

The Finance Electives Course Guide



Core Subjects:

- Fins 1612 Capital Markets & Institutions
- Fins 1613 Business Finance
- Fins 2624 Portfolio Management
- Fins 3616 International Business Finance



Subjects:

Level Three:

- Fins 2622 Asia-Pacific Capital Markets
- Fins 2643 Wealth Management
- Fins 3623 Venture Capital
- Fins 3625 Applied Corporate Finance
- Fins 3626 International Corporate Governance
- Fins 3630 Bank Financial Management
- Fins 3633 Real Estate Finance
- Fins 3634 Credit Analysis & Lending
- Fins 3635 Options, Futures and Risk Management
- Fins 3636 Interest Rate Risk Management
- Fins 3637 Wealth Management Advice
- Fins 3639 Estate Planning & Asset Protection
- Fins 3640 Investment Management Modelling
- Fins 3641 Security Analysis and Valuation
- Fins 3650 International Banking
- Fins 3655 Behavioural Finance
- Fins 3775 Research Methods in Finance 1



Cores

^{*}Disclaimer: Student reviews & tips are subject to individuals' own opinions

^{**} Course Structure and Sem 1 Offerings subject to change by UNSW ASB

FINS1612 CAPITAL MARKETS AND INSTITUTIONS

PREREQUISTIES: n/a

COURSE SUMMARY

This is the first major core subject required for a finance major at UNSW. It provides a detailed overview of major financial markets, basics of financial instruments as well as an analysis of the roles and functions of the major financial institutions. Students will learn the theoretical fundamental background knowledge of the financial industry that is instrumental in future finance electives.

COURSE STRUCTURE

5%: Tutorial Participation

- •20%: Quiz 1
- •30%: Quiz 2
- •45%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Mon-Thurs Lecture: Mon 6-8pm, Tues 11-1pm, Wed 11-1pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Equity Markets
- Debt Markets
- •Foreign Exchange Markets
- •Futures, Forwards, Options

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'A lot of content to learn, but the information learnt is interesting and builds a solid foundation about the financial industry'

'Not many calculations, and more to do with understanding the theory behind the financial world'

'Provides a general understanding of how finance works in the real world'

'Older versions of the textbook are available as a PDF from older students'

'Make use of resources from older students such as notes, quiz bank and past papers'

'Both quizzes are in the lecture, so make sure you pick a lecture you will attend'



PREREQUISTIES: n/a

COURSE SUMMARY

One of the compulsory level 1 courses required for a finance major at UNSW. It forms the foundation of quantitative areas in finance, introducing students to important topics such as financial mathematics, investment valuations, capital budgeting and costs of capital. The fundamentals learnt within this course are expanded upon in higher level courses of the finance major.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- •10%: Weekly Attendance and Participation
- •10%: Weekly Homework
- •40%: Tutorial Quizzes
- •40%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Mon-Fri Lecture: Mon 9-11am, Mon 4-6pm, Wed 2-4pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Capital Budgeting
- Bonds, Equity
- CAPM
- Capital Structure

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'Should really pay attention as many of the finance electives build upon the calculations taught in this subject'

'Textbooks in Semester 1 and 2 are different, make sure you buy the right one'

'Try to do a lot of problem sets instead of focusing too much on the theory, especially past papers'

'Textbook is a good supplement if you are having trouble understanding some concepts, do the

practice problem sets as they are a good indication of the tutorial quizzes'

'Make good use of the myfinlab as it is quite helpful and has lots of questions ranging from easy to

hard'

COURSE SUMMARY

This second level core finance subject introduces students to investment theories, including application of the Markowitz Portfolio Theory, SIM and Factor Models and CAPM. Accordingly, students will learn to design and manage portfolios, price bonds, stock options and evaluate investment performance. The skills gained from this course are fundamental in the industries of investment management and wealth management.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 10%: Tutorial Participation
- 20%: Online Quiz
- 15%: In Lecture Mid-Term 1
- 15%: In Lecture Mid-Term 2
- 40%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Tues-Thurs Lecture: Tues 9-11am, Tues 6-8pm, Thurs 12-2pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Duration
- CAPM
- Markowitz Portfolio Theory
- Options Strategies, Valuation
- SIM and Factor Models
- Intro to Behavioural Finance

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

`Lots of resources available for this course; and the problem sets that are due each week keeps you up to date on the material'

