Course Description
Companies engaging in cross-border business as well as investors allocating capital globally face important international financial decisions. This course aims at providing the necessary understanding and tools to evaluate, finance, and manage international business and investment activities. While emphasis will be on the practical application of techniques and concepts, we will also study the underlying economic and institutional forces.

In the context of international finance, understanding foreign exchange rates is, of course, crucial. The course therefore starts with an overview over the macroeconomic forces that determine exchange rates. We then examine the challenges unexpected changes in foreign exchange rates pose for firms. We discuss whether and how these firms (should) manage their exposure to currency fluctuations.

Next, we broaden our focus and study how to discount non-USD cash flows, accounting for international differences in inflation, taxation, and risk. We then turn to financing decisions and show how firms can use global capital markets to lower their financing costs.

In the final part of the course, we study cross-border investment strategies available to financial investors.

Course Format
The course is structured around several business cases that we will discuss in class. In addition, I will summarize the main theoretical concepts and the related empirical findings in a few lectures.
Required Course Material

  Shapiro is a solid text on many of the topics we discuss in this course. For those topics that are not covered by Shapiro, I have included required readings in the course pack (CP) or posted them on Blackboard (BB).
- Course Pack (CP) available at the University Bookstore
  The course pack contains all cases we will discuss as well as several required readings.
- Blackboard (BB)
  Whenever (legally) possible, I post required readings on Blackboard. I will also post my lecture notes as well as case relevant material on Blackboard.

Additional Course Material

I will post additional readings on Blackboard. These readings are strictly optional and intended for those student who wish to pursue a given topic in more detail.

There are also several books that cover some of the topics we discuss in this course in more detail. In particular:

- International Macroeconomics
  Krugman, Paul and Maurice Obstfeld, *International Economics: Theory and Policy*
- Corporate Valuation
  Koller, Tim, Marc Goedhart, and David Wessels, *Valuation: Measuring and Managing the Value of Companies*
- International Asset Pricing

Requirements

We will discuss a number of cases in this course. You are expected to prepare the cases before class and to participate actively in class discussions. To help you with the case preparation, I will post a number of questions for each case on Blackboard. These questions are generally intended to help you get started on your analysis, but should not constrain you in your preparation of the case. At the beginning of class, you should be in a position to describe the set-up of the case, the main questions at hand, the possible solutions, as well as the reasons why you favor one solution over another. Clearly, at times you will not have reached a definite answer on what the “right” solution is; otherwise there would be little for you to learn from the class discussion. As long as you can express what aspects you would need to understand better or what additional information you would need to obtain, this is absolutely acceptable. On the other hand, if you are not sufficiently prepared, you should alert me before class, as I will call on individual students during case discussions.

For Cases II and VII, I will ask you to address some of the case questions in writing. For Cases V and VIII, you will need to perform a complete case analysis that will require extensive calculations in Excel. You can do so by yourself or in groups of up to three students. All case write-ups are limited to three pages of text (typed, double-spaced, minimum 11 point font) and four pages of attachments. Case assignments are due at the beginning of the class in which the case will be discussed (see the course outline below for details). If you cannot make it to class, you must email me your case solution before class. I will not accept any late case assignments.
Please hand in a print-out of all parts of your case solution. Also make sure that the names (in alphabetical order) of all group members are on the first page of your case solution. If your solution relies on extensive calculations in Excel, you must also email me the Excel file containing your calculations. Please make sure that you name the file in this way “Case1_NameA_NameB_NameC.xls”. Finally, as we will discuss the case in class, remember to keep a copy of your case solution.

There will also be two quizzes. I use the quizzes to test your understanding of basic concepts covered up to that point, your preparation of a case discussed that particular day, as well as your understanding of the case discussed the previous class. Quizzes cannot be rescheduled or made up. You must be present in class to take each quiz. I reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes or to make any of the quizzes “take-home”.

The midterm exam will be an in-class exam held during a regular class meeting. The exam will be closed book, but you are allowed to bring a single handwritten “cheat-sheet” (letter sized, two sided). If you cannot take the midterm exam on the scheduled date, please make sure you discuss this matter with me in advance.

To help you study the material for the midterm exam, I will provide you with a few homework assignments. While you are required to hand the assignments in, I will not grade them based upon whether they are correct (we will do this in the exam), but based upon whether or not you have demonstrated the necessary effort in addressing the assigned questions. The homework assignments will count towards your participation grade.

