

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

FIN101 Financial Markets and Their Impacts on Society (3 credits)

(GEB231)

This course is an introduction to the contributions of financial markets and institutions to our society. The course will discuss how financial markets have helped foster innovation, entrepreneurial business, and economic growth. It will examine the role of financial institutions, the costs and benefits of financial regulations, and the causes and consequences of financial crises. The course will also cover the important topic of microfinance and its benefits to economic development and social stabilization. Through this course, students are expected to understand the impacts of financial markets on our society and develop the ability to think critically about financial issues. This is a self-contained and non-technical introductory course.

FIN130 Understanding Investment in the Stock Market (3 credits)

(GEC330)

(Note: This course cannot be counted as Business Electives for fulfillment of requirements of the BBA, any Minor Programmes in Business areas or Supporting Specialisation. BBA students may take this course as General Education or non-Business free elective only.)

This course is specially designed to help students understand the basics of investments and the functions of capital markets.

In this course we will emphasize both the academic and practical aspects of fundamental investment and portfolio management. Students will learn concepts that are applicable in the field of investments.

The course integrates an understanding of basic market fundamentals, determinants of stock prices, basic chart analysis, importance of corporate governance, trading services, disciplined investing approach, practical investment skills and use of free web tools and financial reports to improve students' financial knowledge.

Moreover, the course covers the characteristics of popular products such as exchange traded funds and real estate investment trusts traded on the Hong Kong Stock Exchanges. The course also indicates how these investment products may meet the needs of investors. The active and growing IPO activities in Hong Kong will also be discussed.

The course is unique in that it gives students the practical tools and knowledge they will not find in other courses.

This is a self-contained and non-technical introductory course to all students interested in having a better control over their financial life.

FIN133 Ethics and Morality in Finance (3 credits)

(GEB233)

Money management, borrowing, and investing are activities often engaged in by individuals without formal training in finance. This course introduces the basic financial instruments along with the ethical and morality issues associated with them, so that students can recognize and understand potential pitfalls. In addition to discussing and

evaluating the macro ethical issues surrounding the finance industry, students will also explore the micro ethical issues for individuals as related to investing, spending, and the management of money. This entails integrating principles of morality and ethics into personal financial planning, as in socially responsible investing. This course also explores morality issues in finance from cultural, religious, and other philosophical perspectives and makes comparisons among them.

FIN134 Real Estate and Its Social Value in Asian Societies (3 credits)
(GEB234)

This course is designed to introduce the nature, practice and social value of real estate development, including the importance of real estate to society, the economic value of real estate, government policies on real estate development, and discussions on how culture and traditional concepts influence the real estate markets in Hong Kong. Comparisons will be made among real estate investments in Hong Kong and other Asian cities. The course involves non-technical introductory content and practical tools for real estate investments from the perspective of ordinary investors.

FIN200 Corporate Finance (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: BUS201 Financial Management)

Building on the core Financial Management course, this course further elaborates the theory and practice of corporate finance. The topics addressed in this course include the concept and techniques of valuation of cash flows, capital budgeting decisions, risk and return, cost of capital, capital structure theories and decisions, dividend theories and policy, working capital management, and corporate restructuring.

FIN201 Hong Kong Monetary and Financial Systems (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: BUS201 Financial Management)

This course provides students with a basic understanding of the monetary and financial system in Hong Kong and their recent development. It includes the money supply process, currency board system, and the functions of financial markets and financial institutions.

It also helps students understand the basic economic concepts and theories related to financial markets and financial institutions as well as financial instruments.

FIN250 Introduction to Financial Econometrics (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: BUS201 Financial Management)

This course provides an intensive introduction of basic principles of econometric analysis that may help students understand finance theories and their empirical applications. In addition, it also equips students with appropriate statistical techniques for doing applied financial research.

The emphasis will be on developing and applying regression-based techniques in either cross-sectional or time-series context. The course will show how econometrics can be used to analyse financial data.

