



**Stern School of Business  
New York University**

Cases in Corporate Finance

Tony Marciano

**First Class Assignment**

For the first class meeting, I will expect you to prepare the INTEL case in your course packet. You should use the detailed questions given in the course packet to organize your thoughts and analysis about the case. Our class discussion will cover the issues raised by the questions, i.e.: (i) What capital structure makes sense? (ii) What would be the best way to disburse cash? (iii) Describe the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative considered by management?

In addition to reading and analyzing the Intel case, you should come to class with a one to two page memorandum that summarizes your analysis. You may team up with one or two classmates and hand in one memorandum for the group. (I.e., I will accept a memorandum with up to, but not more than, three names on it.)

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**Course Syllabus**

**I. Course Materials**

A. Packet I (Required):

1. Syllabus
2. Assignments
3. Cases
4. Readings

B. Text (Required):

Donald H. Chew, Jr., ed., *The New Corporate Finance: Where Theory Meets Practice*, McGraw Hill. (Chew)

C. Text (Optional):

Brealey Myers Allen, *Principles of Corporate Finance*, McGraw Hill. (BM)  
You may already have this text.

D. There will be some miscellaneous handouts during the course.

AND THERE ARE FILES ON BLACKBOARD WHICH CONTAIN SPREADSHEETS FOR THE CASES WE WILL ANALYZE IN THE COURSE. EACH SPREADSHEET CONTAINS ONE OR MORE OF THE EXHIBITS IN THE CASE. THIS WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO SPEND TIME ON THE ANALYSIS, RATHER THAN PUNCHING IN NUMBERS.

**II. Course Objectives**

This course will use the case method to study the practical aspects of important topics in corporate finance. We will apply some of the concepts and techniques learned in intro Finance classes to actual situations. In addition to analyzing the specific financing problems or issues, we will consider how those issues relate to the strategic objectives of the firm. It will be important to examine the "big picture" assumptions that are used in the numerical calculations. (Overall, this course represents a strong mix of the quantitative and the qualitative.)

This course also places a strong emphasis on presentation and discussion skills. It will be important to explain your positions or arguments to each other and try to argue for the implementation of your recommendations.

### **III. Administrative Issues**

#### **A. Course Procedures**

For each class meeting, I will assign study questions concerning a case study. For most of the class period, we will consider these questions and the material in the case. **This includes the first meeting.** You are allowed and encouraged, but not required to meet in groups outside of class to discuss and analyze the cases. Students generally find that these groups complement class discussion well.

Each student will submit a two page memorandum of analysis and recommendation at the beginning of each case discussion. If you are working in a group, I will accept one memorandum from the group and count it for all students in the group. If you choose to do this, the group cannot be larger than 3 students. Each memorandum should be typed and double spaced. Write these as if you were writing a recommendation to the CEO or major decision maker in the case. The two page limit is for text only. You may attach as many numerical calculations as you wish. Memoranda will not be accepted after the class has met. And, you should prepare a memorandum for Intel, the first class.

The readings and articles which are assigned and handed out are largely non-technical in nature and summarize the findings of academic research in corporate finance in the recent past. These articles are meant to be background material which will help you analyze the cases. They should not necessarily be cited in the case discussion. You should argue as if you were in a corporate boardroom rather than in a doctoral seminar. The process of arriving at the right answer is as important as getting the right answer.

In the past, students have asked professors to hand out their case analysis "answers" after the class has discussed the case. However, my policy is not to hand them out in general; and I will continue this approach here. The reason is that there are usually no absolute right answers. The best cases are deliberately written to be ambiguous. Nevertheless, while there are no right answers, there are good arguments and bad arguments. This course is designed to help you learn to distinguish between sensible and senseless arguments. Handing out the analyses would reduce the ambiguity in the cases and partially defeat the purpose of doing the cases -- as well as stifle your creativity.

Because of the nature of the course (and its grading policy), it is extremely important that you attend every class, arrive on time and be prepared to participate. To help me out, you should bring your name cards to each class. I may not remember who said what without those cards.

#### **B. Grading**

##### **1. Memoranda (10%)**

A memorandum will be given credit if it is handed in and no credit if it is not. Therefore, the full 10 points are earned if you hand in a memorandum for each case. Initially, therefore, I will not grade them. However, I will use the memoranda to determine final grades for those students who are on the border of an A or B, the border of a B or C, or the border of a C, D, or F.

## 2. Class Participation (40%)

I will judge your performance based both on the quality and the quantity of your comments. Because so much of the learning in this course occurs in the classroom, it is very important that you attend every class. Low class participation combined with several absences can lead to a failing grade.

For those of you who think that 40% is high, remember that in the real world, more like 100% of your "grade" is based on how you communicate with your colleagues. In addition, your participation has a positive externality (in most cases, anyway) and so must be heavily incented. In order to help reduce any uncertainty, I will give periodic updates and am always willing to meet with any of you to discuss your class participation. If you are still uncomfortable with such a heavy weight on participation, this class may not be for you.

## 3. Final (50%)

The final examination will be an individual take-home case analysis. You will have approximately one week to work on the case.

