) to develop a comprehensive framework for executing M&As, from initiation to implementation.

The emphasis is on strategic and operational aspects of these transactions, rather than financial considerations. While we will cover deals from a variety of industries, a number of them are from technology-based sectors. This is not only due to the recent prevalence and continued importance of external growth strategies in these sectors, but also because the fast pace provides early assessments of outcomes and management lessons. As we will see, insights from these settings are generalizable to many other contexts.

The course has five modules. In Module I, we begin by examining the different modes of corporate partnership, including the applicability and management approaches for each. In Module II, we turn our attention to the different modes of mergers and acquisition in particular. In Module III, we delve into acquisition screening and deal-making. In Module IV, we consider post-merger integration in detail. Module V concludes the course with a session on divestitures (my area of specialization), the presentation of project work, and a review of the course learnings.

## Pedagogical Approach

This is an applied, case-based course with accompanying readings to help structure your thinking. Discussion questions for the case will be set prior to each session, to enable you to focus your attention. Readings are designed to provide a starting point for analyzing the case, but extension of the ideas is encouraged, as they will be applied in an integrative fashion in the discussions. Given the nature of the course, we will also apply the lessons from the cases to understand the challenges and implications of relevant recent and on-going deals. To facilitate this process, you should subscribe to the New York Times' free newsletter, DealBook, to keep abreast of current deal activity.

## Evaluation and Course Policies

Evaluation in the course is based on class participation and a group project (described below), in the following proportion:

Class Participation	35%
Project Draft	20%
Project Presentation	10%
Project Paper	35%

Discussion questions and any other assignments for each class will be posted on Canvas in advance. Any presentations and handouts will be posted on the same site after the respective session.

Since class participation is a crucial component of not only the evaluation but also the learning in the course, it is expected that you are well-prepared for each session. *Please take note* that class participation is the only component of your course grade that is individually-determined; the rest of your grade will be determined by your group's performance on the project. Thus, it is strongly in your interest to thoughtfully and frequently contribute to the case discussions.

*Students are expected to attend all classes.* As per Wharton's policies, excused absences are defined as a *documentable* personal or family illness (*i.e.*, you must provide me with a doctor's note; it is insufficient to email me that you are not feeling well), and religious observance for observant students. *Absences due to job interviews, career pursuits, non-documentable illnesses, or travel are unexcused. Each unexcused absence will result in a one-point reduction of your final course grade.*

*This class has a strict "laptops-down" policy.* The use of all electronic devices, including tablets, is prohibited in class and will adversely affect class participation marks. You should plan your class preparation accordingly.

*Please be respectful of our guest speakers.* They are busy and important people who take personal time to come to our classes. Your attendance, participation, and attention are expected (as in any other class session) on Wednesday 9/12, Wednesday 10/3, Monday 10/29, Monday 11/12, and Monday 11/19 (the Monday before Thanksgiving). *Unexcused absences in these class sessions will result in an additional one-point reduction of your final course grade (on top of the regular penalty).*

*Final grades are final.* I take great care to grade as fairly as possible, and so will not discuss grades at the end of the course. *Students who have final scores of 65 or below and/or excessive numbers of unexcused absences (as determined at my discretion) will receive failing grades.*

## Guidelines for Project Work

The project is intended to give you the opportunity to apply your learning from the course to a context that is most interesting and relevant to you. There is a great deal of latitude in selecting a topic, as long as it relates to corporate development strategies at a firm or industry level. You may study past, current, or even hypothetical deals that you consider advisable. The topic should be well-researched, based on an extensive review of public information such as articles and reports, and specialized databases like SDC or COMPUSTAT. I strongly encourage you to attempt to gain access to the companies being studied to collect data and conduct interviews, since this can lead to a uniquely rich and insightful analysis. Past projects have included:

- Anheuser Busch-InBev Merger
- The Corporate Development Strategy of Electronic Arts
- Comcast-NBC Universal Merger
- CarMax vs. AutoNation: The Case for Organic Growth
- BMS's Evolving Acquisition Strategy: Pre- and Post-String of Pearls Strategy
- LATAM Airlines Group: The LAN-TAM Merger
- Big Bang vs. Gradual Growth: How Oil Super-Majors Became Shale Gas Leaders
- Kraft's Hostile Acquisition of Cadbury
- Amazon-Zappos Acquisition
- Hypothetical Merger between Pearson and Kaplan
- Consolidation in the Oil & Gas Industry: From Mega-Mergers Onwards

A good project will:

- clearly and logically apply the course material to the phenomenon being investigated;
- present a thorough and rigorous analysis of the phenomenon;
- draw implications and suggest recommendations for managerial practice;
- discuss which insights are generalizable and under what conditions.

The project is to be worked on *in groups of four or five students*. A project topic and list of group members is due to me by email and Canvas sign-up **by 5pm on September 28**. During class time on either **October 8** or **October 10**, I would like to meet with each group to discuss the project proposal (*attendance at these meetings is mandatory*). For this 15-minute meeting, which should be scheduled in advance on the dedicated Canvas sign-up sheet, please prepare a one page project outline with a description of your topic, the sources of data, analytical methods, and progress to date. This outline is due by file upload on Canvas **by 9pm on October 7**, whether your meeting is on October 8 or October 10. Please bring printed copies to your meeting too.

A draft of your project is due to me by file upload on Canvas **by 5pm on November 2**, on which you will receive feedback. This draft is to be in outline form.

