

Huron University College
Economics 3346B 550
Financial Markets

D. McKeon

Winter, 2023

Office Hours.

Tuesday Wednesday 2:30 -3:30

Office A8

Class on Mondays at 6:30-9:30pm in H111

Course Description

This course is an introduction to financial economics. The course will focus on how individuals and financial firms make decisions to allocate scarce resources over time and the markets they use to do so.

The first part of the course will cover the main tenets of mean variance portfolio theory to determine efficient portfolios and select the optimum portfolio.

The second part of the course will examine standard equilibrium pricing models such as the CAPM and other equilibrium models.

Subsequently, the pricing of debt and equity instruments in their respective markets is covered.

The course will conclude with an introduction to option pricing and other derivatives.

Although much attention is paid to the theoretical constructs of the material, throughout the course, the emphasis will be placed on applications.

Course Objectives

You will gain knowledge of the various types of financial instruments used in the financial industry.

At the end of the course, you will be able to evaluate the appropriate use of various theories in financial economics.

You will be exposed to the major issues concerning financial markets.

You will be prepared to engage in debate on the intersection of finance and macroeconomic policy.

You will get exposure to the technical skills needed to be a financial analyst.

Enrolling in the Chartered Financial Analyst program is a major career move and requires a significant commitment. This course will give you an idea of what is involved in attaining the CFA.

Course Materials.

The **main text** for the course is Bodie Z., A. Kane, A.J. Marcus, S. Perrakis and P. Ryan, *Investments, 10th Canadian edition* McGraw Hill Ryerson 2011.

References that may be used include.

Baily, Roy, *The economics of Financial Markets*, Cambridge, 2005.

Cochrane John, *Asset Pricing*, Princeton University Press, 2001

Copeland, Weston and Shastri. *Financial Theory and Corporate Policy 4th edition* McGraw-Hill Ryerson 2005

Danthine J.P. and J. Donaldson, *Intermediate Financial Theory 2nd edition* 2005.

Elton E. J., M.Gruber, S. Brown and W. Goetzmann, *Modern Portfolio Theory and Investment Analysis 8th edition*, Wiley 2010

Fabozzi, Frank J., E. Neave and G.Zhou, *Financial Economics* Wiley 2012

Classes

You are expected to **attend** every lecture in its entirety. Questions on quizzes or tests may be based on topics covered in the lectures. Not all topics are covered in the textbook.

Assessment

The course grades will assigned according to the following weights:

First Term Test30%

Second Term Test..... 30%

Reports/Presentation.....30%

*Participation/quizzes 10%

The participation mark will include **participation in quizzes and general classroom activity**. **This may include you being asked questions directly by the instructor. Absolutely no make ups for missed class work or quizzes.**

Dates

First Term TestFeb. 6, 2023

Second Term Test..... . March 20, 2023

Reports/Presentation..... March 27 and April 3, 2023

Each student will self-select to be a group (max 4) which will constitute her/his group for the term. The group will act as managers of a hypothetical fund for a pension plan, an institutional investor or a family office.

Your group will initially have 100 million dollars to invest in your fund. The group must report on the composition of the fund, on the reasons for its asset allocation and its performance twice during the course.

Report I - Due Jan 30

This is a one or two page written report on what you chose to spend the 100 million dollars on. You may hold up to 10% of the fund back in cash- but 90% must be invested by this date. You must trade or reallocate 50% of the fund total assets during the term. Assets \may be held in passive investments i.e. ETFs but you cannot “buy and hold” the entire portfolio over the term.

This criterion is required so students get exposure to making investment decisions.

Report II - Dates will be assigned to individual groups

This is an oral presentation each group makes to the class (about 10 minutes) explaining what their fund invested in and what the outcomes are.

This is where most of the thirty marks will be earned. Here you prepare a PPT deck presenting your fund and its results. The most important part of this assignment is **to use economics reasoning** in explaining why you invested as you did and how the markets responded during this investment period.

All of the above will be discussed in more detail during our first class.

Course Outline

The following outline is based on chapters from the text. Although we will follow, the text there will also be some material done in class that will not appear in the text nor posted on OWL. This additional material may constitute the **basis for exam questions**. In addition, readings may be assigned from time to time. **These readings are also subject to examination**.

This outline is **subject to additions and deletions as well as reordering of chapters and topics**. It is incumbent on all participants to keep abreast of any changes at all times. Changes to the outline will be obvious from the discussion-taking place in class; nonetheless, any changes will be announced in class and may not be posted.

Portfolio Theory

Risk and return.....	chapter 5
Utility and risk aversion.....	chapter 6
Optimal risky portfolio allocation.....	chapter 7

Equilibrium Models

The capital asset pricing model (CAPM).....	chapter 8, 9
Arbitrage pricing theory (APT).....	chapter 10
Market efficiency.....	chapter 11

Valuation of Debt and Equity

Bonds	chapter 14
Term structure of interest rates.....	chapter 15
Fixed income portfolios.....	chapter 16
Equities.....	chapter 17,18

Derivative Markets

Options and option valuation.....	chapter 20,21
Futures (if time allows).....	chapter 22

Portfolio Assessment Techniques.....ch. 24

***Miscellaneous Topics**

Macroeconomics and industry analysis.....

Active versus passive management...

Introduction to risk management...

* The order of these topics may be interchanged.

Missed Assessment.

Academic counselling must notify the instructor that you are eligible for accommodation for any missed assessment or course requirement not covered by SRA policy.

Missed quiz marks may be prorated if notice from academic counselling is received stating you are eligible for accommodation.

If you miss the first midterm, **and notice from academic counselling** is received stating that you are eligible for accommodation, then your marks will be reallocated to the second midterm.

If **you miss the second midterm, even if you wrote the first midterm**, you will normally have to write a make up exam during **or after the regular final exam period**. This makeup exam may be **of a comprehensive nature and may be of a different format (e.g. essay style) than the regular test**.

If you **miss the presentation**, you will also have to write a paper, **due before the end of the examination period that adheres to the criteria stated above**.



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022-2023

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#). The appeals process is also outlined in this

policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad

outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/> Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/> Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/> Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office:

safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)