THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
CURRENT ISSUES IN FINANCE – 5394 CRN 14670  
FALL 2014  

Wed. 6:00 PM to 8:50 PM  

PLACE: GBC 520A  

INSTRUCTOR: Gary R. Hedrick  

OFFICE: CoBA Room 224  

PHONE: 915-747-6033  
915-525-3492 (cell)  

EMAIL: grhedrick@utep.edu  

OFFICE HOURS: TR 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, or by appointment  

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
Finance 5394 is a case-based study which aims to explore the type of problems faced by financial managers and executives in current, real-world situations. We will consider issues and problems such as IPO valuations, mergers, acquisitions, capital budgeting decisions, cost of capital, capital structure, disclosure, ethics, corporate governance and the like. We will seek to relate these topics to the degree possible, to currently developing situations in the financial marketplace using financial periodicals, such as the Wall Street Journal, to preface our discussions and supplemented by case studies from Harvard Business School Press. Accordingly, part of your grade will be based on your keeping apprised of significant developments reported in the financial press. We will then pursue our discussion of these topics using basic financial principals, tools and theories.  

The course relies heavily on classroom discussion and discourse, supplemented by analysis, as we attempt to analyze and resolve situations from the perspective of a CFO, CEO and/or board of directors.  

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL CASE STUDIES:  
We will utilize case studies from the Harvard Business School Press (HBSP) as the basis of our case analyses. You will be required to access the HBSP website and register as a student in order to purchase the case studies. I will provide the URL which is required to access the website at our first class meeting. The order and pace of cases studied will be based on class progress. I will endeavor to provide a roadmap of sorts for those who wish to read ahead.  

CLASS POLICIES:  
Academic Honesty: Scholastic/academic dishonesty is prohibited and considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that another person prepared or created, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and the homepage of The Dean of Students at www.utep.edu/dos, may
result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, a failing grade on the work in question, a failing grade in the course, suspension or dismissal, among others.

**Student Accommodations:** If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations you should contact Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

**General:** ALL CELL PHONES OR OTHER PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES SHOULD BE TURNED TO SILENT MODE OR OFF DURING CLASS AND EXAMS.

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO BE ON TIME TO THE CLASS.

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ALTER ANY OF THE ELEMENTS OF THIS COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES BASED ON MY DISCRETION, ALTHOUGH YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.

I REQUIRE PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR ALL CLASS ABSENCES. EXCESSIVE ABSENCES SHALL RESULT IN A REDUCTION TO YOUR GRADE.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING:**

**Class Participation:** accounts for 50% of your final grade. Attendance, as well as reading and preparing your assignments for each class session is critical to your performance in this class. Your comments and thoughts will help to create a class setting that is conducive to a positive learning environment. This is a highly critical element, just as it is in a professional business setting. In order to advance a topic, I shall call on you from time to time. You should be prepared at all times to be called upon and be prepared to discuss the topics at hand. As the class progresses, we shall examine certain topics through case study and analysis. Your analysis and presentation of cases will comprise part of your participation grade.

**Periodic Exams or Projects:** accounts for 25% of your grade. There will be one or more exams/projects, at my discretion, based on the material covered in class. Your grade on these exams will comprise this 25% component. Any exams will be announced, with at least a week’s notice.

**Final Exam or Project:** accounts for 25% of your grade. The final exam/project will consist of assessing your ability to apply concepts and ideas gained in the course. The primary objective will be to review concepts learned in the class as you formulate thoughts, ideas, and conclusions about a specific case study in a coherent fashion.