

**King Saud University
College of Business Administration
MSF Program**



Course Syllabus

FIN 599 – Research Projects in Finance

First Semester 1433/1434 AH. (Fall 2013)

Faculty Coordinator: Dr.Durga Prasad Samontaray

Department of Finance,
College of Business Administration,
King Saud University

COURSE DESCRIPTION

No. of Credit Hours: 3

Pre-Requisites: Approval or Permission of advisor

Purpose of the Course:

The Research Project in Finance is the final course in the MSF Program. The objective of the course is to test the student's ability to demonstrate a broad mastery of the knowledge and skills gained throughout the program. Through a combination of theoretical and applied financial concepts and techniques in the key fields of Corporate Finance, Investments Analysis, Asset Valuations, Derivatives, Banking and Financial Institutions, Insurance and Risk Management, the expected outcome of the course is the production of a high quality investment/Finance analysis report. This final project should demonstrate the student's expertise in the field of finance. This course involves Thesis work supported by the oral defense (In presence of at least the Advisor and two more faculty members of the department) of his thesis work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:

- MSF graduates will be able to employ appropriate statistical and econometric techniques (Learnt during their Econometrics course) to identify and evaluate complex financial problems.
- MSF graduates will be able to write comprehensive research reports.
- MSF graduates will be able to articulate and defend their financial analysis and recommend solutions to upper level managers and other stakeholders.

SUPERVISION CRITERIA

Each student has to approach a faculty advisor of his interest area in the department. Once the faculty is interested to guide and advise the student, the faculty coordinator will finalize the name of the faculty as the advisor for the particular student. Once the faculty advisor is finalized the student has to do his research under the direct supervision of his faculty advisor. The faculty coordinator of the course is supposed to have a close coordination with both the students and the faculty advisors.

This course will be a self-study course that allows students to explore the individual quest of knowledge in the area of finance. The advisor assigned by the program will supervise the study. A project is required and will be graded by the advisor. The project, with the advisor's approval, may be a case study or empirical study, and will be the basis for the evaluation.

EVALUATION

The Evaluation is based on three criteria of Report Writing/Research Skill & Ability, Analytical Skill and Presentation Skill. For each of the criteria I have developed an individual and separate RUBRIC (Attached with this course outline), which the faculty adviser is supposed to use for the evaluation of his student. 40% weightage is provided for research skills and analytical skills each and 20% weightage is provided for the thesis presentation and defense. Final score is calculated as sum total of the following:

2* Score of Rubric for Report Writing/Research Skill & Ability (to be filled by the adviser)

2* Score of Rubric for Analytical Skill (to be filled by the adviser)

1* Score of Rubric for Presentation Skill (to be filled by the adviser & atleast two more faculty present in the defense)

ACADEMIC HONESTY, STUDENT INTEGRITY & PLAGIARISM

Academic honesty and student integrity are of fundamental importance at CBA. We want students to understand this clearly. Plagiarism or self-plagiarism in any form is a serious violation of those standards and will not be tolerated.

A student shall not receive credit for work that is not the product of a student's own effort. A student's name on any written document constitutes a statement that the work is the result of the student's own thought and study, stated in the student's own words, and produced without the assistance of others, except in quotes, in-text citations, footnotes or references with appropriate acknowledgement of the source.

Self Plagiarism or submitting one's own work to more than one course is absolutely prohibited. The outcome any of the above actions may involve academic and disciplinary sanctions, which could include but not be limited to such penalties as receiving no credit for the assignment in question, receiving no credit for the related course or suspension or dismissal from the course.

TEXT BOOK:

There is no single prescribed text book for the course, however the students are advised to go through text books related to research methodology, text book of domain knowledge. They are instructed to go through the research papers, working papers and literatures related to their field of research. They are suppose to take the help of their faculty adviser and also contact me in this regard for further help.

DEADLINES

Submission of project proposal: 2nd - 3rd week

Interim review: 7th – 9th week

Draft report ready: 14th – 15th week

Defense presentation: 16th week

Appendix 1: Rubric for Report Writing/Research Skill & Ability MSF Class, FIN 599, Fall 2013

Assessor:

MSF Student name:

ID Number:

Criteria	(3) Exceeds Expectations	(2) Meets Expectations	Does not meet Expectations (1)	Total Score
Research Goals	Goals clearly identified	Some goals mentioned but not all	Goals not identified	
Research Presentation/ Organization	Clear & appropriate use of sections; organization is clearly understood by the audience	Somewhat organized	Poorly organized. No mention of organization	
Data	(a) Data are appropriate (b) Data are clearly discussed & sourced	(a) Data are mostly appropriate (b) Data are reasonably sourced	(a) Data are inappropriate (b) Data are not sourced	
Statistical Methods	(a) Methods of analysis are appropriate (b) Methods for analysis are properly detailed	(a) Methods of analysis are Mostly appropriate (b) Methods for analysis are Somewhat detailed	(a) Methods are inappropriate (b) Methods are not described	
Analysis of Results	Synthesizes results to draw inferences with good judgment	Synthesizes results but fails to identify some relevant patterns	Fails to interpret results	
Conclusions	Provides detailed conclusions	Provides weak conclusions	Does not reach a conclusion	
Citations	All major ideas in the body of the paper are referenced and appropriately cited	Referencing has some shortcomings	Employs referencing inappropriately	

