

Financial Markets

Econ 173A, Fall 2017

Course description: The main goal of this course is to expose students to the fundamental concepts of investment theory and financial markets. This will include the important financial assets available in the capital markets, an introduction to portfolio theory, asset pricing, and the analytical tools of portfolio management. In addition, discussion of no-arbitrage arguments as well as investors' portfolio decisions and the basic risk-return trade-off established in market equilibrium will be discussed throughout the course.

Prerequisites: Econ 100A and Econ 120B or Math 181B; and Math 18 or 31AH.

Course materials

Required textbook: Zvi Bodie, Alex Kane and Alan J. Marcus (BKM), *Investments*, 11th edition, McGraw-Hill. Note that the 10th edition is very similar but the earlier editions are significantly different. You can use 10th edition of the textbook if you wish, but the problem set will refer to the 11th edition.

Financial calculator:

- A financial calculator will be required for the course and for exams, to perform basic annuity and present value type calculations.
- Any financial calculator will do, as long as you understand how to use it.
- * *Students interested in obtaining CFA certification should note that the two approved calculators for CFA exams are the Texas Instruments BA II Plus (including BA II Plus Professional), and the Hewlett Packard 12C (including the HP 12C Platinum, 12C Platinum 25th anniversary edition, 12C 30th anniversary edition, and HP 12C Prestige)*

Lectures: MWF 5:00 – 5:50pm at WLH (Warren Lecture Hall) 2001

Instructor: Dr. Munpyung O

- Office: Economics 109
- Office hours: 11:00am – 12:00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and by appointment.
- e-mail: munpyung@ucsd.edu

Please use your **ucsd email** and include “**Econ 173A**” in the subject line of your email. The professors and TAs will respond to thoughtful emails, though not on Sunday and some Saturdays.

Discussion section: Friday 2:00 – 2:50pm and 3:00 – 3:50pm at Center Hall 214

Teaching assistants and office hours

- Zhu, Linyan, 10:00-11:00am on Mondays @SH 205, liz125@ucsd.edu
- Ding, Xuan, 5:00 – 6:00pm on Thursdays @SH 206, x3ding@ucsd.edu

Reader: Hua, Xiameng, x5hua@ucsd.edu

Lectures and Discussion Sections: This is not an on-line class. If you don't plan to come to lecture, please drop the course. It is important to come to every lecture. If you should miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and any information provided in class. There are weekly discussion sections for this course. You are **strongly** recommended to attend them since the TA will review material covered in class, and also introduce material not covered in class and go over practice problems, the kind of problems you may encounter on exams. You will also be able to ask the TA any question about the material covered in the lectures during these discussion sections.

Course web page: A course webpage is available at <http://tritoned.ucsd.edu>. It will include information relevant to the course, such as syllabus, problem sets and more. **You should check this page regularly.**

Lecture slides: I have created my lecture slides for my own use not for distribution. These are very far from a complete record of what I say in class. By themselves they will be insufficient for keeping up with the course. Rather, the slides will serve as an outline for developing the concepts in each lecture while still requiring active learning (attending lectures, taking notes, and asking questions).

- I will post my lecture slides AFTER classes.
- It is not completed or polished and cannot be a substitute for my lectures. These are just lecture slides and undoubtedly contain errors.
- Many details, derivations, and examples are left out.
- A nontrivial fraction of the exam questions could be based on class discussion and examples which are uncovered in the lecture slides.
- Again, the lecture slides cannot be a substitute for my lecture. Without taking class, you will not understand my lecture slides.

Problem Sets: I will periodically assign problem sets throughout the course. Even though they will not be collected or graded, it is **VERY** important to do them. The problem sets are the best way to learn and be prepared for the exams.

Exams: The midterm will be given in regular class, Friday, November 3. The final will be given Thursday, December 14, 7:00 - 10:00pm. The dates for the exams are not negotiable. If you have a conflict with the scheduled tests, it is your responsibility to drop one of the classes. The final exam will be cumulative, but focus more on the material covered after the midterms. All tests are closed book and notes.

Makeup exams: Make-up examinations will be given only under very unusual circumstances and only if the student provides official written notification to the instructor no less than two weeks prior to the missed test. If you miss a midterm for a **justifiable** and **verifiable** reason, your midterm grade will be your grade on the final. Students who miss a test without a justifiable and verifiable reason, will most likely fail the course. No exceptions!

Grades: The overall score will be computed as follows:

- In class quizzes: 10%
- Midterm: 35%
- A comprehensive final: 55%

There is no opportunity in this course to do “extra credit” work. Your grade will be determined solely by the components listed above. The overall course grade, computed using the weights specified above, will be curved.

I reserve the right to modify these weights as needed during the quarter.

Disability: If you have a documented disability, please bring your documentation to me as soon as possible so that I can make suitable accommodations for you. If you believe that you have a disability and desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities.

Class conduct: Each student is expected to contribute and help to maintain a positive classroom environment conducive to learning. Do not socialize or read newspapers during class, and be sure your cell phones are turned off. No text messaging is allowed. If you must arrive late or leave early, do so quietly.

Academic Integrity: Any student found responsible for violating UCSD’s academic integrity policy will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty. You can find information on the university’s policy on academic integrity at this website: <https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html>

General comments

- Even if I don’t explicitly assign reading from the text, it is a good idea to read the chapter before coming to class in order to have some understanding of the concepts to be presented.
- ***This class moves rapidly.*** *Cramming* is not an effective way to learn this material. A student who keeps up with the topics as they presented will find the course much more enjoyable and will master the concepts more quickly.
- **Attend all lectures.** This is not an on-line class. If you don’t plan to come to lecture, please drop the course. You are responsible for any information given during lectures.
- Please do use my office hours for everything related to the content of the course. If you have doubts about the materials, do not wait until a few hours before the exam.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions in class. You’ve probably heard this before, but if you have a question, chances are that others in the class have the same question.
- Finally, ask questions before, during, or after class or come to my office if you having any trouble with the course material. Remember the goal of education is to learn, not to suffer!

Course content and schedule (Changes, if any, will be announced in the class.)

The following course schedule should be considered extremely tentative, and will likely change depending on our pace through the quarter. I reserve the right to modify this schedule as needed during the quarter.

1. Financial Markets, investments, and financial assets
2. Risk and Return: Portfolio theory
3. The Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)
4. Stock analysis and the Efficient Market Hypothesis (EMH)
- *5. Behavioral Finance
6. Fixed income: Bonds and Interest rates
- *7. Options and Other Derivatives