ACST603
Principles of Finance
S1 External 2015
Dept of Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Timothy Kyng
timothy.kyng@mq.edu.au
Contact via timothy.kyng@mq.edu.au
E4A614
By mutual agreement. Send an email to the Unit Convenor to arrange a time.

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MActPrac or MCom or MEc or MIntBus or MAcc(Prof)MCom or MBioTechMCom or MIntBusMIntComm or MIntBusMIntRel

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit aims to provide students with a knowledge and understanding of the principles and techniques underlying theory and practice in corporate finance. Topics include: - basic financial mathematics: interest rates, present values, future values, annuities, perpetuities; - valuation and analysis of debt and equity securities; - methods for investment evaluation and capital budgeting: NPV, IRR, PP; - financial markets and raising finance by issuing new securities; - risk and return, and the cost of capital; - capital structure and dividend policy; - derivative securities: forward, futures and option contracts, and applications to corporate finance; - corporate liabilities and international finance; and - introduction to risk management.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes
1. to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles and techniques underlying theory and practice in Corporate Finance and Capital Markets
2. develop expertise in using excel spreadsheet software to build the financial models and perform the calculations for security valuation and corporate decision making
3. demonstrate awareness of different financial instruments and their valuation and usefulness in a Corporate Finance context
4. be able to explain the concepts covered in the course in a clear and concise manner and be able to communicate it to others effectively

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 6 &amp; 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed coursework</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Fridays of weeks 3,5,7,9,11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>to be advised</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignments**

Due: **Week 6 & 10**

Weighting: **30%**

Assignment 1: Available Week 3; Due week 6

Assignment 2: Available week 7; Due week 10

The exact dates for release and submission of the assignments will be announced on iLearn during the semester. The release dates and due dates may change from the above. If so we will advise students of the changes.

These are individual assignments, not group work.

**Submission:**

essay type responses to be submitted online via iLearn / turnitin. Excel spreadsheet solutions to be submitted electronically (method to be advised)

**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%
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles and techniques underlying theory and practice in Corporate Finance and Capital Markets
- develop expertise in using excel spreadsheet software to build the financial models and perform the calculations for security valuation and corporate decision making
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Assessed coursework

Due: Fridays of weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11
Weighting: 20%

Submission

Due on Fridays, submit electronically (method to be advised). Submissions should be typed into word and converted to pdf, or an excel spreadsheet file created, or both. These can be uploaded and submitted electronically. There are 5 tasks, worth 4% each. These are individual, not group assignments. The due dates may change. We will advise students of any such changes to the due dates. The details of how to submit your work and the exact date and time will be announced on iLearn at the time the details of the assignment are made available. Students will have at least one week to complete these tasks.

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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- develop expertise in using excel spreadsheet software to build the financial models and perform the calculations for security valuation and corporate decision making
- demonstrate awareness of different financial instruments and their valuation and usefulness in a Corporate Finance context
Class test
Due: **Week 7**
Weighting: **10%**

The test will be conducted during week 7 as an online test. Further details and any changes will be announced on iLearn.

**Extension**

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

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles and techniques underlying theory and practice in Corporate Finance and Capital Markets
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Final exam
Due: **to be advised**
Weighting: **40%**

This is an online final exam. We will make it available over a 24 hour time period. Once commenced, you will have 3 hours to complete it.

Details of the date / time etc will be announced on iLearn.

**Extension**

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

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
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Delivery and Resources

Classes

For campus students:
A 3-hour combined lecture / tutorial / computer lab session will be held each week. Normally the lecture part takes up the first 1.5 - 2.0 hours and the tutorial / lab session the last 1.0 - 1.5 hours. All lecture content and tutorial exercises and solutions will be available on iLearn.

For distance students:
All lecture content and tutorial exercises and solutions will be available on iLearn. This will be available in pdf form and mp4 files. The timetable for classes can be found on the University website at: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/

There are no prizes for this unit.

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

Textbooks:
The textbook for this unit is "Fundamentals of Corporate Finance" by Parrino et al (ISBN 9781118378076). An electronic version of the book is available and may be cheaper than the paper version. This book covers most but not all of the topics in the unit. The lecture notes will also cover what you need to know. Additional readings may be assigned for the various topics each week. This will either be journal articles, or other materials available on the web or available electronically e.g. via the Macquarie University Library.

Reference Books:

Technology Used and Required
Students will require access to internet to download lecture slides and tutorial solutions.

The assignment and most tutorial exercises will require the use of word processing and/or spreadsheet programs.

In most weeks we will be using excel spreadsheets for the various financial calculations needed. Our classes are held in a computer laboratory and all students will have access to a computer
with the required software installed on it. Students will be instructed in how to use excel for the purposes of the unit.

