

5297 Introduction to Venture Capital and Private Equity Deals

Spring 2026

Instructor : Jason Bass (jbass@genesis-park.com, 615-439-7782 (cell))

Time/Day : Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm

Mode of Instruction : face-to-face

Office Hours: 20 minutes following the end of each class

Grading: Asking Questions/Engagement/Participation (35%) + Presentation (25%) + Final Exam (40%)

Presentation Grading Rubric : Timing + Effort + Demeanor + Differentiator Factor

Final Exam Format: You can bring a single sheet of paper (standard size) in with you with content typed or handwritten on the front and back

Location: Law Center Room 211

Attendance Policy: See student handbook

Honor Code: See UHLC Honor Code

Description:

This course will introduce the student to both Venture Capital and Private Equity Deals. The instructor for this course is Jason Bass, former Director of Finance at Mercury Fund (established in 2003, the oldest VC firm in the state of Texas) and current VP of Finance at Genesis Park (Credit and Debt Private Equity Fund based in Houston, TX). The ideal student for this course is 2L or 3L that has an interest in VC or PE and working with either entrepreneurs or early stage investors. Focus of the course is transactional, introducing students to the PE and VC industries and VC and PE deals. Guest lecturers for this course include attorneys from **Gunderson Dettmer, Dwyer Murphy Calvert, Troutman Pepper Locke, Hogan Lovells and others.**

Course Materials:

Venture Deals: Be Smarter Than Your Lawyer and Venture Capitalist (Fourth Edition: Brad Feld and Jason Mendelson)

(Supplemental- not required) **The Power Law: Venture Capital and the making of the new future** (Sebastian Mallaby)

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturer	Pre Class Ask	Firm
1	1/20/26	Intro/Admin- Fund 101	BASS	Review this syllabus	
2	1/27/26	Fund Formation 101	GUEST	Review Sample Sub Doc/Inv Questionnaire	Hogan Lovells
3	2/3/26	HOLD (Deals 101?)	BASS	Ch 1 & 11 & 15 of Venture Deals	
4	2/10/26	Anatomy of a Venture Deal	GUEST		Gunderson
5	2/17/26	SAFE + Convertibles 101	BASS	Ch. 8 & 11 of Venture Deals	
6	2/24/26	VC Term Sheet 101	GUEST	Ch 6 & 7 of Venture Deals + Term Sheet Ex	DMC (Austin)
7	3/3/26	Cap Table 101	BASS	Ch. 9 of Venture Deals	
8	3/10/26	HOLD - Placeholder	GUEST		
	3/17/26	SPRING BREAK HOLIDAY			
9	3/24/26	On the deal as an associate + ask me anything	GUEST	tbd	O'Melveny
10	3/31/26	Common Issues with Early Stage Companies	GUEST	tbd	Gunderson
11	4/7/26	Anatomy of a PE Deal	GUEST	tbd	Troutman
12	4/14/26	PE Deal Deep Dive	GUEST	tbd	Troutman
13	4/21/26	Final Projects: Presentations	CLASS	Prepare to present	
14	4/28/26	Final Projects: Presentations	CLASS	Prepare to present	
EXAM		FINAL EXAM :	BASS		

Final Project: Presentation Topics (or you can pick your own topic)

Carried Interest	409A Valuations	Sub Docs	Valuation Caps
AOIs	Options/Advisors	IP Considerations	Blocking Rights
1940 Act	Claw backs	Calculating IRR + Metrics	Mngt Fees/savings
VC/PE Benchmarks	Pay to Plays	How to file a Charter	Entity Creation 101
US Sec Act of 1933	Dodd Frank Act	ERISA	Blockers
Texas PE landscape	Texas VC landscape	Texas VC Law landscape	Texas PE Law landscape

Goal: 10-minute presentation, 3-5 slides, teach the class the concept

A.Mental Health and Wellness Resources

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.

B. Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

C. Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

D.Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

E. Women and Gender Resource Center:

The mission of the WGRC is to advance the University of Houston and promote the success of all students, faculty, and staff through educating, empowering, and supporting the UH community. The WGRC suite is open to you. Stop by the office for a study space, to take a break, grab a snack, or check out one of the WGRC programs or resources. Stop by Student Center South room B12 (Basement floor near Starbucks and down the hall from Creation Station) from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

F. UH Email:

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. Faculty use the CougarNet email to respond to course-related inquiries such as grade queries or progress reports for reasons of FERPA. To access your CougarNet email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials. Visit University Information Technology (UIT) for instructions on how to connect your CougarNet e-mail on a mobile device.

G. Syllabus Changes:

Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through changes to this shared syllabus (via google Drive).

H. Use of AI:

In the real world you will need to learn to use AI. When you take the BAR you will not be able to use AI. When you take the final exam for this course you will not be able to use AI. Feel free to use AI as an aid in learning the content of this semester but not to replace your learning.