FIN399 and FIN660 Syllabus Spring 2016
Directed Research: Corporate Equity Research Competition

Class Hours: Tuesday 3:00 to 5:45pm
Class Location: TBD
Instructor: Ben Bystrom
Office: BusAd E602j
Office Hours: Monday morning by appointment
             Wed 3:00 to 4:30pm, Thurs 1:00 to 2:15pm, Fri 9:45 to 11am (and by appointment)
             Catching me before or after class is fine too.
Phone: Office: 956-7493 Cell: 226-6049 (Cell# is best way to reach me)
E-mail: bbystrom@hawaii.edu

Textbook: No text book is required. Course is based on independent student research. Financial statements, research reports, articles, excel models and other material will be provided by email or on Laulima

Prerequisite Courses: BUS 314 and FIN 311 (or equivalent)

Course Goals and Objectives:
• Clearly communicate financial concepts, analysis and equity research in writing and orally. Effectively write and present professional research report and investment recommendations.

• Master the skills necessary to analyze and value corporate equity including:
  o Evaluating financial statements and corporate disclosure information
  o Calculating corporate value through various methods including earnings multiple, discounted free cash flow and dividend growth
  o Building excel based pro-forma financial statements and dynamic financial valuation models
  o Determining sales and earnings growth drivers
  o Analyzing market and industry dynamics
  o Quantifying risk and its impact on corporate value
  o Run sensitivity analysis to evaluate the impact of market volatility on value

• Prepare students for careers in investment and commercial banking, equity research, asset management and corporate finance.

• Participate in the CFA Equity Research Challenge as a member of the UH Shidler Finance Team.

Teaching Methodology:
FIN399 and FIN660 are taught via seminar format in which students and instructor will have an open forum to discuss corporate valuation strategies and research methodologies. Students must prepare for and actively participate in all class discussions. Both in class and during office hours the instructor and students will have regular one-on-one meetings to guide the students’ research efforts.
Grading:
The following factors will be used to measure students’ progress through the course.

Written Equity Research Report: As a team, analyze and write an equity research report on Hawaiian Airlines, similar in style and format to reports written by wall-street equity analysts. Students will analyze the key industry, market, financial and risk aspects surrounding their company and recommend a target price for the stock supported by both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The report should be approximately 5,000 words and completed in 3 phases: Outline, Draft and Final Edition. To help improve students’ finance and research skills, the instructor will provide detailed feedback and each phase.

Equity Research Presentation: As a team, students will make a 10-minute oral presentation followed by a 10 minute Q&A session summarizing conclusions and investment recommendations on Hawaiian Airlines. After perfecting their presentation, the UH Shidler Finance Team will compete in the CFA Equity Research Challenge. In addition to the oral presentation, requirements include: 1) a clean, well-organized hard copy of all presentation materials (e.g. power point slides, excel models, etc.) and 2) an excel file of your financial/valuation model emailed to me (bbystrom@hawaii.edu).

Class Participation: Students are strongly encouraged to actively participate in class discussions. Note: quality (not just quantity) of participation is important.

Your course grade will be based on a reasonable curve over the total points accumulated on all assignments. The following weights pertain to those assignments:

- Written Equity Research Report 35%
- Financial Model in Excel 20%
- Equity Research Presentation 35%
- Class Participation 10%

Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend class regularly.

Additional:
- Calculators: Bring your business calculator to class each day. The Hewlett Packard 10bII, Texas Instruments BAII Plus or similar financial calculator is fine.
- Excel: Strong excel skills are required to complete the work in this class. If you need extra help with Excel, stop by during my office hours.
- One or two guest lectures will be arranged over the semester. Time and subjects will be announced in class.