The final exam is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2007, 2:30-4:20 pm in BLM 416. The exam will be open book and open notes. All material covered during the course is relevant for the final exam.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on the following requirements:

Class Participation, including Homework Assignments: 15%
Cases (II and VII each 5%, V and VIII each 7.5%): 25%
Two Quizzes (each 5%): 10%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 30%

The target median grade for this course is in the range of 3.3 to 3.4.

**Code of Academic Integrity**

You cannot discuss case solutions or exam questions with students who are currently not enrolled in this course. In fairness to all students, I will not hesitate to report a violation of the code of academic integrity to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

**Feedback**

It is important to me to know about any concerns or questions you might have. I also appreciate any comments on the course, in particular about lectures or cases that you found particularly helpful or not helpful at all. Please feel free to stop by my office or send me an email if you would like to talk to me.
Course Outline

The course outline is subject to change depending on actual progress. Please note that the date for the midterm exam will not change. Clearly, the exam will only cover the material actually covered in class by the time of the exam. As necessary, I will post updated course outlines on Blackboard.

Class 1  
Course Overview and Introduction to Foreign Exchange Rates  
January 3 (W)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapters 1 and 7.1 to 7.2

THE MACRO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Class 2  
International Transactions and the Balance of Payments  
January 8 (M)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapter 5  
BB: Buffet, Fortune, 2003

Class 3  
Capital Flows and Exchange Rate Regimes  
January 10 (W)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapters 2.1 – 2.2 and 3 (in particular 3.1 and 3.4)  
Prepare: Case I: The 1994-95 Mexican Peso Crisis  
Hand in: Assignment 1

Class 4  
Martin-Luther King Day  
January 15 (M)  
No Class

Class 5  
Foreign Exchange Markets and Instruments  
January 17 (W)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapters 7.3 and 8

Class 6  
International Parity Conditions  
January 22 (M)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapter 4  
Hand in: Assignment 2

EXCHANGE RATE EXPOSURE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Class 7  
Transaction Exposure  
January 24 (W)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapter 10.1, 10.3 and 10.6  
Prepare: Case II: Hedging Currency Risk at AIFS  
Hand in: Case Questions

Class 8  
Translational and Operating Exposures  
January 29 (M)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapter 11  
Prepare: Case III: Foreign Exchange Hedging Strategies at GM: Transactional and Translational Exposures

Class 9  
Competitive Exposure  
January 31 (W)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapter 11  
Prepare: Case IV: Foreign Exchange Hedging Strategies at GM: Competitive Exposure  
Hand in: Assignment 3
Class 10  
To Hedge or not to Hedge  
February 5 (M)  
Read:  BB: Smithson and Simkins, Does Risk Management Add Value? A Survey of the Evidence  
BB: Froot, Scharfstein, and Stein, Risk Management

Class 11  
Midterm Exam  
February 7 (W)

CROSS-BORDER VALUATION

Class 12  
Valuation Techniques  
February 12 (M)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapter 17.1  
CP: Note on Free Cash Flow Valuation Models  

Class 13  
Cross-border Valuation  
February 14 (W)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapter 17.2 and 14.6  
CP: Note on International Tax Regimes  
Prepare: Case V: Prince S.A.

Class 14  
President’s Day  
February 19 (M)  
No Class

Class 15  
Cross-border Valuation (continued)  
February 21 (W)  
Prepare: Case V: Prince S. A. (continued)  
Hand in: Case Analysis

Class 16  
Investing in Emerging Markets  
February 26 (M)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapters 14.1 to 14.4 and 6.1. to 6.2  
Prepare: Case VI: Dow Chemical’s Bid for the Privatization of PBB in Argentina

CROSS-BORDER FINANCING

Class 17  
International Markets for Debt and Equity  
February 28 (W)  
Read: Shapiro, Chapters 12.1, 12.2. and 13.1 to 13.3

Class 18  
Cross-Listings and ADRs  
March 5 (M)  
Read: CP: Cross-Border Listings and Depositary Receipts  
Prepare: Case VII: Nestle and Alcon: The Value of a Listing  
Hand in: Case Questions
INTERNATIONAL PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT

Class 19
March 7 (W)

Risky Arbitrage

Read: Shapiro, Chapter 15.1
BB: Froot and Dabora, How are stock prices affected by the location of trade?

Prepare: Case VIII: Global Equity Markets: The Case of Shell and Royal Dutch

Hand in: Case Analysis