The mission of the Graduate Institute of Finance and Banking is to explore and advance theories and models in financial research to cultivate competitive professionals with ethical integrity, innovative capabilities and international perspective to meet business and social needs in the global economy.

**Learning Goals** (goals covered by this course are indicated):

|  ✔  | 1 | Graduates should be able to communicate effectively verbally and in writing. |
|  ✔  | 2 | Graduates should solve strategic problems with a creative and innovative approach. |
|  ✔  | 3 | Graduates should demonstrate leadership skills demanded of a person in authority. |
|  ✔  | 4 | Graduates should possess a global economic and management perspective. |
|  ✔  | 5 | Graduates should possess the necessary skills and values demanded of a true professional. |

**Instructor**
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Office: 63306  
Office hour: 5-6 pm on Mon, 1-2 pm on Tue, or by appointment

**Course Description**

Mergers and acquisitions are common strategies undertaken by companies to achieve strategic goals of corporations. Practitioners and academics have addressed a significant amount of issues of M&As in all aspects of business. This class intends to provide students with an understanding over the financial issues of mergers and acquisitions (M&As).

This class will be partially conducted through case and paper discussions, some in quick reviews and some in details. A few lectures on the general issues of M&As will be given by the instructor in the beginning of the semester, followed by the paper discussions. Paper discussion will be initiated by faculty and students, and all students are expected to read class materials before class meetings.

**Required Textbooks**

1. Academic papers (listed separately)
Grading Policy (strictly enforced)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participation &amp; Case Discussion 25%</th>
<th>Paper Reading/ Discussion 25%</th>
<th>Case Study 25%</th>
<th>Case Project/ Research Proposal 25%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMU</td>
<td>☑ Oral Commu./ Presentation 60%</td>
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<td>☑ Written Communication 50%</td>
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<td>CPSI</td>
<td>☑ Creativity and Innovation 20%</td>
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<td>☑ Problem Solving</td>
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<td>☑ Analytical Skills</td>
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<td>LEAD</td>
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<td>☑ Social responsibility</td>
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<td>GLOB</td>
<td>☑ Global Awareness 20%</td>
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Participation

- Students are required to read the assigned text chapters before the class meeting.
- The class meeting will be conducted in a series of discussion. A list of questions for each chapter will be provided in the second week.
- The participation of each student will be recorded. Students who raise hands at least once per week can expect to earn 90% of the total participation grade. You can decide how often you should participate in class meetings. However, students who answer questions or participate less than three times will fail this course.

Participation for Case Discussion (individual)

- Intensive class participation is the most essential component to ensure the quality of case studies. The more you participate in class discussion, the more you learn from the course.
- To be able to join the participation, students must read the assigned cases and prepare the case questions BEFORE class meetings.
  - Key to Success: 3P’s (Preparation, Presence, Participation)
- Please pay attention to the following rules: (by Prof SF Chen in Ivy College of Business, U. of W. Ontario)
  - Listening and talking
  - Listening is the foundation to learning
  - Not just about airtime, content matters
  - Hand-up first
  - No hand-up before the question is finished
  - Hand-up all the time will not be called
  - Don’t read prepared note
  - Don’t go back to earlier remarks (unless they are relevant)
  - Don’t repeat or paraphrase
- One person talking at one time
- No private conversation
- Agree to disagree
- No personal attack, focusing on the topic

Case Study (group)

- The case study will be conducted on the group basis for two students in one group. There will be three cases in this semester. All groups have to analyze all cases and prepare for presenting their insights and suggested solutions. For each case, one to two groups will be randomly chosen to present their analyses in front of the class and debate with other groups for about 30 minutes per group.

- **Power-point presentations** are required. One week after the case study, the presenting groups have to separately submit a **short written report**, which should demonstrate all analyses to the final recommendations/decisions.

- Case questions will be provided in advance. Instead of answering the questions one-by-one, students should incorporate these questions onto the case analyses.

- Please submit the power-point file and the written report to the instructor via NCKU’s e-learning **one day before the submission date**.

- To ensure the quality of discussion, all students should download the presentation files from the class website before the class meetings, and are required to ask questions after each presentation.

Paper Discussion

- Paper list will be given in the second week and article reading will be assigned.

- In each topic, we will discuss papers, some in quick reviews and some in details. Paper discussion will be initiated by faculty and students, and all students are expected to read class materials before class meetings.

- All students should prepare a document of discussion containing: (1) the research motivation and how it fits with the theory and existing empirical findings at the time, (2) the tested hypothesis, (3) the data and methodology, (4) the main findings, (5) comparison with prior papers, and (6) possible future research.

- All documents should be submitted to the designed class page at least one day before the class meetings; submission via email is NOT acceptable.

Term Project—Individual Research Proposal

- Master students are free to choose either group project or individual research proposal, but doctoral students are limited to individual research proposal.

- Students are required to choose their interested topic(s) in the first four weeks.

- Students should present their research ideas on the tenth (10th) week. Before presentation, students need to upload a page of research idea to the webpage. All students are required to comment on others’ ideas. The second presentation is needed after taking into accounts others comments. The research topic will then be determined after the second idea presentation.
At the end of the semester, an oral presentation and a written report are required. Your proposal should include (1) a statement of the research objectives, (2) a review of related literature, (3) a description of the features that a reasonable model of the situation should display, (4) a description of the necessary data and the required statistical analysis, and (5) expected outcomes.

The presentation date is December 7th, 2010, and the due date of the term paper is January 18th, 2010.

Term Project—Case Project (group)

- Each group needs to write a library-based case, the topic of which should be related to the topics covered in this semester.
- Please identify the case event before the mid-November, and present the story and the research method to the class on December 7th, 2010. After then, students should not change the firm(s) and case story.
- The project requires one presentation and a written report. The contents on the presentation should be adequate and precise. The written report should serve the readers being able to fully understand the contents of the project. In short, the written report CANNOT be just a word file of presentation slides.
- Either in presentation or written report, what really matters are the analytical insights and interpretation, not the numerical calculation itself. That is, students should construct their analysis based on reasonable setting and interpret their results logically. Be sure to demonstrate all innovative efforts.
- One day before the presentation, all groups need to upload power point files to the designated course page. In addition, a hard copy is needed on the presentation day. Similarly, written report should be submitted in both forms of file upload and hard copy. The due date of the term paper is January 18th, 2010.

Other Requirements

- Students are expected to attend classes on time. Any late attending or early leaving will affect your participation grade.
- It is very possible to distribute some materials in class meetings. If you miss any class, you will not be given any make-up lecture and the class materials. You are responsible to make up everything by yourself.
- Cellular phone and pager are supposed to be turned off or at lease be in “vibrate” mode during class meetings.
## Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1-2</td>
<td>Takeovers and Mergers in Practice</td>
<td>1, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3-5</td>
<td>M&amp;As—Theories and Empirical Tests</td>
<td>5-8; papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Case Study 1</td>
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<td>Week 7-8</td>
<td>Valuation</td>
<td>9-10; papers</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Case Study 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10-12</td>
<td>Restructuring</td>
<td>11-13; papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13 (12/7)</td>
<td>1st Proposal/Project Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14-15</td>
<td>M&amp;A Strategies</td>
<td>14-16; papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Case Study 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16-17</td>
<td>Value Creation</td>
<td>18, 21; papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 18 (1/11)</td>
<td>2nd Proposal/Project Presentation</td>
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* The syllabus is subjective to change, which will be announced by instructor.