

ACFI3018: Applied Portfolio Management 2024



MISSION: Our mission is to advance responsible and impactful business knowledge. To achieve our mission, we develop life ready graduates and build global and local partnerships through ethical and innovative practices.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

This course begins with an overview of investment environment and products, and then provides students with a solid foundation in modern portfolio theory and demonstrates its applications to portfolio management. Alternative asset allocation models are introduced to equip students in developing and implementing investment strategies, assessing and controlling portfolio risk, and evaluating portfolio performance. The course takes students beyond investment theories and trains them to use widely available technology to perform quantitative modelling using real world data. The course covers ASIC RG146 specialised knowledge requirements in the areas of funds management and managed investments.

Contact Hours

Workshop

Face to Face On Campus
Two (2) hour(s) 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

Assumed Knowledge Workload

10
ACFI2070 Business Finance and ACFI2080 Corporate Finance.
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. Understand the investment environment, institutional investment and empirical evidence on security performance;
2. Develop mean-variance efficient portfolios using appropriate technology;
3. Demonstrate critical thinking, analytical and problem solving skills in the context of portfolio construction and management;
4. Evaluate the performance of a portfolio and evaluate risk exposures;
5. Critically evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of international diversification;
6. Communicate investment portfolio decisions to potential investors;
7. Demonstrate communication, planning, problem-solving: and presentation skills individually and as a part of a team.

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	Problem Set	Day of workshop - Week 8 by 11:59 pm SGT	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 7
2	Group Research Report & Presentation	Research Project due day of workshop, Week 12 by 11:59 pm SGT Group Presentation due: During Week 12 Workshop	Group	30%	1, 3, 6, 7, 8
3	Final Examination	Formal Examination Period	Individual	40%	1, 3, 4, 5, 6

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.
-------------------------	--

Assessment 1 – Problem Set

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	This task provides opportunity for individual review and feedback
Description	Students apply critical thinking and problem solving to answer three problem questions that require data analysis and clear written communication of results
Weighting	30%
Length	Maximum 4000 words (excluding tables, figures & references)
Due Date	Day of workshop, Week 8 by 11:59 pm SGT
Submission Method	Online - Turnitin (via CANVAS). Submit separate Word file and Excel workings.
Assessment Criteria	The assignment will be graded against the following five (5) criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Correct calculations and analysis of portfolio returns data. – Correct analysis of portfolio performance using appropriate techniques. – Logic and coherency in information evaluation and organisation. – Critical analysis and synthesis of results to answer problem questions. – Clarity of written expression in communicating outcomes
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	In Class Returned Work - Feedback will be provided in the form of a mark for your assignment and a summary of the model answer for the assessment task. Your tutor will also provide a summary of the model answer in the week that marks are returned

Assessment 2 - Group Research Report & Presentation

Assessment Type	Presentation
Purpose	This task provides opportunity for individual review and feedback. It allows students to collaborate in solving practice problems and present in front of a large audience
Description	Students work in groups and select an investment strategy and describe and evaluate a portfolio that applies this strategy. The written project is submitted via Turnitin and the investment strategy is presented in class during Week 12. The written project and oral presentation will carry a weight of 25% and 5%, respectively. Marking rubrics for the written project and oral presentation will be available with the assessment document.
Weighting	30%
Length	Maximum 3500 words (excluding tables, figures & references)
Due Date	Research Project Due: day of workshop - week 12 by 11:59 pm SGT Group Presentation due: During the Week 12 workshop

