

Econ 421-001: Financial Economics

George Mason University, Spring 2017

Time: Monday 4:30 pm - 7:10 pm
Location: Robinson Hall B108
Instructor: Robert L. Mayo
Contact: rmayo3@gmu.edu
Office: FFX-Mason Hall, 1st Floor, ARL-Metropolitan Building, 5th Floor
Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Description:

This course applies the techniques of economic analysis to issues in modern finance. No prior exposure to finance is assumed, but a working knowledge of economics at the intermediate micro/macro level is required. Each meeting will be broken into two parts: The first half will be a lecture presenting material equivalent to a typical introduction to finance course. In the second half, we will examine that financial topic from an economic perspective.

Textbook:

Introduction to Finance: Markets, Investments, and Financial Management, 15th Edition by Ronald W. Melicher and Edgar A. Norton (required). I suggest you purchase the e-textbook version which is available from Amazon for roughly \$40. Therefore, hard copies will not be stocked in the campus bookstore. However, if you prefer to use a hard copy you are welcome to do so as long as it is the same edition.

Requirements and Grading:

Exams: There will be a mid-term exam and a cumulative final exam. Both will be in-class and closed book. There will be no make-up exams offered. If the mid-term is missed due to documented illness, the points will be shifted to the final.

Quizzes: Most lectures will begin with a short quiz on the material covered in the previous lecture. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.

Homework: Problem sets will be assigned, but they are for your reference only and will neither be collected nor will they form any part of your grade.

Weighting for final grade:

Final exam	1/3
Mid-term exam	1/3
Quizzes	1/3

Important Dates:

Martin Luther King Day (no classes)	Mon Jan 16
First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed	Mon Jan 23
Last day to add classes—all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	Mon Jan 30
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	Mon Feb 13
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	Fri Feb 24
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	Mon Feb 27 – Fri Mar 31
Spring Break	Mon Mar 13 – Sun Mar 19
Last day of classes	Sat May 6
Reading Days Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.	Mon May 8 – Tue May 9
Final Exam	Mon May 15, 4:30 pm – 7:15 pm

Academic Integrity:

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

Office of Disability Services:

If you have a disability and require accommodation, please inform me and contact the office of disability services. All accommodations must be arranged through that office.
<http://ods.gmu.edu/>

Email Accounts:

Students must use their Mason email accounts—either the existing "MEMO" system or a new "MASONLIVE" account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

Enrollment:

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. (Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website registrar.gmu.edu.)