



UNSW Course Outline

ZBUS8149 Finance for Decision-Making - 2024

Published on the 12 Feb 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ZBUS8149

Year : 2024

Term : Semester 1

Teaching Period : Z1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Canberra

Academic Unit : UC School of Business

Delivery Mode : Online

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : UNSW Canberra at ADFA

Campus : UNSW Canberra

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course is designed to demystify finance as a discipline exclusively reserved to those with substantive mathematical and statistical background to give participants a clear, applied understanding of net present value as the fundamental method with which financial decisions

are and can be made.

Course Aims

The course covers the essentials of Finance for making decisions: the time value of money; how to measure and account for risk and uncertainty; what is the difference between nominal and real values and why it matters; what is an arbitrage; how to calculate simple and compounded interest; understand what annuities are and when they are used; how to value assets like property; shares and debt; develop critical skills to review finance-related topics and decisions as reported in the media and in public policy debates. The course is highly applied. Hence it relies on everyday examples to generate discussions/solve problems to ensure learning progress and maintain relevance across both personal and professional circumstances.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand and assess basic financial terminology and tools, such as compounding, discounting, risk, hedging, cash flow, asset valuation
CLO2 : Apply basic financial principles to understand a company's performance given its accounts, and the techniques used to make financial decisions
CLO3 : Understand the main limitations of financial tools in capturing fundamental behavioural choices
CLO4 : Be able to construct a simple cash flow using a basic set of financial information and evaluate the financial viability of a project

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand and assess basic financial terminology and tools, such as compounding, discounting, risk, hedging, cash flow, asset valuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation• Mid-Term Report• Final Report
CLO2 : Apply basic financial principles to understand a company's performance given its accounts, and the techniques used to make financial decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation• Mid-Term Report• Final Report
CLO3 : Understand the main limitations of financial tools in capturing fundamental behavioural choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation• Mid-Term Report• Final Report
CLO4 : Be able to construct a simple cash flow using a basic set of financial information and evaluate the financial viability of a project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Reflection• Final Report

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Blackboard Collaborate

Learning and Teaching in this course

This online course relies on three components:

- Material drawn from the textbook, to introduce topics and discussions.
- Short targeted videos focusing on aspects linking content to real life examples.
- Discussion forums, to foster learning. There is a new provision for participation marks following feedback from previous students.

Workload

Students are expected to undertake an average of 10 hours of study per week for a 6 UOC course. This includes engagement with course readings and other activities, assessment preparation and research, as well as contact time with the lecturer and fellow students.

Other Professional Outcomes

Developing Program Attributes

Students will be encouraged to develop the following School of Business program attributes by undertaking the course activities and mastering the knowledge content:

1: Business knowledge

Students will enhance their knowledge of how businesses operate with essential information about making choices/deciding on investments that add value to the firm. In other words, the material of this course is complementary to what students acquire with courses focused on management.

2: Problem solving

Students will solve problems from day 1: the simplest problems apply finance work-horse model to select if a project/investment adds value to one's firm/operations. More sophisticated problems develop into complex decision trees that still apply the same model but to more nuanced and real-world circumstances.

3: Business communication

Assessment takes the form of reports where students present not only the result of their calculation, but also provide explanations to a manager/committee making the actual decision.

4: Teamwork

N/A

5: Responsible business practice

Although ethics is fundamental for financial decision-making, the responsible business practice covered in this course is to make financial decisions in the interest of a company's stakeholders rather than own personal profit.

6: Global and cultural competence

N/A

7: Leadership development

Students will develop financial competences that complement their leadership abilities.

Developing Graduate Capabilities

Successful completion of this course contributes to the acquisition of UNSW graduate capabilities. UNSW aspires to develop globally focused graduates who are **rigorous scholars**, capable of **leadership** and **professional practice** in an **international** community.

Additional Course Information

This course does not require any prior training in mathematics/statistics/finance or accounting.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Participation Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Ongoing Post Date: 10/07/2024 03:00 PM
Critical Reflection Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 4: 18 March - 22 March Post Date: 05/04/2024 03:00 PM
Mid-Term Report Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 8: 29 April - 03 May Post Date: 17/05/2024 03:00 PM
Final Report Assessment Format: Individual	45%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 13: 03 June - 07 June Post Date: 10/07/2024 03:00 PM

Assessment Details

Participation

Assessment Overview

Participation to Forum and online discussion.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Understand and assess basic financial terminology and tools, such as compounding, discounting, risk, hedging, cash flow, asset valuation
- CL02 : Apply basic financial principles to understand a company's performance given its accounts, and the techniques used to make financial decisions
- CL03 : Understand the main limitations of financial tools in capturing fundamental behavioural choices

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see the course Moodle site for a detailed description of this assessment. Information will be made available on 12 February 2024.