Submission Method	Research report: Online – via Turnitin Group presentation: In class/or online via course CANVAS site (10 minutes for each group presentation)
Assessment Criteria	<p>The assignment will be graded against the following five (5) criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Correct calculations and analysis of financial markets and accounting data. – Appropriate analysis of data to support analyst recommendations. – Logic and coherency in information evaluation and organisation. – Critical analysis and synthesis of results to answer problem questions. – Clarity of written and oral presentation <p>Please note: Self and Peer Assessment: A single mark is given for the group assignment. This mark will then be moderated by "self and peer assessment" using the SPARKPlus software so that individual group members may receive different marks. Any moderated individual mark received by each group member is based on contribution to the assignment and, more importantly the ability to work with others. Individually group members are required to submit a self and peer assessment through SPARK within 24 hours of the due date. Failure to complete SPARK will result in a mark of zero. The criteria for the self and peer assessment are found along with the instructions on how to use SPARK on CANVAS. Please note: NO SPARK NO MARK.</p>
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - Feedback on written project and oral presentation will be provided to each group. Overall feedback will also be posted on CANVAS via an announcement

Assessment 3 - Final Examination

Assessment Type	Formal Examination
Purpose	This is a summative assessment task.
Description	<p>The final exam will require you to interpret problem-based questions to demonstrate critical thinking. Analytical and problem-solving skills in the context of investment theories and practices.</p> <p>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.</p>
Weighting	40%
Length	120 minutes
Due Date	Formal Exam Period
Submission Method	Formal Examination
Assessment Criteria	<p>Five (5) criteria will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Demonstrated understanding of theory and relevant concepts – Demonstrated application of portfolio theories and models to solve investment problems – Accuracy of information/argument – Clarity of expression – Relevance to the question
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. The investment environment.
2. Risk, return, risk premia and risk aversion.
3. Allocating capital between risky and risk-free assets.
4. Mean-variance efficient portfolios and security analysis.
5. Evaluation of portfolio risk and performance.
6. Funds management.
7. International diversification of portfolios

Course Materials

Required Text:

Bodie, Z., Kane, A., and A. Marcus (2021). *ISE Essentials of Investments*, 12th ed. Australia: McGraw-Hill/Irwin.

ISBN: 9781265450090

Please refer to the course CANVAS site for details of additional recommended texts.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Preparation	Assessment
1	The investment environment, market efficiency and investment philosophies	Bodie et al. Chapters 1,3, 8 & 22	
2	Risk and return revisited	Bodie et al. Chapter 5	
3	Portfolio evaluation	Bodie et al. Chapters 18	
4	Risk aversion and asset allocation	Bodie et al. Chapter 5 & 18	
5	Optimal risky portfolios	Bodie et al. Chapter 6	
6	Momentum and technical analysis	Jegadeesh and Titman (2001)	
7	Value investing and fundamental indexing	Damodaran (2012a)	
8	Small cap and growth investing	Damodaran (2012b)	Assessment 1 due: workshop day of week 8, by 11:59 pm SGT
9	Fundamental analysis	Bodie et al. Chapters 12 & 13.	
10	Managed Funds	Bodie et al. Chapters 4 & 20	
11	International diversification	Bodie et al. Chapter 19	
12	International diversification		Assessment 2 due: workshop day of week 12 by 11:59 pm SGT
13	Revision		

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

School Offices

Newcastle Business School – Callaghan, Newcastle City & Online

NU Space
409 Hunter Street
Newcastle
nbs.enquiries@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 4921 5511

Newcastle Business School - Ourimbah

BO1.13, Business Offices
Ourimbah
cccbusiness-school@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 4349 4453

Newcastle Business School - Sydney

55 Elizabeth Street
Sydney
nbs-sydney@newcastle.edu.au
+61 2 82626432

PSB Academy Enquiries

Log your question or request to the PSB Program Executives at the following website:
<http://www.psb-academy.edu.sg/eng>
+65 6390 9000

Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education Pte Ltd

100 Victoria Street #13-01/02
National Library Building
Singapore
Singapore-StudentCentral@newcastle.edu.au
+65 6221 3306

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	<p>Communication methods used in this course include:</p> <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	<p>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:</p> <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. <p>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</p>
Important Policy Information	<p>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.</p>

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.

© 2024 The University of Newcastle, Australia