

Omaha World-Herald

(Article by Steve Jordon/World-Herald Staff Writer)

http://www.omaha.com/money/buffett/buffett-in-some-cases-security-can-top-privacy/article_0dc1ca71-ec61-5bea-b9d1-bd5d493aa7d7.html

UNO students see what he saw

Students in a University of Nebraska at Omaha course look at the same documents that Buffett had when he made some of his big investments.

The trick, instructor Robert Miles told Jack Williams of NET News, is that the names of the companies are whited out and the students have to figure out the value of the company, as if they were planning to invest.

By that point in the class, titled, “The Genius of Warren Buffett,” the students have learned how to mimic Buffett’s system of calculating value from earnings, assets, debt and other publicly available numbers.

The student who comes closest to the actual value gets to explain to the class how it happened, Miles said, and sometimes the students can use the lesson to make real-life investment decisions on their own.

The course has been part of UNO’s executive MBA program since 2011 and is taken both by graduate students and as a noncredit course by people who just want to learn about Buffett and Berkshire. It features some local Berkshire executives and other guest speakers, including me.

There’s even a discussion of Buffett’s mistakes.

“He’s made mistakes on the investment side,” Miles said. “He’s quantified \$100 billion mistakes, and he’s made mistakes on the

management side to where he's had to fire people. Some have had to resign. ... So he's not perfect, but it's still worth a study."