FIN251 Practical Personal Investment (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the basic background and issues of personal investment and helps them understand the relevant fundamental concepts and principles. The topics addressed include the setting of investment and security analysis; efficient market hypothesis; survey of investment instruments and valuation methods; portfolio theories; asset pricing models; bond portfolio management, term structure of interest rates; and measurements of portfolio performance. This is a self-contained and non-technical

introductory course to all students interested in personal investment and wealth management.

FIN300 Investment and Portfolio Management (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: BUS201 Financial Management)

This course helps students understand the key concepts and principles of investment and portfolio management, and builds a solid foundation for further study or career pursuit. The topics addressed include the setting of investment and security analysis; efficient market hypothesis; survey of investment instruments and valuation methods; portfolio theories; asset pricing models; bond portfolio management; term structure of interest rates; and measurements of portfolio performance.

FIN351 Advanced Financial Theory (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: FIN300 Investment and Portfolio Management)

This course provides an intensive survey of selected finance theories, seeking to explain the development of these theories as well as their applications and limitations. The emphasis will be on the intuition and applications of these theories rather than on the mathematical derivation and technicality.

FIN352 International Financial Management (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: BUS201 Financial Management)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and ECO306 International Finance.)

This course provides students with the principles and techniques relevant to financial planning, risk management, control, investment, capital raising and performance appraisal for multinational business operations.

FIN353 Management of Financial Institutions (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: FIN201 Hong Kong Monetary and Financial Systems)

This course provides students with the insight into the services, pricing, techniques, goals and objectives, management styles, internal problems and risks of financial institutions, and the markets in which they operate. The course accomplishes this insight by (i) profiling the financial, operating, and organisational characteristics of each type of financial institution, and (ii) examining the services offered by these firms to the public. The emphasis of the course is placed on risk management of financial institutions.

FIN355 Derivative Securities and Hedging Strategies (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: FIN300 Investment and Portfolio Management)

The course will cover the theory and practice of pricing and hedging derivative securities. Students will critically study the important features of the trading and hedging of various derivatives. Emphasis is put on the investment uses of derivatives and methods employed in managing and controlling derivative risks.

FIN356 Fixed Income Securities (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: FIN300 Investment and Portfolio Management)

The course is designed to provide a description and analysis of fixed income securities. It covers the broad topical areas of: (i) the institutions, instruments, and operations of fixed income securities markets; (ii) the analysis and valuation of fixed income securities; (iii) the analysis of interest rates and term structure; (iv) interest rate related derivative instruments and how to use these contracts to reduce risk exposure and enhance the yields of fixed income portfolios. Class lectures will focus on the theoretical aspects of these securities and will use currently offered fixed interest products to illustrate the theories.

FIN357 Real Portfolio Management (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: Obtained grade B or above in FIN300 Investment and Portfolio Management)

This is a capstone investment course where students will apply all the finance theories they have learnt to manage a real-life investment fund (the LU Student-Managed Investment Fund-LUSMIF). Students will be assigned into teams that will cover different industry sectors and they will submit research reports on sectors and companies. Students will make investment recommendations, participate in stock selection, and carry out all the duties involved in managing the fund. The primary purpose of the course is to educate motivated students in the areas of equity research, valuation, stock selection, portfolio management, execution, and performance evaluation. Lectures will be complemented by guest speakers who will provide their perspectives on investment and discuss the latest innovations in financial products. While the course is highly practical, students will also acquire knowledge that will benefit them in preparing for the CFA examination.

FIN399X Special Topics in Finance (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: To be decided according to the chosen special topics)

The course will cover special topics in finance which are important but are not currently addressed in courses in the finance programme. Emphasis will be placed on practical aspects while conceptual and theoretical frameworks will be covered as a foundation.

FIN399a Special Topics in Finance: Seminars in China's Emerging Financial Markets (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: FIN201 Hong Kong Monetary and Financial Systems or ECO301 Money and Banking)

This course aims to provide students with basic understandings on China's evolving financial markets. In order to provide the background for understanding the functioning and role nature of financial markets in China's transitional economy, the course will start with an introduction to the role of financial systems in a centrally planned economy and China's overall economic transition. It will then cover the reforms of China's financial markets since 1978, including reforms in the banking sector, securities market and foreign exchange regime. The major problems and future reform issues will be discussed, with a particular focus on their implications for Hong Kong.