'Make sure you study for it as I heard they will be changing the problem set questions next semester, so don't rely on past solutions'

'Study hard for this subject as it is a prerequisite for most level 3 finance courses'

'It's quite a breeze if you have a mathematical background (very huge focus on calculations)'

'Heavy options section towards the end of the semester'



FINS3616 UNITERNATIONAL BUSINESS FINANCE

PREREQUISTIES: FINS 1613, FINS 2624

COURSE SUMMARY

Usually undertaken during the second or third year, this course covers the basic theory and practical knowledge that is required to manage financial functions of firms operating in multiple countries. There is a strong emphasis on identifying and managing risk, more specifically, exchange rate movements and government policies. This course includes topics such as role of multinational banks, short term financing and international equity markets.

COURSE STRUCTURE

5%: Tutorial Participation

- 5%: Quiz
- 30%: Mid Session Exam
- 25%: Group Project
- 35%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Mon-Wed Lecture: Tues 4-6pm, Wed 1-3pm, Wed 6-8pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Interest Rate Parity
- International Debt & Equity Financing
- Forwards & Exchange Rates Systems
- Futures and Options
- Swaps

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'A lot of FX calculations are involved so a strong knowledge of FINS1612 is helpful'

"Textbook summaries are easy to read and sum up the chapter well'

"If you can get a hold of them, Peter Andersen's slides on this are incredibly thorough'

"Requires a lot of work to understand the concepts'

'The group component can be tough, they expect you to not have palm cards for the presentation, so make sure you memorise everything'





Electives

^{**} Course Structure and Sem 1 Offerings subject to change by UNSW ASB

COURSE SUMMARY

This course covers the essential elements of the Asia-Pacific Financial Markets, including countries like China, Indonesia, South Korea and others. Areas of interest include corporate governance, sovereign risk and global portfolio management. This course also aims to increase students' understanding of investing in emerging markets and how to modify techniques of financial analysis developed for advanced economies and apply them to emerging markets.

COURSE STRUCTURE

ONLY OFFERED IN SEMESTER 2 2018

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

N/A

INTERESTING TOPICS

- •Global Portfolio Management
- Roles of Banks
- Financial/Currency Crises
- •Interactions of Institutions and Finance

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'FINS2622 touches upon various aspects outside finance, including law, culture, behavioural aspects and management'

'Unlike the usual maths-orientated finance subjects, students are expected to read significant amounts of materials and be able to write well-strength in reading and writing is emphasised'

'Great for students interested in the international aspects of finance and wish to potentially pursue a career involving international finance'

'Quite a fascinating subject if you like reading about global markets'



COURSE SUMMARY

A second level finance subject that delves into the investment and financial issues arising from personal wealth management activities. This course examines deeply how to set financial plans, portfolio management, investment strategies and superannuation. It allows students to understand how to make decisions for superannuation, specifically as a trustee as well as looking into the regulatory framework.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 15%: Weekly Moodle Blog
- 15%: Tutorial Contributions
- 5%: Tutorial Discussions
- 25%: Mid-Session Exam
- 45%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Tues-Thurs Lecture: Tues 9-11am, Tues 6-8pm, Thurs 12-2pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Taxation
- Insurance
- Superannuation and Retirement Management
- Managed Funds
- Budgeting and Financial Plan

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

`Lots of group work, quite theory based and in my opinion quite easy'

'Not a lot of mathematics, more theoretical'

'Study hard for this mid-session as they tend to make it really hard'

'Relevant for the financial planning industry, if that's what you are interested in'

'Don't really need the textbook as the lecture slides are quite in depth and should be sufficient'

'Quite a useful subject for personal use as it teaches you some basic budgeting and is very applicable to

daily life'



COURSE SUMMARY

A third level elective finance course that introduces the characteristics venture capital and private equity investments, as well as the financing of entrepreneurial firms and public to private transactions. This course is highly recommended for students with an interest in the functioning of small to medium enterprises, exploring theoretical and practical issues/decisions that they face.

COURSE STRUCTURE

5%: Weekly Attendance Participation

- 5%: 2 Class Presentations
- 20%: Midsem Exam
- •30%: Group Investment Report
- 10%: Simulation Report
- •30%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Not being offered.

