



蘇州大學
Soochow University

FIN 350 Financial Markets and Investment Strategy

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course delves into specialized topics within the field of finance, focusing on financial markets and investment strategies. Students will examine the structure and functioning of financial markets, analyze various investment instruments, bonds and stocks, and develop strategies for portfolio management and risk mitigation. They will gain comprehensive insights into emerging trends, innovative investment strategies, and contemporary issues in global finance.

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

1. Gain insights into the structure, participants, and dynamics of financial markets.
2. Explore the concepts of market efficiency, behavioral finance, and anomalies in financial markets.
3. Grasp fundamental principles and techniques for analyzing investment opportunities, evaluating risk-return profiles, and making informed investment decisions.
4. Develop skills in constructing and managing investment portfolios, and risk management techniques.
5. Apply theoretical concepts and analytical tools to real-world investment scenarios.

PREREQUISITES

FIN 293 Financial Derivatives



GRADING

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

ITEM	POINTS
Participation	10 Points
3 Case Studies	20 Points
Midterm	20 Points
2 Research Papers	20 Points
Final Exam	30 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:

Claus Munk. *Financial Markets and Investments*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None.

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Markets: market structures Topic 2: Derivative securities Topic 3: Returns Topic 4: Risk Topic 5: Return statistics and the investment horizon Assessments:



	Case Study 1
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 6: Portfolios Topic 7: Risk reduction through diversification Topic 8: Bonds Topic 9: Stocks Topic 10: Relation to other asset classes</p> <p>Assessments: Case Study 2</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 11: Portfolio choice Topic 12: Investment strategies Topic 13: The basic model of long-term investments Topic 14: Time-varying investment opportunities Topic 15: The Capital Asset Pricing Model</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm Research Paper 1</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 16: Factor models Topic 17: Market (in) efficiency and behaviorial finance Topic 18: Efficient markets Topic 19: Investor behavior Topic 20: Active portfolio management</p> <p>Assessments: Case Study 3</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 21: Forwards, futures, and swaps Topic 22: Options: definition, characteristics, and terminology Topic 23: Option pricing: general properties Topic 24: Option pricing: the binomial model Topic 25: Option pricing: the Black-Scholes model</p> <p>Assessments: Research Paper 2 Final Exam</p>



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.