Permitted use of Generative AI: SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE

The use of generative AI is limited to the University's category of 'Simple Editing Assistance'. This means that, for this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to completing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software (e.g., Microsoft Office Suite or Grammarly) in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase (or translate)

passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

Assessment Length

See Moodle for instructions

Submission notes

See Moodle

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Critical Reflection

Assessment Overview

Critical reflection on use of net present value as a method to make financial decisions.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL04 : Be able to construct a simple cash flow using a basic set of financial information and evaluate the financial viability of a project

Detailed Assessment Description

This is a short assessment enabling students to explore and reflect on the use of NPV as single most important tool for making decision. Higher marks will be given to original work that motivates what are the main features of NPV and critically reflects on them.

Please refer to Moodle for further information. Information will be made available on 12 February 2024.

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Assessment Length

No more than 1000 words. Please refer to the General Assessment Information section below.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Mid-Term Report

Assessment Overview

Application of concepts of techniques covered in first part of the course to undertake (simplified) financial decision involving savings choices for future retirement.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and assess basic financial terminology and tools, such as compounding, discounting, risk, hedging, cash flow, asset valuation
- CLO2 : Apply basic financial principles to understand a company's performance given its accounts, and the techniques used to make financial decisions
- CLO3 : Understand the main limitations of financial tools in capturing fundamental behavioural choices

Detailed Assessment Description

This assessment takes the form of a solution to a (common and real-world) problem. In addition to correct calculations, about 50% of the mark will be given to motivating the use of chosen financial formulae.

Please refer to Moodle for further information. Information will be made available on 12 February 2024.

Permitted use of Generative AI: SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE

The use of generative AI is limited to the University's category of 'Simple Editing Assistance'. This means that, for this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to completing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing

functions in word processing software (e.g., Microsoft Office Suite or Grammarly) in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase (or translate) passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

Assessment Length

No more than 2000 words. Please refer to the General Assessment Information section below.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Final Report

Assessment Overview

Critical assessment of report and calculations prepared by external adviser.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand and assess basic financial terminology and tools, such as compounding, discounting, risk, hedging, cash flow, asset valuation
- CLO2 : Apply basic financial principles to understand a company's performance given its accounts, and the techniques used to make financial decisions
- CLO3 : Understand the main limitations of financial tools in capturing fundamental behavioural choices
- CLO4 : Be able to construct a simple cash flow using a basic set of financial information and evaluate the financial viability of a project

Detailed Assessment Description

This assessment covers the entire course material and asks students to critically reflect on its use in making a real-world financial decision. Ability in using suitable formulae AND motivating their choices are of equal importance for the marking of this assessment task.

Please refer to Moodle for further information. Information will be made available on 12 February 2024.

Permitted use of Generative AI: SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE

The use of generative AI is limited to the University's category of 'Simple Editing Assistance'. This

means that, for this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to completing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software (e.g., Microsoft Office Suite or Grammarly) in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase (or translate) passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

Assessment Length

No more than 2500 words. Please refer to the General Assessment Information section below.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Word count

The suggested number of words applies only to the main text but excludes references and technical appendices.

Referencing

APA 7th Edition.

Extensions and Special Consideration (School of Business, Postgraduate)

For assessment due during the semester: Your course convenor may approve extensions of up to five working days by email. Extension requests exceeding five working days must be submitted as a Special Consideration application.

For final assessments: All extension requests for final assessment items must be submitted as a Special Consideration application.

Extension requests and Special Consideration applications should be submitted BEFORE the

assessment due date.

If extenuating circumstances prevent you from submitting an application before the due date, please notify your course convenor by email and submit the application as soon as possible.

If your application is approved, the outcome may be one of the following:

- A supplementary or alternative assessment,
- An extended deadline for the assessment (note the extension granted is normally equivalent to the period of impact outlined in your supporting documentation),
- An aggregated or averaged mark derived from other comparable completed assessments.

Please note, applying for Special Consideration does not automatically mean that you will be granted additional assessment, or that you will be awarded an amended result.