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Venture Valuation
- Raising and Fund Structure
- Investment Selection
- Private Equity Exit Strategies

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'The Group Investment Evaluation Report can go well into 15-30 pages, and there a lot of extra work and reading is required'

"Helpful course for people who are genuinely interested in reading prospectuses and valuing companies but the content is quite hard. It is also relatively unclear what they are expecting from you ,so if possible, try to see if you can glance over some past reports to get a feel"

'The simulation activity was quite stressful, and it is not an 'everyone wins' scenario. The better you do, the worse the opposing team does'

COURSE SUMMARY

This subject forms part of the corporate finance sub branch and focuses on financial decision making. It provides a theoretical understanding and evaluation of financial transactions in a corporate finance environment, including undertaking case studies and researching current financial issues. The topics learnt are relevant to the investment banking industry and include equity and debt financing, discounted cash flows and mergers and acquisitions.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 2.5%: In class quiz
- •2.5%: Tutorial participation
- •22.5%: Case study report and presentation
- •7.5%: Case study discussion
- •30%: Mid-Sem Exam
- •35%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Tues-Thurs Lecture: Wed 11-1pm, Wed 3-5pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Financial Statement Analysis and Modelling
- Equity, Debt Financing
- Corporate Governance
- Mergers & Acquisitions

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'Group work is a large component of this subject and can be picked, so make sure you do it with friends'

'There is a component where your group will need to question the group that is presenting to pay

attention in tutorials'

'Mostly quantitative content; a strong background in calculating annuities, CAPM, rates and options would be useful. Some weeks have more content than others'

'Revisits the calculations from FINS1613, read the textbook and do lots of practice questions'

'It is useful if you are interested in doing investment banking'



FINS3626 INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

PREREQUISTIES: FINS1613, ACCT1511

COURSE SUMMARY

This course takes a broad view of the operations and establishment of organisations. It is concerned with 'how corporations are managed' and emphasizes regulatory and formal arrangements such as auditors and the appointment of directors. Furthermore, the course explores literature on corporate governance in conjunction with current governance arrangements for firms. Students will also analyse how participants in the stock market value firms with different corporate governance structures.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 5%: MCQ Class Quizzes
- 25%: Class Test
- 20%: Group Assignment
- 50%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Mon and Wed Lecture: Tue 11-1pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Board Structure
- Managerial Compensation
- Cross-country comparisons
- Concentrated Ownership

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'No calculations. A lot of theory and case studies to read and understand'

'Multiple choice questions require you to choose the best answer, but they are challenging'

'Interesting to learn about how countries have different ways of running companies'

'Should only pick this subject if you like essay writing and theory'



PREREQUISTIES: FINS1612, FINS1613

COURSE SUMMARY

This course centres around the application of modern finance theory to financial decision making and management of financial institutions. The subject of decision-making in financial institutions is approached from a risk perspective. The course covers the major decision areas for financial institution management within the framework of a regulatory and a "corporate responsible" environment.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 12%: Tutorial Participation & tutorial problem sets;
- 44%: Mid-Semester Exam
- •44%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Mon-Wed Lecture: Mon 1-2pm, Mon 6-8pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Credit Risk
- •Interest Rate Risk
- Sovereign Risk
- Capital Adequacy

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'Quite an easy course because most concepts have been introduced in earlier Finance courses'

'Becomes more interesting as the semester progresses'

'Content is more concept based, and largely involved calculations, though is not hard-hitting material'
WAM booster however if you are seeking to learn something that is not taught in the core finance
subjects, there are better courses to take'

'Interesting to see how the banks work'



COURSE SUMMARY

An excellent course that exposes students to the concepts, theories and industry practice in real estate finance. This plays an important role all over the world and is a critical issue in the current economic climate. It attempts to place real estate investments on the same theoretical footing as fixed income and equity investments. It introduces to students the valuation methods used for investment decision making and the financial knowledge for real estate.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 10%: Tutorial Participation
- 25%: Mid Session Exam
- 20%: Group assignment
- 45%: Final Exam during exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Lecture: Tue 11am — 2pm No Tutorials

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Valuation methods for investment decision making
- Financial knowledge for real estate

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'Builds upon all the prerequisites that have been taken prior'

'It is a pretty challenging course'



COURSE SUMMARY

A third year finance elective course with a main focus on loan portfolio analysis and credit risk modelling. Topics revolve around assessing credit risk and exploring strategies to manage risk in loan portfolios. In particular, it emphasizes understanding in areas regarding client needs, differing funding structures, and risk/reward for financial institutions.

