



蘇州大學
Soochow University

FIN 339 Selected Topics in Finance

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course offers an in-depth exploration of selected special topics in finance. The content may vary each semester to address current issues and developments in the field. Topics may include but are not limited to financial derivatives, financial markets, financial crises, investment management, trading mechanics, and the future of finance. They provide insights from both academic research and real-world experiences, offering students a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and developments shaping the financial landscape today.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Gain insight into current developments and emerging trends in finance, enhancing understanding of contemporary issues shaping the financial industry.
2. Analyze complex financial concepts and theories, demonstrating proficiency in critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
3. Apply theoretical frameworks to analyze and assess investment strategies tailored for local markets.
4. Engage critically with real-world case studies and empirical research, deepening their understanding of practical applications of financial theory in various contexts.

PREREQUISITES

FIN 270 Introduction to Investments



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

| ITEM | POINTS |
|--------------------|------------|
| 3 Homework | 15 Points |
| 3 Case Studies | 15 Points |
| 2 Research Papers | 20 Points |
| Midterm | 20 Points |
| Final Presentation | 10 Points |
| Final Exam | 20 Points |
| Total | 100 Points |

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Finance: Capital Markets, Financial Management, and Investment Management, Frank J. Fabozzi CFA, Pamela Peterson Drake, Frank J. Fabozzi Series, Wiley, 2009.

Venture Deals: Be Smarter Than Your Lawyer and Venture Capitalist, Brad Feld; Jason Mendelson, Wiley, 2019.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None.

COURSE TOPICS

| MODULE | TASKS |
|----------|--|
| Module 1 | Topics: Topic 1: What Is Finance? Topic 2: Mathematics of Finance |



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|----------|---|
| | <p>Topic 3: Basics of Financial Analysis</p> <p>Assessments: Homework 1</p> |
| Module 2 | <p>Topics: Topic 4: Capital Markets and Capital Market Theory: The Financial System Topic 5: Interest Rate Determination and the Structure of Interest Rates Topic 6: Basics of Derivatives Topic 7: Asset Valuation: Basic Bond and Stock Valuation Models Topic 8: Asset Valuation: The Theory of Asset Pricing</p> <p>Assessments: Case Study 1 Research Paper 1</p> |
| Module 3 | <p>Topics: Topic 9: Financial Management Topic 10: Financial Strategy and Financial Planning Topic 11: The Corporate Financing Decision Topic 12: Financial Engineering, Asset Securitization, and Project Financing Topic 13: Capital Budgeting: Process and Cash Flow Estimation</p> <p>Assessments: Homework 2 Midterm</p> |
| Module 4 | <p>Topics: Topic 14: Capital Budgeting Techniques Topic 15: Issues in Capital Budgeting Topic 16: Managing Current Assets Topic 17: Financial Risk Management</p> <p>Assessments: Case Study 2</p> |
| Module 5 | <p>Topics: Topic 18: Investment Management: The Basic Principles of Investment Management Topic 19: Equity Portfolio Management Topic 20: Trading Mechanics Topic 21: Bond Portfolio Management Topic 22: Treasury Futures Contracts in Portfolio Management</p> <p>Assessments: Homework 3 Research Paper 2</p> |
| Module 6 | <p>Topics: Topic 23: How Venture Capital Funds Work Topic 24: Negotiation Tactics Topic 25: Raising Money the Right Way</p> |



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| | Topic 26: Issues at Different Financing Stages Topic 27: Legal Things Every Entrepreneur Should Know Assessments: Case Study 3 Final Presentation Final Exam |
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STUDY HOURS OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES

| ACTIVITY FORM | ACTIVITY HOURS |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Lectures | 40 |
| Tutorials | 16 |
| Assignments and Tests | 26 |
| Self-Study | 48 |
| Total | 130 |

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the



class.

4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.

5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.