



AFIN329

Derivatives Instrument

S1 Day 2015

Dept of Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Ryle Perera

ryle.perera@mq.edu.au

Contact via ryle.perera@mq.edu.au

E4A 229

Refer to iLearn

Administrator

Kenneth Wong

kenneth.wong@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Refer to iLearn

Refer to iLearn

Angela Chow

angela.chow@mq.edu.au

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

6cp at 200 level including (AFIN252 or AFIN270 or STAT272)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores the characteristics and pricing of derivatives. The importance of the principles of hedging and arbitrage in derivative pricing, is considered. Derivatives investigated include forwards, futures, options and various structured products. In particular, the unit covers non-standard securities and numerical methods.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Understand the concepts of option pricing theory and the role of derivatives
Be able to apply financial derivatives such as forward/futures and options to solve quantitative methods in finance theory
Develop skills to price options and other derivatives.
Examines the principles of hedging, arbitrage theory and structured products
Be aware of the confidentiality of proprietary trading models and systems so an employer is not disadvantaged.

General Assessment Information

It is the responsibility of students to view their marks for each within session assessment on iLearn within 20 days of posting. If there are any discrepancies, students must contact the unit convenor immediately. Failure to do so will mean that queries received after the release of final results regarding assessment tasks (not including the final exam mark) will not be addressed.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Class Test</u>	20%	Week 7
<u>Assignment</u>	20%	Mon 18 May
<u>Final Examination</u>	60%	University Examination Period

Class Test

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Submission

The Class Test is scheduled to be held during regular lecture day and time in **Week 7 (week commencing 20th April, 2015)**. Refer to iLearn for further details (test venues will be posted closer to the class test date).

Total time available for the class test is 90 minutes. The class test is based on topics covered during lectures 1 to 6, inclusive. No dictionaries of any kind are allowed in the class test. Non-programmable calculators are allowed, provided that they are not capable of storing text.

Extension

No extensions will be granted. Students who do not sit the test will be awarded a mark of 0, except for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

Penalties

Students who have not completed this exam will be awarded a mark of zero for this task, except

for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved. If approval is granted then you have to complete a supplementary class test during **week 10 commencing (11th May, 2015)**.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the concepts of option pricing theory and the role of derivatives
- Be able to apply financial derivatives such as forward/futures and options to solve quantitative methods in finance theory
- Examines the principles of hedging, arbitrage theory and structured products

Assignment

Due: **Mon 18 May**

Weighting: **20%**

The assignment question will be posted on iLearn in Week 3 (**commencing 9th March, 2015**). Students will be required to carry out research as a group (4-5 students) to meet the requirements of the assignment. These groups must be formed by Week 3. More details will be available on iLearn.

Submission

The assignment must be submitted by each group in hardcopy format (one for each group) to BESS in **Week 11 Mon 18 May by 12 noon** as well as via Turnitin on iLearn.

Extension

No extensions will be granted. Late tasks will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 20% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 40% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the concepts of option pricing theory and the role of derivatives
- Develop skills to price options and other derivatives.

Final Examination

Due: **University Examination Period**

Weighting: **60%**

Examination conditions

The **final exam** is based on topics covered during lecture weeks 1 to 13, inclusive. Total time available for the final examination is 3 hours plus 10 minutes reading time. No dictionaries of any kind are allowed in the final examination. Non-programmable calculators are allowed, provided that they are not capable of storing text.

The University Examination period commences on 9th June 2015. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

Supplementary Exams

The University recognises that students may experience disruptions that adversely affect their academic performance in assessment activities. In case of an unavoidable and unexpected event or illness, an application for disruption to studies can be lodged. The Disruption to Studies Policy applies only to serious and unavoidable disruptions that arise after a study period has commenced. If your application is approved, a supplementary exam will be held after the formal exam.

Further information regarding supplementary exams, including dates, is available here:

http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/exams/disruption_to_studies/

What is required to complete the unit satisfactorily

To be eligible to pass this unit, a pass is required in the final examination.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the concepts of option pricing theory and the role of derivatives
- Be able to apply financial derivatives such as forward/futures and options to solve quantitative methods in finance theory
- Examines the principles of hedging, arbitrage theory and structured products
- Be aware of the confidentiality of proprietary trading models and systems so an employer is not disadvantaged.

Delivery and Resources

Delivery and Resources

Classes

- The weekly three hour class for this unit consists of a two hour lecture and a one hour tutorial.
- The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at:
<https://timetables.mq.edu.au/>

Prizes

Prizes for this unit (see).

http://www.buisnessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/undergraduate_degrees/prizes_scholarships

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

- *The required textbook is 'Fundamentals of Futures and Options Markets', John C. Hull, Sirimon Treepongkaruna, Richard Heaney, David Pitt and David Colwell, Pearson, 2014*
- *This is available for purchase from the Macquarie University Co-op Bookshop, and a copy will be available in the closed reserve section of the Macquarie Library.*

Technology Used and Required

Unit Web Page

- The web page for this unit can be found at <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>
- It is the responsibility of students to visit the unit regularly. Course material is available on the learning management system (iLearn).
- Lecture notes, tutorial solutions, unit announcements, and other reference materials will be posed to this site throughout the semester

Unit Schedule

Lecture Week	Lecture Topic
1 - (23 February)	Introduction to Derivatives and Mechanics of Futures Market
2 - (02 March)	Hedging Strategies using Futures
3 - (09 March)	Interest rates
4 - (16 March)	Determination of Forward and Futures Prices
5 - (23 March)	Swaps
6 - (30 March)	Mechanics of Option Markets and Properties of Stock Options
06 April-17 April	Mid-Semester Recess

	CLASS TEST
7 - (20 April)	
8 - (27 April)	Trading Strategies Involving Options
9 - (04 May)	Introduction to Binomial Trees
10 - (11 May)	Valuing Stock Options: The Black Scholes Model
11 - (18 May)	Options on Stock Indices and Currencies and Futures Options
12 - (25 May)	Greek Letters
13 - (01 June)	Revision

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](#).

Supplementary Exam

Further information regarding supplementary exams, including dates, is available here http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/how_do_i/specia/consideration

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them

competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the concepts of option pricing theory and the role of derivatives
- Be able to apply financial derivatives such as forward/futures and options to solve quantitative methods in finance theory
- Develop skills to price options and other derivatives.
- Examines the principles of hedging, arbitrage theory and structured products
- Be aware of the confidentiality of proprietary trading models and systems so an employer is not disadvantaged.

Assessment tasks

- Class Test
- Assignment
- Final Examination

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the concepts of option pricing theory and the role of derivatives
- Be able to apply financial derivatives such as forward/futures and options to solve quantitative methods in finance theory
- Develop skills to price options and other derivatives.
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Assessment tasks

- Class Test
- Assignment
- Final Examination

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the concepts of option pricing theory and the role of derivatives
- Be able to apply financial derivatives such as forward/futures and options to solve quantitative methods in finance theory
- Develop skills to price options and other derivatives.
- Examines the principles of hedging, arbitrage theory and structured products

Assessment tasks

- Class Test
- Assignment
- Final Examination

Changes from Previous Offering

Changes Since Last Offering (S1 & S2 2014): Only 1 textbook is required for use throughout the length of the course. Portfolio Theory will no longer be taught.

Research and Practice

- This unit gives you practice in applying research findings in your assignments
- This unit gives you opportunities to conduct your own research

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
28/08/2015	Update of learning outcomes 3 and 5.