



Finance I Course Descriptor

Course Title	Finance I	Faculty	Economics
Course Code	NCHEC601	Course Leader	Frank Zheng
Credit Points	15	Teaching Period	Michaelmas
FHEQ Level	Level 6	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory		
Pre-requisites	Microeconomics I		
Co-requisites	Finance II		

COURSE SUMMARY

The aim of this course is to provide a rigorous training in finance, including the financial system, its primary institutions and participants. The major focus of the course is Investment and Asset Pricing. The course is designed to give students the specialist knowledge to undertake academic research in the field of Finance, but will also be valuable for a professional career in Finance.

On completing this course, students are expected to be able to understand the roles of the core participants in the financial system, evaluate stock and bond prices based on economic fundamentals and timing of cash flow, as well as understand the concept of risk, its relationship to return, and the benefits of diversification. Students learn to understand the intuition behind the results, and develop the skill of applying theory to the real world.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to:

- Provide students with strong foundation in finance from which they will be able either to pursue study and research or pursue a professional career in finance.
- Provide students with the tools to value and price different financial assets.
- Teach students advanced technical skills in finance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1c Understand the concepts of some financial instruments
- K2c Carry out financial analysis

SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1c be able to price derivatives and model asset prices as simple stochastic processes

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1c model complex financial problems
- T2c present complex ideas in a way which can be easily understood by a non-specialist audience

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students will have the opportunity to engage with:

- 1 x virtual learning environment (VLE)
- 15 x large-group hours
- 10 x seminar hours
- 0.75 x tutorial hours (individual or group tutorial)
- Weekly office hours

Students are required to attend and participate in all timetabled sessions for this course and, with the ongoing support available, to manage their directed learning and independent study.

Total study hours for this course are: 150.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- Students will strengthen their understanding of concepts that are transferable to a wide variety of economic careers, such as the concept of risk and the benefits of diversification.
- Students will learn technical skills that are helpful for understanding the nature of Finance as a career, their own suitability to this career, and for performing well in a professional environment in this field.

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback, for example students prepare work for each weekly tutorial, which include at home preparation for previous week's taught session. This is further elaborated during 1:1 session

where students present results of their own work related to financial analysis of a company of their choice.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Examination	100%	N/A	1.5 hours	N/A

FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly through discussion during seminars. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, at the end of Michaelmas and Hilary terms in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term’s performance.

Feedback is provided on written assignments (including essays, briefings and reports) and through generic internal examiners’ reports, both of which are posted on the College’s VLE.

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

BOOKS

Hillier,D., M.Grinblatt and S.Titam (2011), *Financial Markets and Corporate Strategy*. Second European Edition. London: McGraw-Hill,

Brealey,R.,S.Myers and F.Allen (2019), *Principles of Corporate Finance*. 13 Edition. London McGraw-Hill.

INDICATIVE TOPICS

Students will study the following topics:

- The Financial System and Participants
- Time Value of Money
- Risk and Return
 - Mean-Variance Analysis
 - Portfolio Theory
 - Capital Asset Price Model (CAMP)
 - Factor Models and Arbitrage Pricing Theory (APT)
- Efficient Market Hypothesis
- Valuation

Title: NCHEC601 Finance I Course Descriptor					
Approved by: Academic Board					
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2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
Modifications (As per AQF4)					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Modification (including category number)		
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Category 2: Change to 'Teaching and Learning Strategy'		