

RISK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

ECONOMICS 2191A-001

Department of Economics
Western University

D. McKeon

September 2016

Office SSC 4052

Office Hours: W,F: 11:30-12:30

Class: T: 8:30-10:30; TH: 8:30-9:30

Classroom: SSC 2032

Email: dmckeon@uwo.ca

Registration

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in a course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counselor immediately.

Prerequisite Note

The prerequisite(s) for this course is (are) **One of Economics** 2122A/B, 2150A/B, 2152A/B or 2154A/B.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of pre-requisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Objectives.

Since the financial crisis of 2008 much attention has been paid to the financial risk that banks and other financial institutions are exposed to as they attempt to maximize profits. This course will investigate the nature of risks that financial institutions incur, the methods used to measure risk and the techniques designed to mitigate risk.

The course will cover the main sources of risk: interest rate risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk as well capital adequacy issues.

We will also examine the instruments used to hedge risk: forwards, futures and options.

We will also briefly cover securitization of assets.

Learning Outcomes.

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Recognize the various types of risk involved with the operation of banks and other financial institutions.
- Appraise the level of risk exposure in specific areas of an institution's operations (e.g. loans, trading book).
- Propose basic strategies to mitigate (hedge) risk.

Assessment

There will be two midterm tests and a final exam. There are no marked assignments, but I will assign exercises and problems that I expect students to do. The solutions will be worked out in tutorial fashion in class. These solutions will not be posted.

Test 1.....25%

Test 2.....30%

Final.....45%

Dates

Test 1.....Oct 4 during class time, room TBA

Test 2.....Nov 8 during class time, room TBA

Course Materials.

The main textbook used in the course will be; Saunders, Anthony, Marcia Cornett and Patricia McGraw *Financial Institutions Management a Risk Management Approach* 5th Canadian edition McGraw Hill Ryerson 2014 (FI).

For more technical topics I will use material from: Hull, John *Fundamentals of Futures and Options Markets* Prentice Hall 2011 (FOM) and Hull, John. *Risk Management and Financial Institutions* 3rd edition Wiley 2012 (RM).

There will also be a class website on OWL where I will post materials. This website will not be designed as an online course. Class attendance is mandatory. Any material, techniques or examples taken up in class may form the basis of examination questions. I will **not post** problem solutions, or handouts, or exercises done in class. I will **not post** my own notes. I **will post** any slides that are used in class.

Course Outline

Introduction to Risks	chapter 7 (FI)
Interest Rate Risk	chapter 8, 9 (FI)
Value at Risk.....	chapter 20 (FOM), chapter 8 (RM)
Credit Risk.....	chapter 10.11(FI) and chapter 14, 15 (RM)
Liquidity risk	chapter 12, 13 (FI) and Chapter 19 (RM)
Market Risk.....	chapter 15 (FI) and Chapter 20 (RM)
Capital Adequacy.....	chapter 20 (FI)
Futures and Forwards.....	chapter 22 (FI) and Ch3, 6 (FOM)
Options	chapter 23 (FI) and Chapter 13 (FOM)
The Greeks.....	chapter 17 (FOM).
Risk management Mistakes to avoid (if time allows).....	chapter 22 (RM)

Topics may be added or deleted as the course progresses. All changes to the outline, including any change to the order of topics taken up, will be announced in class. Absence from class cannot be used as an excuse for not knowing about changes.

Please Note
Department Policies for 2016 – 2017

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own academic Programs. Also remember to check your registration to make sure you are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. Guidelines and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations” <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg136.html>.
3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat”. The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as a notation on your official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge it by using quotation marks where appropriate and referencing with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the current UWO Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg113.html>).

The University of Western Ontario uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form. Those found guilty will have penalties imposed as noted in point 3.

5. It is Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students are responsible for submitting assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.
6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the University’s Procedures in the current UWO Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg112.html>). Please note the relevant deadlines.

The Department will not consider any appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter first with your instructor. If after this discussion you remain dissatisfied with a grade or other decision, you may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for your appeal. A useful form and checklist is provided at (http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals).

7. Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.
8. Note the following add and drop deadlines:

Last day to **add** a First term half course:
Friday, September 18th, 2015

Last day to **drop** a First term half course without academic penalty:
Friday, November 5th, 2015
9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is not an excuse for a make-up. This rule applies to all mid-term tests and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

*Academic Accommodation will **not** be granted automatically on request. You **must** demonstrate by documentation that there are **compelling** medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.*

If you decide to write a test or an examination, you must be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis, is **not** permitted. Book airline flights after you know the dates of your final examinations. Airline flights must not conflict with test or final exams.

If you are requesting a makeup test for a midterm or a final examination, unless medically incapable, notify your instructor by email or phone, preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test, but definitely within **24 hours** of the date of the test or exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. Set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet personally with your instructor. If the instructor is not available, you may send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca (Social Science Room 4075). **Notifying your instructor of a missed test or exam does not automatically entitle you to a makeup test.**

Students who seek a makeup test or examination must provide medical or other relevant verification that their absence from a regularly scheduled test or examination is beyond their control. Documentation must support your reasons. Medical documentation should be given to the Academic Counselling Office of your *home* Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the test)** if you know you may not be able to write your final examination on the scheduled day and time. Failure to follow this procedure, or to provide supporting documentation, may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. If your documentation is not acceptable, you will be given a zero for the missed test.

For personal illness, if you consult Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used and can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For any other circumstances, if you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask your Academic Counselor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the academic counselor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple color form for final examinations). Once you have this form, contact your instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved from your home faculty Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to write the makeup test and exam.

For final examinations, you need permission from your *home* Faculty Counsellor, your instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an examination grade of zero. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counseling Office for approval without delay. Make-up final examinations, if permitted, will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

Information about the Faculty of Social Science's policies regarding academic accommodation is found on its website at <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> or in Social Science Room 2105. Your "Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the current UWO Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg111.html>. Claiming that "you didn't know what to do" is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance

If your instructor views your class attendance as unsatisfactory, you can be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, you will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional/mental distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information and a complete list of resources, as well as how to obtain help.