## **IV. Course Outline**

It is impossible to cover every topic relevant to corporate finance in a five class course.

However, the cases we will discuss cover almost all of the major ones. I have chosen not to cover some high profile topics because they are covered in other courses. I feel, therefore, that the material we will cover in this course, combined with these others, will provide you with an extremely extensive education in financial management.

The following table lists the topics we will cover in this course -- and the cases which address each topic.

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>CASE</u>
Capital Structure/Dividend Policy	INTEL
Valuation	PARAMOUNT 93
Mergers & Acquisitions	PARAMOUNT 94
Financial Distress Restructuring	CUMBERLAND
Security Design/Corporate Governance	ALZA
International Finance/Risk Management	JAGUAR

You will find that the cases we will discuss in this course which are on a topic previously covered are covered in a sophisticated manner here. Again, the intention is to limit redundancy in your education as well as provide you with the toughest challenges. The end result, however, is that the cases we will cover in this course are quite difficult.

Below is the schedule for when we will cover various cases. This is tentative and may be adjusted as the course proceeds; although, I expect little deviation from the plan. In addition, note that I will occasionally interject some lecture-ish moments. These will generally happen when I am summarizing a concept and will often be accompanied with handouts.

### **V. Class Schedule**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic (cases in caps)</u>
1	Introduction-Capital Structure, INTEL
2	Valuation, PARAMOUNT 93 M&A: PARAMOUNT 94
3	Financial Distress: CUMBERLAND
4	ALZA
5	International Finance: JAGUAR
6	Final Exam Due.

**Assignments:  
Questions for Each Case**

**Intel Corporation**

Readings:

- Chapter 16, Brealey and Myers (review)  
"Signaling with Dividends, Stock Repurchases and Common Stock," P. Asquith and D. Mullins (packet)  
"The relative signaling power of Dutch auction and fixed price self-tender offers..." Comment and Jarrell (packet)

Questions:

1. How does Intel make money in the semiconductor business? What are the advantages to being an innovator versus being a second-mover in this industry? What kinds of steps should Intel take to strengthen its position vis-a-vis its competitors?
2. How much cash (or even debt) should Intel have in its "target" capital structure? What factors would make a deviation from this target acceptable? What factors would make such a deviation costly?
3. What are the salient differences between dividends and repurchases from the company's and management's perspective?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the three different methods of share repurchase?
  - a. Tender Offer Repurchase at a fixed price.
  - b. Dutch Auction Repurchase Tender Offer.
  - c. Open Market Repurchase.

Which of these three is best for Intel? Why?

5. Evaluate the alternative proposed by Sodhani to (1) distribute put-warrants for 20 M shares to existing shareholders and (2) sell \$1 billion in convertible bonds to new investors. What are some potential motivations for this package of securities? What impact will it have on Intel's capital structure?
6. Which cash disbursement mechanism (if any) would you recommend for Intel?

Note: For those of you who've had Option Pricing and want to try to value the put-warrants, the two-year Treasury-note rate is 5%. Make an assumption about Intel volatility. We will not do this in class.

## **Paramount - 1993**

### Readings:

Chapter 33, Brealey and Myers

### Questions:

1. Why do you think Paramount is a takeover target?
2. Which of the two firms - Viacom or QVC - would make a better fit with Paramount? Which would Paramount management, i.e., Martin Davis, prefer, if it had to choose?
3. What effect would Viacom have on the costs at Paramount if it bought the company? What effect would Viacom have on Paramount's growth rate? What would happen to costs and sales growth if QVC bought Paramount instead?
4. What is Paramount worth as is? to Viacom? to QVC? In class, I will expect you to argue for the particular cost savings and / or synergies that Viacom and QVC will be able to achieve.
5. How should Redstone proceed? What price should he offer? Should the offer be a cash offer, a stock offer, or some combination? What should he do about the lock-out option and the termination fees? Should he bother trying to buy Paramount at all?

### Assume:

1. Paramount's marginal tax rate is 37%
2. Expected inflation is 4%

## **Paramount - 1994**

### Questions:

1. What do you think of Redstone's tactics in making the initial offer to Paramount? The price? The deal structure? The lock-up option? The termination fee? What did the market think of the initial offer?
2. Why did Viacom change its bid on October 21?
3. What do you think of the behavior of Paramount's board before the Delaware Court decisions? What is the purpose of Paramount's rights plan (i.e., the poison pill). What do you think of the auction procedure devised by Paramount's board after the Delaware Court decisions?
4. Explain what has happened with the stock prices of the three players from September to the end of January. Specifically, explain the movements of QVC and Viacom stock as the likelihood of their winning changes. Make sure to look at November 24 and January 7.
5. What do you think of the plan by Viacom's investment bankers to use CVRs? What do the CVRs add to the mix?
6. What did the changes in QVC's final bid accomplish?
7. Which of the two final bids is more attractive at the current stock prices of QVC and Viacom? Which of the two bids would you accept? Why? Is there any way you can use the current and / or past stock prices to figure this out? Think of how the stock prices of QVC, Viacom, and Paramount will change when it becomes clear who will win.

