General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Jiwook Jang
jiwook.jang@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
(STAT810 or STAT8310 or STAT806) and (ACST881 or ACST8081)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit examines: rational expectations theory, rational choice theory, behavioural economics, properties of risk measures, risk and insurance companies, stochastic interest rate models, mean-variance portfolio theory, asset pricing models, single and multifactor returns models, binomial lattice models for option pricing and methods for calculating outstanding claims provisions in general insurance. Students gaining a credit average in both ACST8087 and ACST8088 (minimum mark of 60 on both units) will satisfy the requirements for exemption from the professional subject CM2 of the Actuaries Institute.

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

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

**ULO1:** Apply decision making via utility functions, and describe rational expectations theory, rational choice theory, behavioural economics and three different forms of market efficiency.

**ULO2:** Employ the use of Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), single/multi index models and Arbitrage Pricing Theory (APT) Model in asset pricing and analyse investment risk using various risk measures.

**ULO3:** Apply the binomial option pricing models to value European and American type
options.

**ULO4:** Apply a stochastic approach to the theory of interest on the mean and variance of the accumulation of a sequence of payments to solve practical problems.

**ULO5:** Use various methods of run-off triangles for valuation and reserving of liabilities.

**ULO6:** Extend the binomial option pricing models to value various types complex options.

### General Assessment Information

Assessment criteria for all assessment tasks will be provided on the unit iLearn site.

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.

### Late submissions and extensions

**Tasks 10% or less** – No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

**Tasks above 10%** - No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% 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 – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved. No submission will be accepted after solutions have been posted.

### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thursday 1 April, 12:00noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Friday 21 May, 11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Examination period</td>
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### Assignment

**Assessment Type:** Quantitative analysis task  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours  
Due: Thursday 1 April, 12:00noon  
Weighting: 20%

This is an individual assignment which focuses on problem solving using Excel spreadsheet.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply decision making via utility functions, and describe rational expectations theory, rational choice theory, behavioural economics and three different forms of market efficiency.
- Employ the use of Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), single/multi index models and Arbitrage Pricing Theory (APT) Model in asset pricing and analyse investment risk using various risk measures.

Class Test
Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task 2: 10 hours
Due: **Friday 21 May, 11:00 am**
Weighting: **20%**

The test will be approximately 90 minutes, to be held during class time.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply the binomial option pricing models to value European and American type options.
- Apply a stochastic approach to the theory of interest on the mean and variance of the accumulation of a sequence of payments to solve practical problems.
- Extend the binomial option pricing models to value various types complex options.

Final Exam
Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 28 hours
Due: **Examination period**
Weighting: **60%**

The final examination will be closed book, a three-hour written paper with ten minutes reading time, to be held during the University Examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply decision making via utility functions, and describe rational expectations theory, rational choice theory, behavioural economics and three different forms of market efficiency.
- Employ the use of Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), single/multi index models and Arbitrage Pricing Theory (APT) Model in asset pricing and analyse investment risk using various risk measures.
- Apply the binomial option pricing models to value European and American type options.
- Apply a stochastic approach to the theory of interest on the mean and variance of the
accumulation of a sequence of payments to solve practical problems.

- Use various methods of run-off triangles for valuation and reserving of liabilities.
- Extend the binomial option pricing models to value various types of complex options.

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1. If you need help with your assignment, please contact:
   - the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
   - the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

2. Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

## Delivery and Resources

### CLASSES

It is intended that learning in this session will be a combination of pre-recorded online lecture and on-campus tutorials. Tutorials will commence in week 2. The on-campus tutorial will be recorded and made available to students who are unable to attend.

### REQUIRED and RECOMMENDED TEXTS and/or Materials

**Required texts**

Lecture materials are available for downloading from ACST8087 teaching website.

**Recommended textbooks**

- Investment Science; David Luenberger
- Choices, Values, and Frames; Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman
- Modern Portfolio Theory and Investment Analysis; Edwin J. Elton, Martin J. Gruber, Stephen J. Brown and William N. Goetzmann
- Investment Mathematics and Statistics; Andrew Adams, Della Bloomfield, Philip Booth and Peter England
- Options, Futures and Other Derivatives; John Hull

**Optional ActEd material**

- The ActEd CM2, that can be purchased directly from ActEd.

## Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Utility Theory, Decision making via utility functions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Stochastic dominance, Behavioural finance</td>
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Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).
Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct](https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct)

**Results**

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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) or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

**Student Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

**Equity 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.

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](http://students.mq.edu.au/students/it帮助).
The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.