Your final presentation slides are due to me by file upload on Canvas **by 9pm on November 27**. The final presentation of your project will take place during the classes between **November 28** and **December 5**. Sign up with your group for a presentation slot on Canvas. *Attendance and participation are mandatory on all presentation days (even if your group has already presented).*

The final paper is due **by 5pm on December 10**, to be uploaded on Canvas. The paper is to be a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages, excluding exhibits.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

08/29 Session 1: Course Overview

09/03 \*Labor Day (No Class)\*

### *I. MODES OF CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP*

09/05 Session 2: Deciding Between Corporate Development Strategies

Case: Monsanto's March into Biotechnology (A) (HBS)

Reading: When to Ally and When to Acquire (HBR)

09/10 Session 3: Managing Strategic Alliances

Case: Lipitor: At the Heart of Warner-Lambert (Michigan)

Reading: The Relational View: Cooperative Strategy... (AMR)

09/12 Session 4: Managing Alliance Networks

Case: Star Alliance, 2000 (Brandeis)

Reading: Smarter Ways to Do Business with the Competition (Euro Business Forum)

Constellation Strategy: Managing Alliance Groups (Ivey Business Journal)

Speaker: Jeffrey Goh (Chief Executive Officer, Star Alliance)

09/17 Session 5: Engaging in Corporate Venturing

Case: Intel Capital: The Berkeley Networks Investment (HBS)

Readings: Making Sense of Corporate Venture Capital (HBR)

Corporate VCs Are Moving the Goalposts (HBR)

### *II. MODES OF MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS*

09/19 Session 6: Vertical Acquisitions

Case: The Walt Disney Company & Pixar Inc.: To Acquire or Not to Acquire? (HBS)

09/24 Session 7: Horizontal Acquisitions

Case: Cisco's Acquisition Strategy (1993 to 2000): Value Growth... (Wharton)

Reading: The Influence of Organizational Acquisition Experience... (ASQ)

09/26 Session 8: Diversifying Acquisitions

Case: American Can Company, 1984 (HBS)

Readings: To Diversify or Not To Diversify (HBR)

Legacy Divestitures: Motives and Implications (OS) (skim)

Corporate Spinoffs and Analysts' Coverage Decisions... (SMJ) (skim)

09/28 \*Project Topic and List of Group Members Due by E-mail & Canvas Sign-Up by 5pm\*

10/01 Session 9: Globalizing Acquisitions

Case: House of Tata: Acquiring a Global Footprint (HBS)

10/03 Session 10: Distressed Acquisitions

Speaker: Howard Brownstein (Brownstein Corporation)

10/07 \*Project Outline Due on Canvas by 9pm\*

- 10/08 Session 11: Project Discussion Meetings**  
Schedule Appointment & Bring Outline (meeting in regular classroom)
- 10/10 Session 12: Project Discussion Meetings**  
Schedule Appointment & Bring Outline (meeting in regular classroom)

### **III. ACQUISITION SCREENING AND DEAL-MAKING**

- 10/15 Session 13: Assessing Needs**  
Case: PepsiCo's Restaurants (HBS)
- 10/17 Session 14: Performing Due Diligence**  
Case: Cadbury Schweppes: Capturing Confectionery (A) (HBS)
- 10/22 Session 15: Valuing Synergies and Managing Risk**  
Case: Dow's Bid for Rohm and Haas (HBS)
- 10/24 Session 16: Valuation**  
Case: \$19B for txt app WhatsApp...omg! (HBS)
- 10/29 Session 17: Anatomy of a Deal**  
Speakers: Ian Hartman, Jeffrey Legath, and Eric Siegel (Dechert LLP)
- 10/31 Session 18: Group Project Work**  
Dedicated class time to be used for project work (draft due Friday 11/02)
- 11/02 \*Project Draft Due on Canvas by 5pm\***

### **IV. POST-MERGER INTEGRATION**

- 11/05 Session 19: Embarking on Integration Planning**  
Case: HP and Compaq Combined: In Search of Scale and Scope (Stanford)  
Readings: Buying Innovation: Managing Technology-Based Acquisitions (Wharton)
- 11/07 Session 20: Integration in "Mergers of Equals"**  
Case: DaimlerChrysler Merger: The Quest to Create "One Company" (Babson)  
Reading: Identity versus Culture in Mergers of Equals (EMJ)  
Do CEOs in Mergers Trade Power for Premium?... (JLEO)
- 11/12 Session 21: Integration Strategies**  
Speaker: James Harris (Google)
- 11/14 Session 22: Determining Integration Strategies**  
Case: Vermeer Technologies (D), (E), (F) (HBS)  
Reading: Buying Innovation: Managing Technology-Based Acquisitions (Wharton)  
Not All M&As Are Alike – and That Matters (HBR)
- 11/19 Session 23: Best Practices in Post-Merger Integration**  
Speaker: Oliver Engert (McKinsey & Company, Inc.)
- 11/21 \*Thanksgiving (No Class)\***

## ***V. DIVESTITURES, PROJECTS, AND SYNTHESIS***

**11/26 Session 24: Divestitures**

Case: Motorola's Spinoff of its Cell Phone Business (*CBS*)

**11/27 \*Presentation Due on Canvas by 9pm\***

**11/28 Session 25: Project Presentations (1/3)**

**12/03 Session 26: Project Presentations (2/3)**

**12/05 Session 27: Project Presentations (3/3)**

**12/10 Session 28: Synthesis of Course Learnings**

**12/10 \*Final Paper Due on Canvas by 5pm\***