

PREFACE

This book describes the theory and practice of corporate finance. We hardly need to explain why financial managers should master the practical aspects of their job, but we should spell out why down-to-earth, red-blooded managers need to bother with theory.

Managers learn from experience how to cope with routine problems. But the best managers are also able to respond to change. To do this you need more than time-honored rules of thumb; you must understand *why* companies and financial markets behave the way they do. In other words, you need a *theory* of finance.

Does that sound intimidating? It shouldn't. Good theory helps you grasp what is going on in the world around you. It helps you to ask the right questions when times change and new problems must be analyzed. It also tells you what things you do *not* need to worry about. Throughout this book we show how managers use financial theory to solve practical problems.

Of course, the theory presented in this book is not perfect and complete—no theory is. There are some famous controversies in which financial economists cannot agree on what firms ought to do. We have not glossed over these controversies. We set out the main arguments for each side and tell you where we stand.

Once understood, good theory is common sense. Therefore we have tried to present it at a common-sense level, and we have avoided proofs and heavy mathematics. There are no ironclad prerequisites for reading this book except algebra and the English language. An elementary knowledge of accounting, statistics, and microeconomics is helpful, however.

CHANGES IN THE SEVENTH EDITION

This book is written for students of financial management. For many readers, it is their first look at the world of finance. Therefore in each edition we strive to make the book simpler, clearer, and more fun to read. But the book is also used as a reference and guide by practicing managers around the world. Therefore we also strive to make each new edition more comprehensive and authoritative.

We believe this edition is better for both the student and the practicing manager. Here are some of the major changes:

We have streamlined and simplified the exposition of major concepts, with special attention to Chapters 1 through 12, where the fundamental concepts of valuation, risk and return, and capital budgeting are introduced. In these chapters we cover only the most basic institutional material. At the

same time we have rewritten Chapter 14 as a free-standing introduction to the nature of the corporation, to the major sources of corporate financing, and to financial markets and institutions. Some readers will turn first to Chapter 14 to see the contexts in which financial decisions are made.

We have also expanded coverage of important topics. For example, real options are now introduced in Chapter 10—you don't have to master option-pricing theory in order to grasp what real options are and why they are important. Later in the book, after Chapter 20 (Understanding Options) and Chapter 21 (Valuing Options), there is a brand-new Chapter 22 on real options, which covers valuation methods and a range of practical applications.

Other examples of expanded coverage include behavioral finance (Chapter 13) and new international evidence on the market-risk premium (Chapter 7). We have also reorganized the chapters on financial planning and working capital management. In fact we have revised and updated every chapter in the book.

This edition's international coverage is expanded and woven into the rest of the text. For example, international investment decisions are now introduced in Chapter 6, right alongside domestic investment decisions. Likewise the cost of capital for international investments is discussed in Chapter 9, and international differences in security issue procedures are reviewed in Chapter 15. Chapter 34 looks at some of the international differences in financial architecture and ownership. There is, however, a separate chapter on international risk management, which covers foreign exchange rates and markets, political risk, and the valuation of capital investments in different currencies. There is also a new international index.

The seventh edition is much more Web-friendly than the sixth. Web references are highlighted in the text, and an annotated list of useful websites has been added to each part of the book.

Of course, as every first-grader knows, it is easier to add than to subtract, but we have pruned judiciously. Some readers of the sixth edition may miss a favorite example or special topic. But new readers should find that the main themes of corporate finance come through with less clutter.

MAKING LEARNING EASIER

Each chapter of the book includes an introductory preview, a summary, and an annotated list of suggestions for further reading. There is a quick and easy quiz, a number of practice questions, and a few challenge questions. Many questions use financial data on actual companies accessible by the reader through Standard & Poor's Educational Version of Market Insight. In total there are now over a thousand end-of-chapter questions. All the questions refer to material in the same order as it occurs in the chapter. Answers to the quiz questions may be found at the end of the book, along with a glossary and tables for calculating present values and pricing options.

We have expanded and revised the mini-cases and added specific questions for each mini-case to guide the case analysis. Answers to the mini-cases are available to instructors on this book's website (www.mhhe.com/bm7e).

Parts 1 to 3 of the book are concerned with valuation and the investment decision, Parts 4 to 8 with long-term financing and risk management. Part 9 focuses on financial planning and short-term financial decisions. Part 10 looks at mergers and corporate control and Part 11 concludes. We realize that many teachers will prefer a different sequence of topics. Therefore, we have ensured that the text is modular, so that topics can be introduced in a variety of orders. For example, there will be no difficulty in reading the material on financial statement analysis and short-term decisions before the chapters on valuation and capital investment.

