



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Department of Finance

FIN3103B/FIN3703B: Financial Markets
(Semester I, AY2020/2021)

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Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to give students a general understanding of the different financial markets and institutions in the context of both the U.S. and Singapore. The financial assets traded in these markets, the financial services and instruments these institutions offer, and the mechanisms and characteristics influencing the value of these assets and instruments will also be discussed.

Prerequisites

- Finance (FIN2004)

Recommended Textbook

Wee Yong, YEO (2019), "Financial Institutions and Markets: with a Singapore Perspective" 1st edition, Pearson Education.

All other course materials and information pertaining to FIN3103B/FIN3703B will be posted on the LumiNUS. You are expected to check any updates and files on the LumiNUS system on the regular basis. You are encouraged to use LumiNUS discussion forum for your questions and comments. I encourage you to read regularly the financial news from the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times or the Business section of the Straits Times.

Class Arrangement

The arrangement is subject to change depending on factors such as changes to COVID-19 restrictions, class size, and the number of students unable to attend the normal classes due to COVID-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, classes will, unless otherwise advised, be delivered in a normal face-to-face (F2F) classroom setting. Students who are not able to join the F2F class due to "Stay Home Notice", being in quarantine, and the likes, will join the class via Zoom instead. Students joining via Zoom have to ensure that the devices used for the Zoom have **functioning video (webcam) capabilities** and the video (webcam) be **turned on at all time**.

Students who attend the physical class are required to take their temperature before entering into the classroom and wear a mask throughout. Students who do not abide to these rules will not be allowed to enter into the classroom. Students are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop for hybrid learning in class.

Assessment: This is a 100% continuous-assessment (CA) course

Class Participation	15
Term Test I	20
Term Test II	20
Group Project	30
Project Critique	5
Individual Assignment	10
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Total	100

I. Class Participation

Students are expected to participate actively during classes. Marks will be awarded not based on quantity but how much one contributes to the learning of the class.

II. Term Test 1 (in class, Week 8)

This term test will be a 60-minute test. Students are to make sure that they are available to sit for the test.

III. Term Test 2 (in class, Week 11)

This term test will be a 60-minute test. Students are to make sure that they are available to sit for the test.

IV. Group Project

This project is group based. The objective of the project is to allow students to research into issues and questions related to the topics covered in the module and to share the knowledge they have acquired with the rest of the class. The project consists of a written report (**due on Wednesday, October 21**) and a presentation (during the last two weeks of the semester).

V. Project Critique

This critique is group based. Each project group will be assigned to critique the written reports of another two groups. The identity of the group doing the critique will not be made known to encourage more candid comments. The Critique is due on **Wednesday, October 28**.

VI. Individual Assignment

Students will choose a topic from a given list, research on the topic and record a video presentation of up to 5 minutes. The assignment is due on **Friday, November 13**.

Points to Note

1. Financial calculators may be needed in the course.
2. **Attendance:** Students must not miss more than 2 classes (not including absence due to medical (accompanied by medical certificates) or compassionate reasons). **Violators will be heavily penalized.**
3. CA Attendance: Students who miss a CA component will receive zero marks for that particular component. Absentees due to medical (accompanied by medical certificates) or compassionate reasons may be given a substitute form of assessment.
4. Students are encouraged to always feedback to the instructor comments and suggestions that may help the class to learn better.

5. Students are to check the LumiNUS weekly for announcements.
6. Forum in LumiNUS is exclusively for students' discussions in topics pertaining to finance.
7. Please use NUS e-mail for e-mail communications.
8. For class via Zoom, please **log in Zoom with your NUS e-mail** and change the displayed name to your real name, before clicking the invitation link (to be provided).

Consultation Hours

Make appointments through the "Consultation" tool on LumiNUS. All consultations would be held via Zoom.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty is essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to acknowledge the source, or falsification of information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is "the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own" (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism. Students should adopt this rule – You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard. In case of any doubts, you should consult your instructor.

Additional guidance is available at:

<http://nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct>

Online Module on Plagiarism: <http://emodule.nus.edu.sg/ac/launch.htm>.

Lesson Schedule (**Tentative**)

Week	Date	Topic and Activity	Chapters
1	Aug 13	Introduction and Financial Institutions I	1 and 2
2	Aug 20	Introduction and Financial Institutions I	1 and 2
3	Aug 27	Financial Institutions II: Banks	3
4	Sep 3	Financial Institutions II: Banks	3
5	Sep 10	Interest Rates and the Debt Market	4
6	Sep 17	Interest Rates and the Debt Market The Equity Market	4 and 5
	Sep 24	Term Break	
7	Oct 1	The Equity Market	5
8	Oct 8	Term Test I (in class) Forex Market (recording)	6
9	Oct 15	Forex Market	6
10	Oct 22	Derivatives Market Review of Term Test I (tentative) <i>Group project: the soft copy of the written report is due on Oct 21 (LumiNUS), the hard copy will be submitted in class.</i>	7
11	Oct 29	Term Test II (in class) <i>Project critique: the soft copy of the written report is due on Oct 28 (LumiNUS), the hard copy will be submitted in class.</i>	
12	Nov 5	Project Presentations	
13	Nov 12	Project Presentations Review of Term Test II (tentative) <i>Individual assignment: the video is due on Nov 13 (LumiNUS).</i>	