Students may wish to bring a headset to class so they can view and listen to the mp4 video files of lectures / tutorials / excel demonstrations.

**Unit Web Page**

Course material is available on the learning management system (iLearn).

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Finance, Different forms of business organisation</td>
<td>lecture notes &amp; text Ch 1, Ch 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to using spreadsheets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>The time value of money and interest rates.</td>
<td>lecture notes &amp; text Ch 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to financial mathematics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Simple and compound interest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Various types of interest rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valuation of single payment cashflows</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spreadsheet implementation of financial calculations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 3 | Valuation of multi-payment cashflows  
annuities & perpetuities  
Present value and future value  
Sinking funds  
Loans, leases, amortizing loans  
Nominal and effective interest rates  
Spreadsheet implementation of financial calculations | lecture notes,  
& text Ch 6 |
|---|---|
| Week 4 | Valuation of shares and fixed income bonds  
Bond terminology, Yield to maturity  
RBA bond valuation formula  
Solving for the bonds price, coupon rate, or yield  
Dividend discount model for share valuation  
Gordon growth model  
Share valuation using multiples  
Net Asset Valuation  
Spreadsheet implementation of financial calculations | lecture notes  
& text ch 8, 9 |
| Week 5 | Capital Budgeting – project evaluation methods  
Weighted Average Cost of Capital  
Internal rate of return,  
net present value,  
payback period  
Definition and measurement of cashflow  
Sensitivity analysis and breakeven analysis  
Excel implementation of calculations | lecture notes  
text ch 10, 11, 13 |
| Week 6 | The term structure of interest rates and corporate bond valuation  
| |  
| | Zero Coupon Bonds  
| | The relationship between zero coupon bonds and nominal coupon bearing bonds & the law of one price  
| | The bootstrap method  
| | Spot and forward yield curves  
| | Applications of zero coupon bond pricing  
| | Corporate Debt Finance  
| | Valuing corporate bonds  
| | lecture notes  
| | text ch 8  |
| Week 7 | Raising new capital – Debt & Equity  
| | IPO  
| | SEO  
| | Placement  
| | Rights Issue  
| | Dividend Reinvestment Plan  
| | Issuance Costs  
| | Mid semester test  
| | lecture notes,  
| | text ch 15  |
| Week 8 | Randomness, probability and statistical concepts:  
| | What is randomness  
| | The structure of randomness - probability distributions:  
| | Bernoulli, binomial, uniform and normal distributions  
| | Expected value, variance, standard deviation,  
| | Correlation, covariance, linear regression and forecasting  
| | Measurement of risk  
| | Results for portfolios  
| | spreadsheet implementation  
| | lecture notes  |
| Week 9 | Tradeoff between risk and return  
Random walks, market efficiency  
law of one price,  
implications for investment and finance  
measurement of risk and return,  
estimation of risk and return.  
Risk and return for portfolios  
the capital asset pricing model and the security market line  
Spreadsheet implementation of methods used. |  
| lecture notes  
text ch 7 |
| Week 10 | Capital Structure & Payout Policy  
Debt vs equity vs hybrid securities  
Features of debt and equity  
Impact on stakeholders  
dividend policy  
Optimal capital structure  
Different forms of payout  
Interaction between payout policy and capital structure  
Pecking order hypothesis |  
| lecture notes  
text ch 16, 17 |
| Week 11 | Financial Derivative securities  
Futures & forward contracts & Option Contracts  
Black Scholes Valuation formulae  
Applications to Corporate Finance.  
spreadsheet implementation. |  
| lecture notes  
text ch 20 |
| Week 12 | Risk Management & International Corporate Finance,  
Applications of options and derivative securities  
hybrid securities.  
Spreadsheet implementation |  
| lecture notes  
text ch 21 |
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:


The [Disruption to Studies Policy](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) 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](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/) 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/](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](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.
We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

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- demonstrate awareness of different financial instruments and their valuation and usefulness in a Corporate Finance context
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  be able to communicate it to others effectively

Assessment tasks

• Assessed coursework
• Class test
• Final exam

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

• to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles and techniques underlying theory and practice in Corporate Finance and Capital Markets
• develop expertise in using excel spreadsheet software to build the financial models and perform the calculations for security valuation and corporate decision making
• demonstrate awareness of different financial instruments and their valuation and usefulness in a Corporate Finance context
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Assessment tasks

• Assignments
• Assessed coursework
• Class test
• Final exam

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**

- to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles and techniques underlying theory and practice in Corporate Finance and Capital Markets
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**Assessment tasks**

- Assignments
- Assessed coursework
- Class test
- Final exam

**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