We should mention two matters of style now to prevent confusion later. First, the most important financial terms are set out in boldface type the first time they appear; less important but useful terms are given in italics. Second, most algebraic symbols representing dollar values are shown as capital letters. Other symbols are generally lowercase letters. Thus the symbol for a dividend payment is “DIV,” and the symbol for a percentage rate of return is “*r*.”

SUPPLEMENTS

In this edition, we have gone to great lengths to ensure that our supplements are equal in quality and authority to the text itself.

Instructor’s Manual

ISBN 0072467886

The Instructor’s Manual was extensively revised and updated by C. R. Krishnaswamy of Western Michigan University. It contains an overview of each chapter, teaching tips, learning objectives, challenge areas, key terms, and an annotated outline that provides references to the PowerPoint slides.

Test Bank

ISBN 0072468025

The Test Bank was also updated by C. R. Krishnaswamy, who included well over 1,000 new multiple-choice and short answer/discussion questions based on the revisions of the authors. The level of difficulty is varied throughout, using a label of easy, medium, or difficult.

PowerPoint Presentation System

Matt Will of the University of Indianapolis prepared the PowerPoint Presentation System, which contains exhibits, outlines, key points, and summaries in a visually stimulating collection of slides. Found on the Student CD-ROM, the Instructor’s CD-ROM, and our website, the slides can be edited, printed, or rearranged in any way to fit the needs of your course.

Financial Analysis Spreadsheet Templates (F.A.S.T.)

Mike Griffin of KMT Software created the templates in Excel. They correlate with specific concepts in the text and allow students to work through financial problems and gain experience using spreadsheets. Each template is tied to a specific problem in the text.

Solutions Manual

ISBN 0072468009

The Solutions Manual, prepared by Bruce Swensen, Adelphi University, contains solutions to all practice questions and challenge questions found at the end of each chapter. Thoroughly checked for accuracy, this supplement is available to be purchased by your students.

Study Guide

ISBN 0072468017

The new Study Guide was carefully revised by V. Sivarama Krishnan of Cameron University and contains useful and interesting keys to learning. It includes an introduction to each chapter, key concepts, examples, exercises and solutions, and a complete chapter summary.

Videos

ISBN 0072467967

The McGraw-Hill/Irwin Finance Video Series is a complete video library designed to bring added points of discussion to your class. Within this professionally developed series, you will find examples of how real businesses face today’s hottest topics, like mergers and acquisitions, going public, and careers in finance.

Student CD-ROM

Packaged with each text is a CD-ROM for students that contains many features designed to enhance the classroom experience. Three learning modules from the new Finance Tutor Series are included on the CD: Time Value of Money Tutor, Stock and Bond Valuation

Tutor, and Capital Budgeting Tutor. In each module, students answer questions and solve problems that not only assess their general understanding of the subject but also their ability to apply that understanding in real-world business contexts. In “Practice Mode,” students learn as they go by receiving in-depth feedback on each response before proceeding to the next question. Even better, the program anticipates common misunderstandings, such as incorrect calculations or assumptions, and then provides feedback only to the student making that specific mistake. Students who want to assess their current knowledge may select “Test Mode,” where they read an extensive evaluation report after they have completed the test.

Also included are the PowerPoint presentation system, Financial Analysis Spreadsheet Templates (F.A.S.T.), video clips from our Finance Video Series, and many useful Web links.

Instructor's CD-ROM

ISBN 0072467959

We have compiled many of our instructor supplements in electronic format on a CD-ROM designed to assist with class preparation. The CD-ROM includes the Instructor's Manual, the Solutions Manual, a computerized Test Bank, PowerPoint slides, video clips, and Web links.

Online Learning Center

(www.mhhe.com/bm7e)

This site contains information about the book and the authors, as well as teaching and learning materials for the instructor and the student, including:

PageOut: The Course Website Development Center and PageOut Lite

www.pageout.net

This Web page generation software, free to adopters, is designed for professors just beginning to explore website options. In just a few minutes, even the most novice computer user can have a course website.

Simply type your material into the template provided and PageOut Lite instantly converts it to

HTML—a universal Web language. Next, choose your favorite of three easy-to-navigate designs and your Web home page is created, complete with on-line syllabus, lecture notes, and bookmarks. You can even include a separate instructor page and an assignment page.

PageOut offers enhanced point-and-click features including a Syllabus Page that applies real-world links to original text material, an automated grade book, and a discussion board where instructors and their students can exchange questions and post announcements.

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