This course is designed for majors in Real Estate, both undergraduate and MBA, but also is open to finance-oriented students who wish a deeper analysis of real estate investment analysis issues than is offered in REAL/FNCE 209 or 721. The course presumes knowledge of real estate finance at a level taught in REAL/FNCE 209 and 721, and the prerequisite will be enforced.

The class will contain a mixture of standard lectures, guest speakers, and case discussions. Topics covered will span the real estate equity and debt markets, both public and private. The bulk of the course focuses on commercial or income-producing real estate, but we will spend some time studying the housing markets. Grading will be based on five assignments that will constitute 90% of your final grade. There are four longer cases and one shorter case. Case #3 constitutes 10% of your grade. The other four cases each constitute 20% of your grade. The remaining 10% of your grade will be determined by class participation.

All assignment due dates are listed in the syllabus. Late submissions will not be accepted because all assignments will be discussed in class on the day they are due. In addition, students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and critique material in lectures and presentations. Hence, the 10% weighting for class participation in grading.

Readings for the course are attached. The readings come from a series of articles provided in a bulk pack. The volume of material is not overly burdensome for a course of this type, but some of the material is difficult. All readings should be done prior to the class for which it is assigned. In general, I have tried to pair academic papers with recent industry reports, with the goal of marrying sound theory and empirical analysis with relevant current events and practices. Class sessions are organized with the same goal in mind. I will deliver a number of lectures outlining what economics and finance tells us about a number of topics. Generally, these will be followed by guest lectures from industry professionals who will focus on a specific application of the principles introduced in the lectures.

Finally, computer and PDA usage are not allowed in class. Overhead sets will be posted on our class web site. Please bring them to class, as they will save you much note taking.
Course Overview

Economic Overview and Framework for Evaluating Pricing and Risk in Commercial Real Estate Markets

Readings:

2. Urban Land Institute, “Emerging Trends in Real Estate 2014”.

Case #1 handed out; Refinancing and Tenant Turnover Risk; due in class on January 27, 2014.

January 20th —no class; Martin Luther King Day observed; University holiday

Class #2: January 27

Economic Overview and Framework for Evaluating Pricing and Risk in Commercial Real Estate Markets (cont’d.; finish any remaining material)

The Public Equity Markets in Real Estate: Advanced REIT Analysis—REIT Structures and Valuation

Readings:


Case #1 due in class; discussion and review of answers
Class #3: February 3

The Public Equity Markets in Real Estate: Advanced REIT Analysis—REIT Structures and Valuation (cont’d.)

Readings: same as for January 27.

Class #4: February 10

The Private Equity Markets in Real Estate: Institutional Investors, Private Equity Firms, and Hedge Funds

Readings:

Case #2 handed out: Vornado Realty Trust Acquisition Advisory Assignment, due in class on February 24, 2014.

Guest Speaker: Todd Briddell, CEO and CIO, CenterSquare Investment Advisors (confirmed)

Class #5: February 17

The Private Equity Markets in Real Estate: Institutional Investors, Private Equity Firms, and Hedge Funds (cont’d.; finish any remaining material)

Do multiple-tiered promote structures here; have Chris write up something

Guest Speaker: David O’Connor, High Rise Investors, “Private Equity Investing in Real Estate after the Financial Crisis” (confirmed)

Readings: same as for February 10

Class #6: February 24
Case #2 due in class; review and discussion.

Linkages Between the Public and Private Real Estate Markets

Readings:

Class #7: March 3

Linkages Between the Public and Private Real Estate Markets (cont’d.)

Guest Speaker: Jim Corl, Managing Director, Siguler Guff, “Investing Across the Public and Private Markets in Commercial Real Estate” (tentative)

Readings: same as for February 24

March 10—no class due to Spring Break

Class #8: March 17

Real Estate in a Portfolio

Case #3 handed out: Portfolio Analytics: Real Estate in a Diversified Portfolio; due in class on March 24, 2014

Readings:
1. Chapters 7 & 8 in Brealey & Myers, *Principles of Corporate Finance*
2. Chapter 6 in Copeland & Weston, *Financial Theory and Corporate Policy*

Commercial Real Estate Debt Markets: Mortgages, CMBS, and Structuring (time permitting)
Readings:
6. Other TBA

Class #9: March 24
Case #3 due in class; review and discussion
Real Estate Debt Markets (cont’d.)
Readings: same as for March 17

Class #10: March 31
Case #4 handed out: Risk Evaluation of CMBS, due in class on April 14, 2014.
Commercial Real Estate Debt Markets: Mortgages, CMBS, and Structuring (cont’d.)
Readings: same as for March 17

Class #11: April 7
Guest Speaker: Spencer Haber, Chairman and CEO, H2 Capital Partners, “Risks and Opportunities in the Commercial Debt Markets” (confirmed)
Housing Markets: Analyzing the Great Boom and Bust to Better Understand the Recovery
Readings:


Class #12: April 14

Case #4 due in class; discussion and review

Case #5 handed out: The EOP Case: Understanding Pricing at the Peak; due in class on April 28.

Housing Markets (time permitting)

Class #13: April 21

Housing Markets: Analyzing the Great Boom and Bust to Better Understand the Recovery (cont’d.; finish remaining material)

Class #14, April 28

Case #5 due in class; review and discussion