COURSE STRUCTURE

NOT OFFERED IN 2018

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

N/A

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Assessing credit risk
- Risk management in loan portfolios
- Risk/reward for financial institutions
- Differing funding structures

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

N/A



FINS3635 OPTIONS, FUTURES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

PREREQUISTIES: FINS 1612

COURSE SUMMARY

This subject forms part of the derivatives sub branch and acts as an introduction into derivative markets. This course is designed with a fundamental focus on the major areas of exchange traded options, futures contracts and fundamental pricing principles and hedging techniques in derivative markets. Furthermore, through undertaking this course students will learn the following topics of contract valuations and payoffs, arbitrage opportunities, risk management strategies, currency swap valuations and various methods for evaluating options.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 5%: Assignment #1
- 15%: Assignment #2
- 40%: Mid-Semester Exam
- 40%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Mon

Lecture: Mon 10-12pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Hedging with Futures
- Pricing Futures & Options
- Trading Strategies with Options

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'The course is somewhat straightforward if you can follow the content every week. There is no group work involved. Most of the coursework is calculation based'

'To do well - read the textbook, do as many questions as possible close to exams as they are heavily weighted'

'A great subject for those who are mathematic-orientated, and interested in how companies hedge their investments'

FINS3636 INTERESTRATE RISK MANAGEMENT

PREREQUISTIES: FINS 2624

COURSE SUMMARY

This course covers interest rate risk and risk management techniques. There is an emphasis on problem solving, yet the course covers theory as well as practical applications. The course introduces students to many interest rate products and identifies both how to price them and when to use them in hedging strategies. The topics covered in the course include the interaction between interest rate risk and credit risk, duration measures, term structure dynamics and numerical and analytical techniques.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- •5%: Assignment #1
- •15%: Assignment #2
- •40%: Mid-Semester Exam
- •40%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Lecture: Wed 10-1pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- •Term Structure & Yield Curves
- Options
- •Interest Rate Swaps
- Agency & Corporate Debt Securities

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'Quite an interesting course that builds upon the first few weeks of Portfolio Management, specifically honing in on duration, term structures and impact of interest rate risk.; 'No separate tutorials or lecture — just a seminar where theory is applied practically to question. Hence, it is vital to do readings before the seminar'



COURSE SUMMARY

This course provides students with the key financial planning knowledge and skills. From a financial planning practice perspective, we address the important compliance and legal issues and skills required to practice as a financial planner. This entails having a clear understanding of the client's situation, conducting needs analysis, identifying goals and objectives and choosing tools to execute the strategy. This course is required to attain ASIC RG146

Compliance

COURSE STRUCTURE

40%: Individual Assignment
• 60%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Lecture: Monday 6pm-9pm There is no tutorial

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Preparing a compliant Statement of Advice (SoA)
- Implementation of the advice and providing ongoing service and reviews to the client

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'The course is useful for students who want to pursue financial planning as a career' Great course if FINS2643 Wealth Management appealed to you as concepts are built upon and FINS3637 allows you to practically apply their learning to a financial planning case study' Has great content that is applicable personally such as superannuation and taxation' The course has one 3-hour lecture stream with no tutorials so it may be hard to schedule and assignments are weighted very heavily'

'Minimal assignments and concepts are relatively easier to understand, in comparison to other finance courses'



FINS 3639 ESTATE PLANNING & ASSET PROTECTION

PREREQUISTIES: FINS 2624, FINS 2643

COURSE SUMMARY

A subject that builds upon the core courses of Portfolio Management and Wealth Management that provides insight into the fundamental issues related to asset protection and succession planning. A practical subject that covers all the key estate planning elements impacting clients in need from a financial planning angle. Allows students to have a real insight into the world through a practical case study element and identifying the key issues faced by clients.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 40%: Individual Assignment
- •60%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Lecture: Thurs 6-9pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Estate Planning
- Superannuation & Estate Planning
- Taxation Issues in Estate Planning
- Succession Planning & Small Businesses

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

Really challenging course that allows students to have a real insight due to the case study'

Practical course that can be applied on a personal level in relation to what issues one

should consider when approaching retirement'

'Really builds on last few weeks of wealth management'

'Seminars are held with postgraduate students, so can have extra exposure and learn from

the students!"

