



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010

GRA 6531 Portfolio Management

Programme

Advanced Specialization Course (MSc), Master of Science in Business and Economics, Master of Science in Business and Economics (Finance), Master of Science in Financial Economics

Responsible for the course

Department

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

This course is taught in English

Learning outcome

Theoretical and applied coverage of advanced portfolio management techniques, for equity only portfolios, for fixed income only portfolios and for mixed portfolios. Special consideration for pension, insurance and national fund portfolios.

Prerequisites

Successful completion of GRA 6543 Introduction to Financial Economics/GRA 6533 Theory of Finance and GRA 6534 Investments or equivalent is required PRIOR to enrolling in this class. All exceptions must be explicitly approved by the course instructor.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Litterman, Bob and the Quantitative Resources Group GSAM. 2003. Modern investment management : an equilibrium approach. Hoboken, N.J. : Wiley.

Other:

During the course there may be hand-outs and other material on additional topics relevant for the course and the examination.

Recommended reading

Books:

Bodie, Zvi, Alex Kane and Alan J. Marcus. 2009. Investments. 8th ed. Boston, Mass.: McGraw-Hill

Campbell, John Y. and Luis M. Viceira. 2002. Strategic asset allocation : portfolio choice for long-term investors. Oxford : Oxford University Press

Grinold, Richard C. and Ronald N. Kahn. 2000. Active portfolio management : a quantitative approach to producing returns and controlling risk. 2nd. New York : McGraw-Hill.

Course outline

The course will unfold as follows:

- Review of the Portfolio Management Process
- Asset Classes and their risk return characteristics (domestic and international equity and fixed income markets, emerging markets, currencies, real estate, commodities, venture capital)
- Passive Equity portfolio Management
- Active Equity Portfolio Management, including
 - Tactical Allocation
 - Active Strategies

- Optimal implementation of active strategies. The Treynor and Black and the Black-Litterman approaches.
- Currency risk and international portfolio management.
- Special constraints for institutional investors: pension funds, mutual funds, insurance funds, foundations, and national funds.
- Performance measurement
 - Performance measures
 - Choice of benchmark
- If possible, guest lectures on equity and fixed income management by professional portfolio managers

Computer-based tools

Excel based projects - Use of DataStream database, Blackboard/homepage

Learning process and workload

Lectures and Cases discussions, 36 hours.

Since the major fraction of the course grade is based on class work and in particular on class participation and case presentations and discussions, CLASS ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.

Please note that while attendance is not compulsory in all courses, it is the student's own responsibility to obtain any information provided in class that is not included on the course homepage/Blackboard or text book.

Examination

Your course grade will be based on the following activities and weights:

60% Class work (in the form of a mix of some/ all of the following: hand in of case write ups, projects, and homeworks; in-class mid-term; case presentations and discussions, as well as class participation).

40% exam (two hours). Both parts of the evaluation need to be passed in order to get a grade in the course.

Specific information regarding student evaluation beyond the information given in the course description will be provided in class. This information may be relevant for requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one for several elements of the overall evaluation.

Exam code(s)

GRA 65313 accounts for 100 % of the final grade in the course GRA 6531.

Examination support materials

A bilingual dictionary and BI-approved exam calculator.

Exam aids at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note use of calculator and dictionary.

<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Re-sit examination

Re-takes are only possible at the next time a course will be held. When the course evaluation has a separate exam code for each part of the evaluation it is possible to retake parts of the evaluation. Otherwise, the whole course must be re-evaluated when a student wants to retake an exam. Retake examinations entail an extra examination fee

Additional information

Honor Code

Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and represent values that are encouraged and promoted by the honor code system. This is a most significant university tradition. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the ideals of the honor code system, to which the faculty are also deeply committed.

Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for cheating. These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the programs at BI and are at the heart of the honor code and academic integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.