## **Cumberland Worldwide (A)**

### **Readings:**

"Note on Bankruptcy in the U.S.," HBS Case (packet)

### **Questions:**

1. What is the problem at Cumberland Worldwide? How did we get into this mess?
2. Compare the value of the various Cumberland securities to the value of the underlying assets. Be careful to consider both selling Cross River (and Cumberland) as well as fixing Cross River and operating it. Is the market optimistic or pessimistic? What does the market think will happen? Is the market expecting an asset sale, a Chapter 11 filing, or what? Assume:
  - a. Treasury bond rate is 8.5%
  - b.  $\beta^U$  is 0.8.
  - c. The sub debt receives \$707 face amount of new zero coupon debt, not \$1673
3. What do you think of the exchange offer versus the alternative of a Chapter 11 filing? I.e., who is going to vote for the exchange offer? Who is going to vote against it? Consider the positions of Cumberland's secured bank debt, unsecured senior debt, subordinated debt, preference stock, and common stock.
4. Should management alter the terms of the exchange offer? If so, how?

## ALZA (A, B-1, and C)

### Readings:

Appendix in Chapter 15 Brealey-Myers (on Rights Issues)  
“Survey of Corporate Governance,” Shleifer-Vishny (packet)

### Questions:

1. How does the competitive environment and Alza’s strategy affect its need and ability to finance the new drug delivery technologies? How could Gerstel fund the research on new drug delivery techniques? On what grounds should he compare various funding alternatives? How do they compare to one another?
2. Carefully read the proposal to create BES (Bio-Electric Systems) and to finance it by the issuance of the callable common plus warrant package. Try to break apart the units into simpler pieces that we can understand. How does the unit work? Does it solve Gerstel’s problems? Will it appeal to investors? Why or why not?
3. How much is a unit worth? Is 11\$ a fair price? Why is Gerstel offering the units at \$11?
4. As an Alza shareholder, what can you do with your rights to subscribe to the BES units? As an Alza shareholder, how can you obtain additional units beyond those to which your common shares entitle you to purchase for \$11? Assuming that you want to own the units, does your guess about the likely success or failure of the offering affect how you will attempt to obtain additional units?
5. Critique Gerstel’s strategy to offer the security as described in the B-1 case. Does his offering strategy make sense? What are its pros and cons? What would you have done differently? Why?
6. In the C case, we see the subsequent performance of ALZA, the BES units, and the pieces of the units that traded after the instrument separated into callable common and warrants. How should the callable common shares have been valued by the market in early 1991? On August 14, 1991? On November 12, 1991? On January 10, 1992? How were they valued by the market?

## Jaguar PLC, 1989

### Readings:

Chapter 27 of Brealey and Myers will be very helpful.

"A Framework For Risk Management," K. Froot, D. Scharfstein, and J. Stein (packet)

"Strategic Risk Management," Smithson and Smith (Chew, p.393)

"Rethinking Risk Management," Stulz (Chew, p. 411)

"Global Competition and Corporate Finance in the 1990s," Lessard (packet).

### Questions (we will spend relatively less time on question 3):

1. Consider Jaguar's exchange rate exposures. To which currencies has Jaguar been exposed historically? What are the sources of these exposures? How would Jaguar be affected by a 10% decline in the value of the dollar? How have Jaguar's exposures changed since 1984?
2. What do you think of Jaguar's past decisions to hedge its dollar exposure between 1984 and 1987? Should Jaguar have hedged more of its dollar exposure? Less? None at all? Why or why not? What other methods could Jaguar have used for hedging its exposure?
3. Please evaluate the strategic merits of a combination between Jaguar and either Ford or GM. What are the sources of value created by such a combination? Why do Ford and GM seem to be the only ones seriously interested?
4. How much should Ford be willing to pay to acquire all of Jaguar's shares immediately? As a starting point, please use the projections in Exhibit 7 of the case. Assume interest rate parity holds, i.e., nominal exchange rates are determined by long-term interest rates. Does the value differ if you assume constant real exchange rates (also known as purchasing power parity)? You will need to make additional assumptions; identify them explicitly and be ready to defend them. To which factors is your valuation most sensitive? How would the value be affected by a 10% dollar depreciation? By a 10% dollar appreciation? By changes in unit sales?
5. Assume Ford acquires Jaguar. From the perspective of a U.S.-based Ford shareholder, evaluate qualitatively Jaguar's operating exposures to real exchange rate changes. Do the exposures change if Jaguar is a Ford subsidiary rather than a stand-alone British company? Should Ford hedge any of these exposures?
6. Devise a program of specific tactics for Sir John to employ to maximize value for Jaguar's shareholders. How should Sir John respond to Ford's actions on October 16? Make explicit whether your goal is to remain independent, be acquired by Ford, or sell a minority interest to GM.

### Assume:

Jaguar has a  $\beta^U = 1.0$ .

Expected U.S. inflation = 3%, UK inflation = 5%, German inflation = 2%.

Jaguar's tax rate is 36%.