More information

Special consideration and application process: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

Late submission of assessment

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Students must achieve at least 50% overall to pass the course. Students are expected to engage actively in course learning activities and attempt all assessment requirements in the course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 26 February - 1 March	Module	Making a financial decision: what, when, how?
Week 2 : 4 March - 8 March	Module	NPV as fundamental method to make financial decisions.
Week 3 : 11 March - 15 March	Module	Basic financial concepts: time value of money and discounting, nominal and real values, simple and compound interest.
Week 4 : 18 March - 22 March	Module	Savings and savings products. Superannuation.
Week 5 : 25 March - 29 March	Module	When do we discount? What discount rate to use?
Week 6 : 1 April - 5 April	Module	Does inflation make any difference to NPV calculations? Some reflections.
Week 7 : 22 April - 26 April	Module	How to account for uncertainty and risk (without being a statistician).
Week 8 : 29 April - 3 May	Module	Discounting a cash stream, and why only 'cash' is king.
Week 9 : 6 May - 10 May	Module	Using NPV to value shares.
Week 10 : 13 May - 17 May	Module	Using NPV to value debt, like government or corporate bonds.
Week 11 : 20 May - 24 May	Module	Using NPV to value a project.
Week 12 : 27 May - 31 May	Module	Is there life besides NPV?
Week 13 : 3 June - 7 June	Module	Capital markets and their efficiency. Revision of the course.

Attendance Requirements

Not Applicable - as no class attendance is required

General Schedule Information

Please see the course Moodle site for more information.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

There are no compulsory textbooks for this course. All required course readings will be made available on the course Moodle site.

Recommended Resources

Peirson et al. (2015). *Business Finance* (12th ed.). McGrath-Hill. ISBN: 9781743078976.

Please don't purchase this textbook. It's available via the UNSW Canberra Library.

Course Evaluation and Development

Course evaluation and development is ongoing through feedback from students about tasks and level of difficulty. Feedback from past iterations of the course has led to maintaining a 10% mark for participation in the Forum (not attendance to weekly Collaborate catch ups) and a smaller

weight on the initial task (reduced from 20% to 15%). The final assessment task has an unchanged weight of 45% of the total mark.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Massimiliano Tani		Building 27, Room 309, School of Business, UNSW Canberra	+61 2 5114 5007	Monday prior to the collaborate session, or by appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of each course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the “On-going Student Feedback” link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups (where applicable). Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for your course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct.

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

Equitable Learning Services (ELS)

Students living with neurodivergent, physical and/or mental health conditions or caring for someone with these conditions may be eligible for support through the Equitable Learning Services team. Equitable Learning Services is a free and confidential service that provides practical support to ensure your mental or physical health conditions do not adversely affect

your studies.

Our team of dedicated **Equitable Learning Facilitators (ELFs)** are here to assist you through this process. We offer a number of services to make your education at UNSW easier and more equitable.

Further information about ELS for currently enrolled students can be found at: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/equitable-learning>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. All students are expected to adhere to UNSW's Student Code of Conduct. Find relevant information at: [Student Code of Conduct \(unsw.edu.au\)](https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/student-code-of-conduct)

Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. It is defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own, and can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidental copying from a source without acknowledgement.

For more information, please refer to the following:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Special Consideration

Special Consideration is the process for assessing and addressing the impact on students of short-term events, that are beyond the control of the student, and that affect performance in a specific assessment task or tasks.

Applications for Special Consideration will be accepted in the following circumstances only:

- Where academic work has been hampered to a substantial degree by illness or other cause;
- The circumstances are unexpected and beyond the student's control;
- The circumstances could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and either:
 - (i) they occurred during a critical study period and was 3 consecutive days or more

duration, or a total of 5 days within the critical study period; or

(ii) they prevented the ability to complete, attend or submit an assessment task for a specific date (e.g. final exam, in class test/quiz, in class presentation)

Applications for Special Consideration must be made as soon as practicable after the problem occurs and at the latest within three working days of the assessment or the period covered by the supporting documentation.

By sitting or submitting the assessment task the student is declaring that they are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration (UNSW 'fit to sit or submit' requirement).

Sitting, accessing or submitting an assessment task on the scheduled assessment date, after applying for special consideration, renders the special consideration application void.

Find more information about special consideration at: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special/consideration/guide>

Or apply for special consideration through your [MyUNSW portal](#).

Late Submission of assessment tasks (other than examinations)

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as

published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.

School Contact Information

Email: Business@adfa.edu.au