



AFCP611

Case Studies in Applied Finance

AFC Term 2 Online 2015

Dept of Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor / Lecturer

Frank Ashe

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Contact via Email

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to GradCertFin

Corequisites

Co-badged status

AFCP811

Unit description

The unit provides an understanding of the finance industry and its integral role in the modern economy. The focus is on a high level, fully integrated overview of the major participants, their roles, interactions and the purpose they endeavour to fill for all stakeholders in the economy. The key structures of the finance system are examined, and how they usually work and sometimes do not work. Case studies of actual events and participants will be used to provide a sense of the application of finance in the real world - what actually happens as well as what should happen.

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:

- Explain and assess the role and contribution of the financial industry in a modern economy.
- Examine the roles and functions of participants in the finance industry.
- Examine the history of finance as to how it informs its place in the economy.
- Apply knowledge and skills to assess contemporary case studies in applied finance.
- Examine the mechanics and management of financial transactions.

Demonstrate effective communication to diverse audiences across different industry sectors.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Due |
|--|-----------|------------|
| <u>Online Participation</u> | 6% | In iLearn |
| <u>Online Assessments</u> | 30% | In iLearn |
| <u>Continuing case studies</u> | 14% | See iLearn |
| <u>Historical description</u> | 20% | In iLearn |
| <u>Final Case Study</u> | 30% | Exam week |

Online Participation

Due: **In iLearn**

Weighting: **6%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Dates: See assessment summary in iLearn for due dates.

Timing: Online forums will be conducted during the term. You are required to participate actively in these forums, and your contributions will be assessed.

Grading Method: See assessment summary in iLearn.

Submission Method: Online via the Unit's iLearn site.

Extension Requests:

- You are expected to make yourself available for assessment.
- If you have extenuating circumstances (such as illness or misadventure) that prevent you from participating, please make arrangements with your Lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and assess the role and contribution of the financial industry in a modern economy.
- Examine the history of finance as to how it informs its place in the economy.

Online Assessments

Due: **In iLearn**

Weighting: **30%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Dates: See iLearn for due dates

Timing: Online assessments will be conducted during the term for all topics.

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily'

Submission Method: Online via iLearn.

Extension Requests:

- You are expected to make yourself available for assessment during the relevant assessment window.
- If you have extenuating circumstances (such as illness or misadventure) that prevent you from participating, please make arrangements with your Lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and assess the role and contribution of the financial industry in a modern economy.
- Examine the roles and functions of participants in the finance industry.
- Apply knowledge and skills to assess contemporary case studies in applied finance.
- Examine the mechanics and management of financial transactions.
- Demonstrate effective communication to diverse audiences across different industry sectors.

Continuing case studies

Due: **See iLearn**

Weighting: **14%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Dates: Regularly through the entire course.

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily'

Submission Method: Via iLearn.

Extension Requests:

- If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your assignment by the due date, please make arrangements with your Lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, any late submission of assignments will automatically be penalised. In the absence of special circumstances, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine the roles and functions of participants in the finance industry.
- Apply knowledge and skills to assess contemporary case studies in applied finance.
- Examine the mechanics and management of financial transactions.

Historical description

Due: **In iLearn**

Weighting: **20%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Dates: See iLearn for the due date.

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily'

Submission Method: Via iLearn.

Extension Requests:

- If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your assignment by the due date, please make arrangements with your Lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, any late submission of assignments will automatically be penalised. In the absence of special circumstances, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine the history of finance as to how it informs its place in the economy.
- Demonstrate effective communication to diverse audiences across different industry sectors.

Final Case Study

Due: **Exam week**

Weighting: **30%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Date: Refer to iLearn

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily'

Submission Method: Via iLearn

Extension Requests:

- If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your assignment by the due date, please make arrangements with your Lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, any late submission of assignments will automatically be penalised. In the absence of special circumstances, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and assess the role and contribution of the financial industry in a modern economy.
- Examine the roles and functions of participants in the finance industry.
- Apply knowledge and skills to assess contemporary case studies in applied finance.
- Demonstrate effective communication to diverse audiences across different industry sectors.

Delivery and Resources

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

Required Text:

There is no required text. All readings are available in iLearn or accessible via iLearn

Additional Readings:

- Additional readings are included in iLearn
- Students should assume these readings are examinable unless otherwise advised.

Calculators:

- No calculator is required for this course..

Assumed Access: Access to a computer with word processing and spreadsheet capability is assumed, as is general student computer literacy and ability to access the World Wide Web.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

This is an online unit which will make use of the University's iLearn system.

Unit's iLearn Site:

- Found by logging on to iLearn ilearn.mq.edu.au, then clicking on **Case Studies in Applied Finance**.
- This is where you will find forums, downloadable resources and links to important pages.
- The forum allows you to communicate with other students and lecturer(s) and may provide supplementary material.
- You are requested to post your questions on the forums at least 24 hours prior to the assignment submission date or the examination date. Questions posted after that time may not be answered. **Please try to not leave your questions to the last few days.**

Important Notice:

- It is important that you familiarize yourself with the Unit's iLearn site.
- All students should check iLearn regularly and look for updates and distribution of materials related to the unit or assessments and participate in forum discussions.

