

**Business Strategy, Private Equity and
Corporate Law**
**Integrating Business and Legal Decision Making in the Modern
Corporate Environment**
Law 542401
Finance 785401
Course Information & Syllabus
Perry Golkin
Spring 2020

Course Information:

This course explores strategic, business and legal decision making in a fluid real world corporate context. Classes will cover a series of timely financial and legal subjects as well as case studies that deal with topical problems in corporate governance, investment strategy, finance, private equity, executive compensation, and potential corporate and criminal behavior. Press, public market reaction, and governmental/political considerations will be integrated into the discussion. All students will be required to participate in one major and two minor team projects. An equal number of graduate law and business students will be enrolled in this class. The instructor, a 30 year veteran and partner at a major private equity firm, is also an attorney and CPA. No pre-requisites.

There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings will be posted on the course portal. The course portal will also include suggested supplemental readings which are optional based on background and level of interest.

Course requirements include:

1. Regular class attendance and participation. (30% of Grade)
2. Participation in one major team project which will include a class presentation and a written paper at the end of the term. (40% of Grade)
3. Participation in two smaller team projects and two individual assignments. (30% of Grade)

The major projects will cover a variety of subjects including (a) crime in a business context; (b) private equity; (c) investment strategy; (d) deal negotiation; (e) corporate governance; and (f) various legislative and regulatory schemes. Team assignments will be based on student preference.

Scheduling Note:

The first 10 weeks of the course will involve class discussions on a variety of topics. The balance of the course will largely consist of team project presentations and related class discussion.

Topic Areas By Class

Class 1	(January 21)	Introduction
Class 2	(January 28)	Investing: An Approach
Class 3	(February 4)	Investing: Analysis and Manipulation of the Numbers
Class 4	(February 11)	Board of Directors and Fiduciary Duties
Class 5	(February 18)	Capital Structures and Financing
Class 6	(February 25)	Merger and Acquisition Agreements
Class 7	(March 3)	1 st Half Wrap-up and War Stories Part I
		Spring Break
Class 8	(March 17)	Private Equity: History, Legal Structure and Basics
Class 9	(March 24)	Private Equity: Investment Approach and Value Creation
Class 10	(March 31)	Private Equity; Case Studies
Class 11	(April 7)	Presentations
Class 12	(April 14)	Presentations
Class 13	(April 21)	War Stories Part II and Concluding Remarks