

Sunday, February 06, 2005

Kellogg School of Management
Northwestern University

Finance 925, Analytical Finance Practicum
Spring 2005
Jacobs Center, Tuesdays, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

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1 Overview

The Analytical Finance practicum provides an opportunity for you to work in groups on problems proposed by companies. The level of involvement of the firm will depend on the project. I have eight projects from four firms for this year. The project descriptions are on the course website.

You will form groups of no more than four and choose a project to work on. I expect each group to present a written final project report addressing the problem and present it to the class by the end of the course.

Each group will first come up with a detailed initial project proposal for addressing the problem and make a formal presentation to the class. There will be additional brief presentations by each group to discuss their progress and to obtain feedback from other groups during the weekly meetings. We will also have group discussions of academic papers that have relevance for the projects. Groups will be responsible for a presentation of these papers. This will be in addition to the project presentations at the end of the quarter.

In addition to regular meetings during regular class hours, I will meet with individual groups several times during the quarter as required.

2 Requirements

2.1 Initial Project Proposal, Interim Progress Reports, and Class Participation (50%)

The initial project proposal and weekly progress sessions are an important part of the class. Half of your grade will be determined by the quality of your participation and general helpfulness, both in your group meetings and in the joint meetings involving other groups. I expect you to inform me in advance if you can not make it to any of the regular weekly classes.

At least once during the quarter, possibly more, there will be written group evaluations in which team members review other team members. My hope is that the evaluations all report that everyone is a full participant in the project; in this case the evaluations will have no effect on grades.

2.2 Final Project Report and Presentation (50%)

The written final project report and presentation will be graded as a unit.