Scores from 18.1 – 27

Scores from 9.1 – 18

Scores 9 and below

Exceeds Expectations

Meets Expectations

Does not meet Expectations

Appendix 2: Rubric for Analytical Skill MSF Class, FIN 599, Fall 2013

Assessor:

MSF Student name:

ID Number:

Criteria	(3) Exceeds Expectations	(2) Meets Expectations	Does not meet Expectations (1)	Total Score
Motivation of Study	Motivation and Hypotheses clearly identified	Somewhat motivated	Study not motivated	
Data Limitations	Detects potential deficiencies in data; values data completeness	Recognizes the basic nature of the data	Ignores inconsistencies &/or has biases in the data	
Critical Evaluation of Prior Work	Prior findings identified. Limitations of prior work Identified	Prior findings acknowledged	No acknowledgement to literature	
Critical Analysis of Results:	(a) Synthesizes results to draw inferences with good judgment (b) Explicitly recognizes that inferences may be biased	(a) Synthesizes results but fails to identify some relevant patterns (b) Some recognition of the potential of bias	(a) Fails to interpret results (b) Ignores possibility of bias	
Implications & Recommendations	Reaches logical conclusions and generates actionable recommendations	Reaches conclusions that are somewhat consistent with analysis	Does not reach a conclusion or provide recommendations	
Recognition of Bias and Limitations of Study	Detects and reports on the potential biases/weaknesses of study. Qualifies findings and recommendations.	Touches upon the biases/weaknesses of the study.	Does not detect/report biases or weaknesses of the study.	

Scores from 14.1 – 21

Scores from 7.1 – 14

Scores 7 and below

Exceeds Expectations

Meets Expectations

Does not meet Expectations

Appendix 3: Rubric for Presentation Skill* MSF Class, FIN 599, Fall 2013

Assessor:

MSF Student name:

ID Number:

Criteria	(3) Exceeds Expectations	(2) Meets Expectations	Does not meet Expectations (1)	Total Score
Organization of Ideas: & Eye Contact	Presenter follows logical sequence and provides explanations / elaboration & maintaining eye contact with audience throughout the presentation.	Presenter follows logical sequence, but fails to elaborate & maintains eye contact with audience most of the time, but frequently returns to notes.	Presenter does not follow logical sequence (jumps around in presentation) & reads most or all of report, making little to no eye contact with audience.	
Effectiveness of Delivery:	Presenter speaks clearly and loud enough for all in audience to hear, makes no grammatical errors, and pronounces all terms correctly and precisely.	Presenter's voice is relatively clear, but too low to be heard by those in the back of the room. Presenter makes several major grammatical errors, and mispronounces some terms.	Presenter mumbles, mispronounces terms, and makes serious and persistent grammatical errors throughout presentation. Presenter speaks too quietly to be heard by many in audience.	
Conclusion:	Effectively summarizes the presentation and provides a sense of closure.	Provides an adequate summary &/or recommendation that is reasonable given the information/analysis presented.	Weak or no conclusion provided (it is too vague to be of any practical value) or the recommendation is weakly related to the analysis.	
Responsiveness: (Q&A & time)	Addresses all questions in a manner that demonstrates a thorough command of the topic(s) of the presentation & uses the allotted time effectively. Finishes on time.	Presenter demonstrates an ability to address most questions in a thoughtful and effective manner & finishes on time but has to rush through last points to finish on time.	Presenter cannot address basic questions about the topic or addresses them in a superficial manner & does not finish on time or finishes well before allotted time.	
Multimedia Support and Visual Aids: Charts, animation, graphs, handouts, posters, videos, slides, sound	Presentation includes a balanced use of appropriate multimedia that enhances the overall presentation (easy to read, attractive, informative, and error free).	Presentation includes limited multi-media that enhance the overall presentation. Easy to read and informative, but not outstanding.	Presentation includes little or no multimedia or uses it in distracting or ineffective manner (difficult to read, has errors &/or typos, etc.).	

Scores from 10.5 – 15

Scores from 5.1 – 10

Scores 5 and below

Exceeds Expectations

Meets Expectations

Does not meet Expectations

*Borrowed from Dr. Raj, Professor, CBA, KSU