



MISSION: To develop a unique business school identity which is distinctive in the marketplace and provides a clear value proposition for students. This will be achieved by embedding the themes of entrepreneurship and innovation, digitalisation and data within our programs and embracing sustainability, work integrated learning and a commitment to social justice.

OVERVIEW

Course Description Financial institutions, assets and markets are the cornerstones of the modern financial system. This course provides students with an introduction to the Australian financial markets and an evaluation of the institutions, assets and participants involved in the industry. It develops knowledge of relevant finance theory and financial techniques to explain the functioning of the financial system and evaluate investment, financing and payout decisions. Upon completing this course, students will have the analytical and problem-solving skills necessary to critically evaluate introductory financial problems reflective of contemporary professional practice in financial management.

Sustainable Development Goals



Contact Hours

Integrated Learning Session

Face to Face on Campus

A three (3) hour Integrated Learning Session per week for Full Term

Students are expected to complete 4 hours of guided learning via online preparation, lectures, interactive workshops, tutorials, discussion groups or self-directed learning and an additional 6 hours of independent study per week.

Unit Weighting Requisites

10

This course replaces ACFI2005. If you have successfully completed ACFI2005, you cannot enrol in this course.

Assumed Knowledge Workload

HSC Mathematics or equivalent

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of teaching staff for ALL course offerings. The primary contact for courses is the Course Coordinator, whose details are listed on the course CANVAS site.

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and communicate the components of the Australian financial system;
2. Identify and explain the basic instruments of corporate funding and the corporate decision to pay dividends;
3. Apply basic financial mathematics to financial problem solving;
4. Analyse financial instruments and apply valuation techniques to financial instruments; and
5. Analyse the participants, operations and characteristics of the equity and bond markets.

COURSE OUTLINE

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below:

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Online Quizzes	Weeks 3, 5, 7, 10, 13	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	Mid Semester Test	Week 8	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 5
3	Final Examination	During formal exam period	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Please note: students are advised that all assessments must be submitted in English. Assessment items not submitted in English will receive a mark of zero.

Results of individual assessment items and final results, including those provided via the Learning Management System (LMS) are 'unofficial results' until they are confirmed as finalised by the School Assessment Body and the Head of School or delegate. Finalised results are released directly to students on the Fully Graded Date of the relevant Semester/Trimester.

Late Submissions	The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.
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Assessment 1 – Online Quizzes

Assessment Type	Quiz
Purpose	To progressively assess and evaluate knowledge of financial concepts as they are covered through the course.
Description	Students must complete online quizzes via CANVAS. Each quiz consists of ten multiple choice questions. Five (5) quizzes will be administered during the semester with the four (4) highest quiz results contributing 5% each towards the assessment.
Weighting	20%
Length	25 minutes per quiz
Due Date	Weeks 3, 5, 7, 10, 13 Sunday by 5:00 pm SGT
Submission Method	Online via course CANVAS site
Assessment Criteria	The quizzes will test your understanding of relevant concepts and/or accuracy of calculations
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Quiz feedback will be made available after the due date of each quiz to provide for reflection and improvement. Refer to course CANVAS site.

Assessment 2 - Mid Semester Test

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Purpose	This test requires you to demonstrate your progressive knowledge of financial concepts. You will be required to apply critical thinking and analytical problem-solving skills to provide responses to the test questions.
Description	The mid-semester test covers course materials from the first six weeks (topics 1-6 inclusive) and will include both practical and theory-based questions.
Weighting	30%
Length	90 minutes (including reading time)
Due Date	In Class – Week 8
Submission Method	In Class
Assessment Criteria	The mid semester test will test your understanding of relevant concepts, and accuracy of your answers.
Return Method	Online via the course CANVAS site
Feedback Provided	Online via the course CANVAS site

Assessment 3 - Final Examination

Assessment Type	Formal Examination
Purpose	The final exam requires you to demonstrate your comprehensive knowledge of the Australian financial markets and its institutional participants and components.

Description	In the final exam you will be required to interpret and answer problem-based questions to demonstrate critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills in the context of investment theories and practices. This course has a RESTRICTED OPEN BOOK examination. A memory aid is permitted. The memory aid is a single double sided A4 sheet of handwritten or typed notes for use during the examination. Note: memory aids must be left on the examination table and cannot be removed from the examination venue.
Weighting	50%
Length	120 minutes
Due Date	Formal Exam Period
Submission Method	Formal Examination
Assessment Criteria	Accuracy of answers with supporting workings and clarity of expression
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	No Feedback. Examination scripts will not be returned to students. Final examination scripts will be made available for review by students, upon request, in a controlled and monitored setting. Students are required to make requests, directly to the relevant course coordinator. Completed examination scripts are kept by the Newcastle Business School for a period of six (6) months only, from the relevant fully graded date. Requests made after the six (6) month period cannot be considered.

SYLLABUS

Course Content

Topics in the course include but are not limited to the following:

1. An introduction to the financial system
2. Banks
3. Non-bank financial institutions
4. Simple and compound interest
5. Annuities
6. Corporations and the share market
7. Capital Structure and the Cost of Capital
8. Investors and the share market
9. Short-term debt
10. Long-term debt
11. Dividend policy

Course Materials

Required Text:

Viney, C. and Phillips, P (2019). *Financial Institutions, Instruments and Markets*, 9th ed. Sydney: McGraw-Hill Education.

ISBN: 9781760422943

An additional Readings list will be provided on the course CANVAS site.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Preparation	Assessment
1	An introduction to the financial system	Read - Chapter 1	
2	Banks	Read - Chapter 2	
3	Non-bank financial institutions	Read - Chapter 3	Assessment 1 due: Online Quiz 1 covering weeks 1 & 2. Submission due by Sunday, Week 3 by 5:00 pm SGT
4	Simple and Compound Interest	Chapter 3 (pages 28 - 41) from Business Finance 12th Edition (Refer to CANVAS as this is not from the prescribed text)	
5	Annuities	Chapter 3 (pages 46 - 65) from Business Finance 12th Edition (Refer to CANVAS as this is not from the prescribed text)	Assessment 1 due: Online Quiz 2 covering weeks 3 & 4. Submission due by Sunday, Week 5 by 5:00 pm SGT
6	Corporations and the share market	Read - Chapters 4 and 5	
7	Capital Structure and Cost of Capital	Read - Chapter 5 and supplementary material on CANVAS	Assessment 1 due: Online Quiz 3 covering weeks 5 & 6. Submission due by Sunday, Week 7 by 5:00 pm SGT
8	Mid Semester test		Assessment 2 due: Mid-Semester Test – Week 8 - date and time to be confirmed on course CANVAS site.
9	Investors and the share market	Read - Chapter 6	Refer to CANVAS for learning activities
10	Short-term debt	Chapter 9	Assessment 1 due: Online Quiz 4 covering weeks 7 & 9. Submission due by Sunday, Week 10 by 5:00 pm SGT
11	Long-term debt	Chapter 10	
12	Dividend policy	Read supplementary material on CANVAS	
13	Revision		Assessment 1 due: Online Quiz 5 covering weeks 10, 11 & 12. Submission due by Sunday, Week 13 by 5:00 pm SGT

If a lecture/class is scheduled on a public holiday, a make-up lecture may be announced by the course coordinator on the course CANVAS site.

CONTACTS

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PSB Academy Enquiries

Log your question or request to the PSB Program Executives at the following website:
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CANVAS Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the CANVAS course site. - Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account. - Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or 2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system; 3. you are requesting a change of placement; or 4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
Important Policy Information	Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236 The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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