Subject Outline

FIN926 Studies in Business Finance
Wollongong On Campus

6 Credit Points
Autumn 2004

Martin Gold
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School of Accounting and Finance
Subject details

Description

This subject examines advanced aspects of financial controllership and corporate finance which are encountered within the contemporary business environment. The broad scope of topics presented in this subject reflects the practical challenges facing financial managers.

This subject emphasises areas receiving increased scrutiny from market participants and firm stakeholders (including shareholders and regulators) including: balance sheet management, corporate restructuring, corporate governance, risk management, alternative funding sources, and pension finance.

This subject aims to introduce candidates to the theoretical and research literature underlying financial management practices. This is intended to provide candidates with a critical appreciation of the precepts of business finance theory, and a context for the behaviour of firms and participants within the capital markets.

Objectives

A candidate who has successfully completed this subject should:

- Gain a broad understanding of the theory underlying corporate finance and funding decisions;

- Critically examine the assumptions, models and precepts underlying the theoretical framework;

- Appreciate the practical obstacles faced by firm managers in maximising value, and accessing sources of finance for growth;

- Gain insights into topical issues within the corporate finance arena, from the perspectives of prudent financial controllership and wealth maximisation.
Method of delivery

This subject will be delivered as a three (3) hour seminar each week.

Study time

4 hours per week.

Lecture/tutorial times

Seminars will be held on Fridays 1:30pm - 4:30pm in 38.G01.

Major text


Additional references to journals and books held in the University of Wollongong Library will be distributed.
Contacts

**Subject Coordinator**

Martin Gold  
Building No 40, Room No 305  
Telephone  61 2 4221 5220  
Facsimile  61 2 4221 4297  
Email  martin_gold@uow.edu.au

**Consultation times**

Tuesday  11:00-3:00

**Student administration**

Telephone  61 2 4221 3938  
Facsimile  61 2 4221 4322  
Email  studenq@uow.edu.au  
Student OnLine Services  http://www.uow.edu.au/student/sols

**Library**

Telephone  61 2 4221 3548  
Web  http://www-library.uow.edu.au  

Distance students studying within Australia should refer to the Off-Campus Library Services Student Guide contained in their subject package. Distance students studying outside Australia should contact their subject coordinator as arrangements for library services may be available within their own country.

**Purchasing of books (Unishop)**

Telephone  61 2 4221 8050  
Facsimile  61 2 4221 8055  
Email  unishop@uow.edu.au  
Assessment Guidelines

General Criteria

The assessment of subject comprises one (1) written research assignment and two (2) examinations. To be awarded a Pass or higher grade in this subject, students must achieve a satisfactory grade in the final exam. Marks may be scaled.

Attendance in classes will be necessary for students to achieve satisfactory completion of this subject. An attendance roll will be taken in each seminar.

Performance grades

HD  High Distinction  85–100%
D   Distinction       75–84%
C   Credit           65–74%
P   Pass             50–64%
F   Fail (unsatisfactory completion)  0–49%

Summary

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<tr>
<th>Task date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Return</th>
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<tr>
<td>Task 1 – Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14 May 2004</td>
<td>28 May 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task 2 – Mid-term examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Task 3 – Final examination</td>
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Special Consideration

University policy requires students who, through serious illness or other circumstances beyond their control, are unable to attend an examination or meet any of the other course requirements, to submit medical or other documented evidence as soon as possible after the event to support their request for special consideration.
Supplementary examinations

Students should note that supplementary examinations are not an automatic entitlement on the submission of a request for special consideration. In cases where the decision is made to allow a supplementary examination, students will usually be required to take the examination at a date to be determined by the School within three weeks of the end of the formal examination period. Students will be notified of the exam at least seven days beforehand. It is every student’s responsibility that the University has a correct record of your current address.

Full details of the University’s policy regarding special consideration are available on the web at [http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/specialconsideration.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/specialconsideration.html). Students should familiarise themselves with these policies.

Disability Policy

If a student with a disability requires reasonable accommodation in this subject, they are strongly advised to discuss the issues early in the session with one of the following people: the Disability Liaison Officer, Faculty Disability Adviser and/or the Subject Coordinator. Students with a disability should also register with the University of Wollongong Disabilities Unit. More details can be found on the web at [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/disabl.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/disabl.html).

Non-Discriminatory Language

As part of its Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action initiatives, the University of Wollongong endorses a policy of non-discriminatory language practice and presentation in all academic and administrative activities of the University. The policy is available at [http://staff.uow.edu.au/eeo/nondiscrimlanguage.html](http://staff.uow.edu.au/eeo/nondiscrimlanguage.html).

Receipt of Assessment Tasks

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a receipt signed by your lecturer/tutor, acknowledging submission of written work.
## Assessment Tasks

**Task 1:** Assignment  
Due date: 14 May 2004  
Return date: 28 May 2004  
Weighting: 25%  
Length: 1500 words

**Task 2:** Mid-session examination  
Date: In class, Week 6 (2 April 2004)  
Weighting: 25%  
Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Task 3:** Final examination  
Date: University examination period  
Weighting: 50%  
Length: 3 hours
Submission Requirements

Submission

Place of Submission: Accounting and Finance Department Office, Level 3, Building 40.

Post: Submissions by mail must be received by the due date to avoid penalty.

Facsimile: Without prior arrangement, faxed assignments will not be accepted.

Assignment cover: You must complete and attach a School of Accounting and Finance Assessment Cover Sheet to the front of your assignment (available at the following web address: http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/pdf/assignmentcoversheet.pdf)

Acknowledgment/Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not acceptable and may result in the imposition of severe penalties including expulsion. The University provides clear guidelines on its attitude towards plagiarism and how to avoid unintentional plagiarism in the Postgraduate University Calendar, located on the web at


Students are advised to read these carefully. If any doubts remain as to what constitutes plagiarism, students should discuss the matter with the subject coordinator.

Due Date

The due date is the last date for the University to receive an assignment. The date of submission by post for distance students will be the postmark date stamped on the assignment envelope.

Extensions

Extensions may be granted if circumstances beyond the control of the student interfere with their ability to complete the task on time. These will only be granted by the subject
Please Note: Extensions will not be granted after the due date.

Late submission

Late submissions will be penalised. Submissions more than one (1) week after the due date will result in zero marks being recorded for the assessment task.

Disclaimer

The School attempts to ensure that the information herein is up to date at the time of production, however we reserve the right to amend without notice in response to changing circumstances.