

Seminar in Business Administration

Course Information

<i>Course Number / Section</i>	FINA 6010-001
<i>Course Title</i>	Seminar in Business Administration
<i>Term</i>	Fall 2019
<i>Days & Times</i>	Tuesdays 2:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.
<i>Classroom</i>	BLB 314

Professor Contact Information

<i>Professor</i>	Tomas Mantecon Prieto
<i>Office</i>	312L
<i>Office Phone</i>	940-891-6905
<i>Office Hours</i>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tuesdays, and by appointment
<i>E-mail Address</i>	tomas.mantecon@unt.edu

1. Course Objectives

The goal of the course is to learn how to conduct empirical research, from the stage of origination of ideas to the development and testing of the hypotheses.

Students will read the financial press and academic journals to find research questions, thinking about the relevance for other researchers in the field of financial economics, for entrepreneurs and for policy makers.

Students will also conduct a series of assignments to replicate extant empirical work. This will be a valuable experience for future research work.

2. Class Format

The class will not follow a lecture format but will consist of short presentations in which students will present their projects and research ideas. I will give my personal views, but most importantly, students will engage in exchange of ideas; I will act as a moderator in these discussions.

3. Prerequisites

First year students must have already taken seminars in corporate finance and statistics. Thus, students should be familiar with the most important work in corporate finance, basic econometrics and the use of statistical software, such as SAS, STATA, or MATLAB or FORTRAN.

4. Performance evaluation

- a. Research projects: (500 points)
- b. Research ideas (250 points)
- c. Final Exam (250 points)

4a. Research Projects

You will work on several research projects consisting mainly (but not exclusively) on partial replications of several academic papers. I cannot anticipate the exact number of projects, as this will depend on your learning progress, but you will take a maximum of 14 projects during the semester. I will drop the lowest grade. The remaining grades will add to a maximum of 500 points. For instance, if you do 10 projects, I will drop 1, and the other 9 projects will be worth $500/9=55.6$ points each. If we do 9 projects, I will drop 1, and the other 8 will be worth 62.5 points each, and so on.

4b. Research ideas

Students should read the daily financial press (Bloomberg, WSJ, Financial Times, etc) as well as one forthcoming or recently published paper (published in 2013 - 2019) in one of the main journals in our field (JF, JFE, RFE, JFQA, JPE, JAE).

Student will present 2 research ideas in each class session, one from the financial press and one from an academic publication. In this presentation you will:

- ✚ Explain your idea.
- ✚ Is your idea relevant? How does it fit in the current literature?
- ✚ Is it doable? Where are you going to find the data?

4c. Final Exam

The final exam will consist of a small research project that you will work on using your office computer. You should be ready to read and combine data from different sources, to test one or several hypotheses and to present the results of some basic statistical analysis. I expect this project will take significantly longer than the time assigned for a regular class session. We will agree on a date for the exam that is suitable for all of you.

5. Grade Distribution

Whereas some students may be advised by faculty or may coauthor with other students, each student will be responsible and evaluated for their own work.

900 – 1050 = A

800 – 899 = B

700 – 799 = C

600 – 699 = D

Below 600 = F

Suggested Readings

In addition to the financial press and current work in the most prestigious journal in financial economics, you should read the following articles on the importance of research in finance:

Zivney, T. L. and W. J. Bertin, "Publish or Perish: What the Competition is *Really* Doing," *Journal of Finance*, 47 (March 1992): 295-329.

Mitenko, G.R. and J.M. Diamond, "Publication Policies and Practices of Major Finance Journals: A Survey of Editors," *Financial Practice and Education*, 4 (Fall/Winter 1994): 88-93.

Bower, R.S., J.E. Finnerty, J.D. Finnerty, W.R. McDaniel, and J.L. Stevens, "Protocol, Etiquette, and Responsibilities of Reviewers in Finance," *Financial Practice and Education*, 4 (F/W 1994): 18-24.

Cooley, P.L. "Survival Strategies for the Fledgling Finance Professor," *Financial Practice and Education*, 4 (Fall/Winter 1994): 8-17.

Weston, J.F. "A (Relatively) Brief History of Finance Ideas," *Financial Practice and Education*, 4 (Spring/Summer 1994): 7-26.

Gup, B.E. "The Five Most Important Finance Concepts: A Summary," *Financial Practice and Education*, 4 (Fall/Winter 1994): 106-109.

Borokhovich, KA., Bricker, RJ., (1995) "Finance research productivity and influence", *Journal of Finance*, 50, 5, 1691-1717

Corrado CJ, Ferris (1997) "Journal influence on the design of finance doctoral education", *Journal of Finance*, 52, 5, Pages: 2091-2102

Swidler S, Goldreyer E., (1998) "The value of a finance journal publication", *Journal of Finance*, 53, 1, Pages: 351-363

Fishe RPH, (1998) "What are the research standards for full professor of finance"? *Journal of Finance*, 53, 3, Pages: 1053-1079

Kee H Chung, Raymond A K Cox, John B Mitchell, (2001) "Citation patterns in the finance literature", *Financial Management*. Vol. 30, 3; p. 99-119

Chan KC, Chen CR, Steiner, (2002) "Production in the finance literature, institutional reputation, and labor mobility in academia: A global perspective". *Financial Management*, 31, 4, Pages: 131-156

Russell R. Curriea, and Gurupdes S. Pandherb, (2011) "Finance journal rankings and tiers: An Active Scholar Assessment methodology" *Journal of Banking and Finance*, 35, 1, Pages 7-20

Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Business Leadership Building:

- **Severe Weather** In the event of severe weather, all building occupants should immediately seek shelter in the designated shelter-in-place area in the building. If unable to safely move to the designated shelter-in-place area, seek shelter in a windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building. All building occupants should take shelter in rooms 055, 070, 090, and the restrooms on the basement level or in rooms 170, 155, and restrooms 122, 182 or 183 on the first floor.
- **Bomb Threat/Fire** In the event of a bomb threat or fire in the building, all building occupants should immediately evacuate the building using the nearest exit. Once outside, proceed to the designated assembly area. If unable to safely move to the designated assembly area, contact one or more members of your department or unit to let them know you are safe and inform them of your whereabouts. Persons with mobility impairments who are unable to safely exit the building should move to a designated area of refuge and await assistance from emergency responders. All building occupants should immediately evacuate the building and proceed to the south side of Crumley Hall in the grassy area, west of parking lot 24.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.unt.edu/oda/apply/index.html>. Also, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation in the University Union (room 321) or call them at (940) 565-4323.

If you need an accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible but at the latest by the second week of class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties include a grade of "F" in the course. You will find the policy and procedures at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>

If I suspect that you have engaged in academic dishonesty, I will deal with the situation as outlined in the University Policy shown above. You will be allowed to remain in the class during the entire time that the academic misconduct accusation is being investigated, adjudicated, and appealed. As noted above, the maximum academic penalty that can be assessed by an instructor is an F in the course. However, university officials use the academic misconduct information to decide if other misconduct sanctions are then to be applied, and the student has separate rights to appeal those decisions, remaining in the class until all appeals are exhausted.

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. You will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.



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