

Northwestern University
Kellogg School of Management

FINC 441
Corporate Finance

Professor David Matsa
Winter 2014

First Class Assignment

Welcome to Finance II. This class proceeds at a very rapid pace. If you are not prepared, it is easy to get lost quickly. The first graded homework assignment is due during the second week of the course; see the syllabus and course calendar for details.

Prior to the first class, you should:

- Review the syllabus.
- Complete the required reading for the first class (Lecture 1):
 1. Read the outline for Lecture 1, which is available on Blackboard. For this and subsequent classes, it is important to read the appropriate lecture outlines *prior* to class. I recommend that you bring the appropriate lecture outlines and lecture notes to each class session. I will not bring printed copies of the lecture notes (slides) to class, so be sure to bring a copy yourself if you want to take notes on the slides.
 2. Read Chapter 13 from Berk and Demarzo, *Corporate Finance*.
 3. Read this press release about some recent decisions taken by a Wisconsin-based firm called Quad/Graphics: <http://tinyurl.com/quadnews>. Also, read about the company and its story on their webpage: http://www.qg.com/aboutus/qg_story/qg_story.asp. We will discuss the motivations behind their decisions.
- Familiarize yourself with the course web page:

<http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/faculty/matsa/441/>

The web page will be a source of up to date information about this course and a source for files needed to complete some of the course assignments. (Lecture outlines/notes and cases will not be available on the web page; lecture outlines/notes are on Blackboard and cases are in the course packet.) Familiarize yourself with what information is here and how to access it – before you need it – so that you don't end up doing more work than necessary.

- Bring your name plate to class.