



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017

GRA 6534 Investments

Programme

Master of Science in Business, Master of Science in Business (Finance), Master of Science in Finance, Specialization Course

Responsible for the course

Ilan Cooper

Department

Department of Finance

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

In this course you will be introduced to major issues currently of concern to all investors. It will give you the skills to conduct a sophisticated assessment of current issues debates covered by both the popular media as well as more specialized finance journals.

Learning outcome

Provide students with a fundamental understanding of the investment process.

Review the different financial assets available to the portfolio manager, the markets in which they trade, their risk return characteristics and how they are priced. Discusses the basic techniques of portfolio management, risk control and performance evaluation. Briefly introduces the international dimension of the investment process.

Prerequisites

GRA 6540 Applied Finance or equivalent

GRA 6543 Introduction to Asset Pricing or equivalent

All courses in the Masters programme will assume that students have fulfilled the admission requirements for the programme. In addition, courses in second, third and/or fourth semester can have specific prerequisites and will assume that students have followed normal study progression. For double degree and exchange students, please note that equivalent courses are accepted.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Bodie, Zvi, Alex Kane, Alan J. Marcus. 2014. Investments. 10th global ed. McGraw-Hill Education. + readings

Other:

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

A list of compulsory readings will be provided on It's learning or in class.

Recommended reading

Course outline

The course will be organized as follows:

- Asset classes: markets, pricing and historical record
 - Equity: pricing, markets and historical record
 - Fixed Income Securities: pricing, markets and historical record
 - Alternative investments: real estate, commodities, venture, etc
- Fixed Income
 - Bond pricing
 - The term structure of interest rate
 - Bond portfolio management
- The portfolio management process
 - Mean-Variance theory and the asset allocation decision
 - Security selection and portfolio formation

- Efficient markets and portfolio management
- Active portfolio management strategies
- Controlling portfolio risk:
 - Optimal portfolio rebalancing
 - International portfolios and the impact of currency risk
 - Portfolio insurance and other techniques
- Measuring portfolio performance

Computer-based tools

Learning process and workload

A course of 6 ECTS credits corresponds to a workload of 160-180 hours.

The instruction consists primarily of presentations and discussions of the readings assigned to the topics listed above. Students are expected to have read the material before each class meeting

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/It's learning or text book.

Examination

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

10% class participation

20% computer assignments

70% 3-hour written final exam.

Form of assessment	Weight	Group size
Assignment	20%	
Written examination 3 hours	70%	Individual
Class participation	10%	Individual

Specific information regarding student assessment will be provided in class. This information may be relevant to requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one of several components of the overall assessment. This is a course with continuous assessment (several exam components) and one final exam code. Each exam component is graded using points on a scale from 0-100. The final grade for the course is based on the aggregated mark of the course components. Each component is weighted as detailed in the course description. Students who fail to participate in one/some/all exam components will get a lower grade or may fail the course. You will find detailed information about the points system and the mapping scale in the student portal @bi. Candidates may be called in for an oral hearing as a verification/control of written assignments.

Examination code(s)

GRA 65343 continuous assessment accounts for 100% of the final grade in the course GRA6534.

Examination support materials

BI approved exam calculator

Bilingual dictionary

Interest tables

Permitted examination support materials for written examinations are detailed under examination information in the student portal @bi. The section on support materials and the use of calculators and dictionaries should be paid special attention to.

Re-sit examination

It is only possible to retake an examination when the course is next taught. The assessment in some courses is based on more than one exam code. Where this is the case, you may retake only the assessed components of one of these exam codes. All retaken examinations will incur an additional fee. Please note that you need to retake the latest version of the course with updated course literature and assessment. Please make sure that you have familiarised yourself with the latest course description.

Additional information

Honour code. Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and are values that are

integral to BI's honour code system. Students are responsible for familiarising themselves with the honour code system, to which the faculty is deeply committed. Any violation of the honour code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for academic misconduct. Issues of academic integrity are taken seriously by everyone associated with the programmes at BI and are at the heart of the honour code. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honour code, please ask. The learning platform itslearning is used in the teaching of all courses at BI. All students are expected to make use of itslearning.