

**FIN2704/2704X – FINANCE**  
**AY2023/2024 Semester 1**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides students with the foundations to understand the key concepts and tools used in Finance. It offers a broad overview of the financial environment under which firms operate and equips students with the conceptual and analytical skills necessary to make sound financial decisions for the firm. Throughout the course, specific examples will be considered to highlight some of the basic ethical issues involved in various financial decision-making contexts.

The course employs lectures and small group tutorials.

The material for this course needs to be absorbed **consistently**. Therefore, students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorial sessions. Students would also find it helpful to read the recommended textbook chapters, lecture materials and attempt the tutorial questions **before** their corresponding lecture and tutorial sessions. Each student is also expected to contribute regularly to discussions in their registered tutorial section.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The objective of this course is to provide the foundations needed to understand important key concepts and tools used in finance. By the end of the semester, students enrolled in this course should gain basic understanding of the following topics: financial management, time value of money, risk and return, capital budgeting and financial planning. Students will also be introduced to bonds, common stocks and options.

**PREREQUISITES**

ACC1701/ACC1701X Accounting for Decision Makers or EC2204 Financial Accounting for Economists.

In addition, it is preferred that students have taken the equivalent of ST1131 Introduction to Statistics.

**INSTRUCTORS**

Mr. Winston Low ([winstonlow@nus.edu.sg](mailto:winstonlow@nus.edu.sg))

Mr. Chong Lock Kuah ([fnbclk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:fnbclk@nus.edu.sg))

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Mr. Tan Chek Ann ([cat@u.nus.edu](mailto:cat@u.nus.edu))

## LECTURES (3 Time Slots available)

### Wednesdays

10am – 12pm (L02)

12pm – 2pm (L03)

### Fridays

12pm – 2pm (L01)

## TUTORIALS

You must also register for one of the course’s tutorial sections. You will be assigned a tutor depending on the tutorial section you registered for. You must attend your officially registered tutorial section to receive credits for tutorial participation and quizzes.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### 1. Textbook

**Fundamentals of Corporate Finance**, 13th Edition

By Stephen A. Ross, Randolph W. Westerfield, Bradford D. Jordan

ISBN: 978-1-265-55360-9

Available at NUS Co-op or Digital copy

### 2. Financial calculator

Each student is encouraged to bring a financial calculator to all lectures, tutorials, quizzes, and tests.

Recommended financial calculator: Texas Instruments BAII Plus Financial Calculator

### 3. Lecture slides will be posted on Canvas

Please note that the slides do not comprise self-contained lectures. The slides should be used in conjunction with the lecture sessions and tutorials.

### 4. Tutorial questions will be posted on Canvas

Students are responsible for understanding all assigned problems since they will help prepare for the quizzes, midterm and final exam.

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

Component	Weight
Quiz (best 2 of 3): during registered tutorials	15%
Midterm Test: Week 8 <i>(TBC)</i>	30%
Final Exam: Exam week as per University Calendar <i>(TBC)</i>	45%
Tutorial Class Participation	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Quizzes**

There will be **three** quizzes conducted during your assigned tutorial session in Weeks 6, 10, and 13. These quizzes are drafted by your tutor and will take place during your officially registered tutorial session. Please refer to the course schedule for details on the materials covered in each quiz. However, your tutor can adjust the materials covered based on the speed of each class.

The **two best** quiz marks will count toward your quiz grade. There will be **no make-up quizzes**. All tutorial quiz marks from each tutorial section may be normalized at the end of the semester so that all tutorial sections will have similar average mark.

## **Tutorial Participation**

Your tutor will observe student participation during the tutorial sessions and reward students who make a substantial effort. Your class participation mark will be allocated by your tutor based on your attendance, participation in discussions and class activities, and tutorial presentations (if presentations are assigned by your tutor).

**You must attend your officially registered tutorial sections and only your registered tutorial sections.** You will only receive credit for participation made in your registered tutorial sections.

Please note that while simply attending the tutorials is expected, it is **not** sufficient for you to receive a favorable tutorial participation grade. Evaluation will be based on how well you have participated in class, looking at the quality, not the quantity, of your participation. You can improve your participation grade considerably by coming to class prepared. Participation points are awarded **at your tutor's discretion** and are based solely on **your tutor's opinion** of your efforts and your contribution to class discussions. These points are not automatically given but must be earned and they are **not subject to negotiation**.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

You are responsible for **materials** discussed in the lectures and tutorials. You are also responsible for all **announcements** made during the lectures, tutorial sessions and those posted on Canvas.

You are required to attend your **officially registered** tutorial sessions every week. Your attendance in these sessions will be part of the lecture and tutorial participation assessments.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY & PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity and honesty are 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:

<https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/undergraduate/acceptance-record - NUSCodeofStudentConduct>

<https://nus.edu.sg/osa/docs/default-source/osa-doc/resources-and-policies/code-of-student-conduct.pdf>

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)**

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Tutorial Topic	Quiz
1	Week of 14 Aug 2023	Lecture 1: Intro & Overview of Financial Management	Ch 1	No Tutorial	
2	Week of 21 Aug 2023	Lecture 2: Financial Statement Analysis	Ch 2, 3	No Tutorial	
3	Week of 28 Aug 2023	Lecture 3: Time Value of Money I	Ch 5, 6	Tutorial 1: Financial Management & Financial Statement Analysis	
4	Week of 4 Sep 2023	Lecture 4: Time Value of Money II	Ch 5, 6	Tutorial 2: Time Value of Money I	
5	Week of 11 Sep 2023	Lecture 5: Risk & Return I	Ch 12, 13	Tutorial 3: Time Value of Money II	
6	Week of 18 Sep 2023	Lecture 6: Risk & Return II	Ch 12, 13	Tutorial 4: Risk & Return I	<b>Quiz 1: Tuts 1-3</b>
<b>Recess Week (23 Sep 2023 – 1 Oct 2023)</b>					
7	Week of 2 Oct 2023	Lecture 7: Bonds	Ch 7	Tutorial 5: Risk & Return II	
8	Week of 9 Oct 2023	Lecture 8: Common Stocks	Ch 8	Tutorial 6: Bonds	
	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Midterm Test: Materials covered in Lectures 1–6 and Tutorials 1–5</b>			
9	Week of 16 Oct 2023	Lecture 9: Capital Budgeting I	Ch 9, 10	Tutorial 7: Common Stocks	
10	Week of 23 Oct 2023	Lecture 10: Capital Budgeting II	Ch 9, 10	Tutorial 8: Capital Budgeting I	<b>Quiz 2: Tuts 4-7</b>
11	Week of 30 Oct 2023	Lecture 11: Long-term Financial Planning	Ch 4	Tutorial 9: Capital Budgeting II	
	<b>4 Nov 2023 (Sat 9am)</b>	<b>Make-Up Lecture for L01 (Lecture 12) in lieu of NUS Well-Being Day on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>			
12	Week of 6 Nov 2023	Lecture 12: Short-term Financial Planning	Ch 18, 19, 20	Tutorial 10: Long-term Financial Planning	
13	Week of 13 Nov 2023	Lecture 13: Options	Ch 24	Tutorial 11: Short-term Financial Planning	<b>Quiz 3: Tuts 8-10</b>
<b>Reading Week (18 Nov 2023 – 24 Nov 2023)</b>					
	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Final Exam: All materials covered in Lectures 1–12 and Tutorials 1–11.</b>			