COURSE SUMMARY

A third level elective finance course with a main focus on financial securities portfolio construction and management. It is highly recommended for students interested in financial modelling, investment management, banking and securities trading. As such, topics revolve around security analysis, alternative investments (and their risks and rewards) and a major focus on alternative hedge fund strategies.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 25%: Mid-Semester Exam
- 20%: Equity Research Project
- 55%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Lecture: Thurs 11-1pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Valuation
- Dividend Discount Modelling
- Private Equity
- Hedge Funds
- Commodities & Currencies
- Real Estate
- Active Portfolio Management

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'Focus mostly on alternative investments that often is not widely exposed to students such as private equity and hedging'

'Subject is a break from mainstream finance as you learn about how to manage your portfolio using a variety of different investments, such as real estate, commodities and currencies'



COURSE SUMMARY

This subject forms part of the corporate finance sub branch and provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge in equity valuation and analysis. Accordingly, students learn the different techniques and models in relation to DCF valuation, trade recommendation reports and financial statements. The knowledge and practical abilities gained through this course, are useful in brokerage, fund management, mergers and acquisitions and investment banking industries.

COURSE STRUCTURE

25%: Weekly Homework Submissions & Two Group Presentations

- •25%: In Class Test
- •50%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Tutorial: Mon & Tues Lecture: Mon 2-4pm

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Cost of Capital
- Discounted Dividend Model
- •Free Cash Flow Valuation
- •Financial Analysis

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'Usually only one lecture slot, tutorials fill up really quick so make sure you get on it'

'Read Damodaran's book of valuation'

'All textbooks referred to can be found on a link provided by the lecture to UNSW library'
;Make sure to actively take part in weekly homework as this will make revising for exams a lot easier'
'Weekly homework can be quite calculation heavy but in class exam is mainly theory based'

'If there is any subject you don't want to fall behind on it is SAV'



COURSE SUMMARY

The main aim of this course is to give students an understanding of international banking. It allows students to understand the operating environments of international banking institutions and more specifically, how to best manage the environment to create sustained value for shareholders.

Topics covered in this course include examining the role of international banks in international investment and trade, project financing and managing cross border risks.

COURSE STRUCTURE

15%: Class Participation

- •30%: Group Assignment
- •20%: Mid-Sem Exam
- •35%: Final Exam

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

Seminar: Wed 9-12pm only

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Risk Management
- Market Risk and Liquidity
- •Investment Financing

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'The final exam is easy'
'Read all the assigned readings'
'Challenging to remember all the information during assessments'



COURSE SUMMARY

This course examines how people make predictable and repeatable mistakes in financial decision-making, We will describe the nature of these mistakes and their origin, using insights from psychology, neurosciences, and experimental economics, on how the human mind works. Students then discuss how incorporating these mistakes into our finance theories can greatly improve standard finance models studied in other courses. We will also consider how understanding the functioning of the human mind allows us to design a better world – in particular, better stock markets, retirement and healthcare systems.

COURSE STRUCTURE

NOT OFFERED IN 2018

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

N/A

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Psychology and neurosciences
- Experimental economics
- Improving standard finance models learned in other courses
- Functions of the human mind for better stock markets

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'Asking questions and discussions are heavily encourages, as this impacts all forms of assignments and exams'

'Many examinations such as the group assignment and finals are oral presentations so that may be some people's forte but not others'

'Bonus marks are directly added onto your score so definitely recommend trying to get the full 5% to boost marks'

'A very long reading list, often straight from original research papers however only one is mandatory before each class so don't stress at the workload. The rest are supplementary readings and it is best to skim-read and take away key intuitions'

FINS3775 RESEARCH METHODS IN FINANCE 1

PREREQUISTIES: 70% or greater in FINS2624 and ECON1203

COURSE SUMMARY

Designed to provide an introduction to econometric theory and its application in empirical finance. Computer lab heavy and has an extensive use of leading statistical and econometric software that is employed extensively in research and practice. It is recommended to have completed at least 5 finance courses before enrolling. This course is a prerequisite for undergraduate honours in finance.

COURSE STRUCTURE

ONLY OFFERED IN SEMESTER 2 2018

SEM 1/2018 OFFERING

N/A

INTERESTING TOPICS

- Basic Probability Theory
- Ordinary Least Squares
- Time Series Analysis
- Dynamic Models

STUDENT REVIEWS & TIPS

'No tutorials, only a 3 hour lecture that is held in a computer lab'
'Learn a lot of graphing and computer skills, quite technical in those terms (e.g dynamic models, data models, regression etc.)'

'Research heavy and very challenging'