Unit Schedule

The following schedule is a guide to the timing of each topic. Details of the required readings are provided in iLearn.

| Week | Topic | Date when you should have started working on this topic |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1 | Topic 1: What is Finance? | 30 March 2015 |
| 3 | Topic 2: Ethics in Finance | 13 April 2015 |
| 4 | Topic 3: Financial Instruments and Their Markets | 20 April 2015 |
| 6 | Topic 4: Banks and Money | 4 May 2015 |
| 7 | Topic 5: Financial History | 11 May 2015 |

| | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 9 | Topic 6: Regulation and Governance of Financial Institutions | 25 May 2015 |
| 10 | Topic 7: Insurance and Wealth Management | 1 June 2015 |

Learning and Teaching Activities

Strategy

Programs in the Applied Finance Centre adopt a deep teaching and learning strategy in which students acquire and retain knowledge and also are able to make sense of the issues and concepts and apply them in the “real world”. The program relies heavily on student engagement and participation by: (a) Continuous learning throughout the term. This is encouraged through a combination of students undertaking prescribed reading throughout the units and / or completion of practice problems, online activities, case studies, assignments, class discussions, etc and interaction via forums; and (b) Assessments, which enable the student to demonstrate his / her understanding of the learning objectives achieved through the continuous learning.

Student Participation

This is an online unit. Students participate in this unit by: (a) Actively engaging with the required readings of this unit; (b) Working systematically through and completing on-line activities; (c) Interacting in forums; and (d) Completing all assessment tasks.

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](#).

Students should also consult the MAFC Program Rules & Procedures found at <http://www.mafc.mq.edu.au>

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 enquiry service (MAFC-specific)

For all student enquires, please contact studentsupport@mafc.mq.edu.au

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.

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/) 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 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

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explain and assess the role and contribution of the financial industry in a modern economy.
- Examine the history of finance as to how it informs its place in the economy.
- Examine the mechanics and management of financial transactions.
- Demonstrate effective communication to diverse audiences across different industry sectors.

Assessment tasks

- Online Participation
- Online Assessments
- Continuing case studies
- Historical description
- Final Case Study

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

- Examine the history of finance as to how it informs its place in the economy.
- Apply knowledge and skills to assess contemporary case studies in applied finance.
- Examine the mechanics and management of financial transactions.

Assessment tasks

- Online Participation
- Online Assessments
- Continuing case studies
- Historical description
- Final Case Study

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

- Explain and assess the role and contribution of the financial industry in a modern economy.
- Examine the roles and functions of participants in the finance industry.
- Examine the history of finance as to how it informs its place in the economy.
- Apply knowledge and skills to assess contemporary case studies in applied finance.

Assessment tasks

- Online Participation
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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 outcome

- Apply knowledge and skills to assess contemporary case studies in applied finance.

Assessment tasks

- Online Assessments
- Continuing case studies
- Final Case Study

Effective Communication

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

- Explain and assess the role and contribution of the financial industry in a modern economy.
- Examine the roles and functions of participants in the finance industry.
- Demonstrate effective communication to diverse audiences across different industry sectors.

Assessment tasks

- Online Participation
- Online Assessments
- Continuing case studies
- Historical description
- Final Case Study

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social

justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Examine the roles and functions of participants in the finance industry.
- Apply knowledge and skills to assess contemporary case studies in applied finance.
- Demonstrate effective communication to diverse audiences across different industry sectors.

Assessment tasks

- Online Assessments
- Continuing case studies
- Historical description
- Final Case Study

Important Notice

This unit guide contains important information about the Unit. If anything is unclear, please consult one of the unit lecturers.

Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily

University Policy on Grading:

- Macquarie University's Academic Senate has established a Grading Policy available at <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>. Your final result will include:
 - A grade ranging from Fail to High Distinction; and
 - A Standardised Numerical Grade (SNG). A SNG is not a summation of the individual assessment components, but is allocated on the basis of the performance in all assessment items.
- It is important to note:
 - The Policy does not require that a minimum or maximum number of students are to be failed in any unit;
 - Grades will not be allocated to fit a predetermined distribution; and
 - The process of allocating SNGs does not change the rank order of marks among students who pass the unit.

Specific Unit Grading:

- All final grades in the Applied Finance Centre are determined by a grading committee

and are not the sole responsibility of the unit convenor.

- The core criteria used to assess student work in this unit are:
 - Knowledge and understanding: Understanding key ideas, knowledge and use of concepts.
 - Application: Ability to apply theoretical ideas and frameworks in practice and in a critically reflective way.
 - Reasoning and analysis: Ability to analyse, use critical reasoning and principles to formulate a position, balancing theory and personal reflection.
 - Professional literacy and research: Understanding of professional factors (language and landscape) and ability to undertake appropriate research.
 - Communication and presentation: Ability to communicate and present effectively (written and oral, as relevant).
 - Use of mathematical and statistical ideas: Ability to use mathematical and statistical ideas, methods and formulae appropriately.
- Performance in relation to each of these criteria are assessed against the University’s grading descriptors:

| Grade | Expectation |
|------------------|--|
| High Distinction | Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality and insight in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the discipline. |
| Distinction | Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the discipline and the audience. |
| Credit | Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the discipline. |
| Pass | Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the field of study; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the discipline. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes. |
| Fail | Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the discipline. |

Review of Grade and final examination Script viewing:

- A student who has been awarded a final grade for a unit and who does not believe it is an accurate reflection of their performance, and has grounds for such a claim and can

demonstrate those grounds, may apply to have their grade reviewed.

- For information on requesting a review of grade and/or viewing your final exam script, please refer to the University's Grade Appeal Policy at <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html> and MAFC Program Rules & Procedures at <http://www.mafc.mq.edu.au>.

Changes since First Published

| Date | Description |
|------------|-------------|
| 24/03/2015 | Update |
| 23/03/2015 | Update |