

# FINANCIAL ECONOMICS ECONOMICS EC3332A-001

Department of Economics  
Western University

**Instructor's Name:** Sermin Gungor

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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10:30-12:30  
**Classroom meeting times:** Tuesday 13:30-15:30; Thursday 13:30-14:30  
**Classroom location:** FNB 1200  
**Course website:** <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>  
**Undergraduate inquiries:** 519-661-3507 SSC Room 4075 or [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@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 Counsellor immediately.

## Prerequisite Note

The prerequisites for this course are **Economics 2220A/B, 2222A/B and 2260A/B**.  
The pre- or corequisites for this course are **Economics 2261A/B, 2223A/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.

**Note:** To understand financial models you absolutely *must* understand statistics. We will review the necessary financial statistics in the course, but if you have not taken a statistics course, it will be hard to follow the review.

## Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the theory and methods of the economics of financial markets. It develops concepts and quantitative tools for understanding time value of money, risk

and return trade-off, portfolio selection, equilibrium asset pricing, arbitrage, fixed income securities, and derivatives.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Evaluate risk and return trade-off in financial assets.
2. Design optimal portfolio allocation strategies.
3. Price equity and fixed-income assets.
4. Develop arbitrage trading strategies.
5. Price derivative securities.

*The students are expected to be able to understand and apply quantitative methods.*

### **Textbook and Materials:**

- Bodie, Kane, Marcus, Perrakis, Ryan, Switzer, *Investments*, Canadian edition
- Lecture notes, practice problems and supplemental material distributed on the course webpage.

### **Software:**

Students are expected to have access to and basic familiarity with STATA. Other statistics packages (R, Matlab, Python, etc.) may be used but not required. Please note that, the computer component of this class is *mandatory*.

### **Grading:\***

Grades are based on the following weighting:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Assignments (3 take home quizzes)         | 30% |
| Midterm I (in class) -- October 17, 2017  | 20% |
| Midterm II (in class) – November 14, 2017 | 20% |
| Final Exam TBD                            | 30% |

### **Assignments:**

To keep everyone up to date with the course readings and practice problems, I will distribute three individual take-home assignments. These assignments will be variations on some of the practice problems or pertain to the assigned readings. You are allowed to use any class materials when working on these assignments. However, you are not allowed to consult your classmates.

### **Exams:**

- The Midterm and Final are in-class, closed book and closed notes.
- You are allowed to use a cheat sheet (one 8.5 by 11 inch sheet of notes). Use the cheat sheet wisely.

- You will need a calculator that can compute natural logarithms and raise numbers to arbitrary powers.
- Cheat sheets and calculators may not be shared between students.
- Devices capable of sending or receiving wireless signals must be turned off or stored with other personal belongings in the back of the room (or other designated area) prior to the exam start. Such devices may NOT be used as calculators or for any other purpose during the exam.

**Midterm I** is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17, 2017** and **Midterm II** is on **Tuesday, November 14, 2017**. Students with a conflict should let me know well before the midterms (at least 4 weeks). Unless you are ill or face a significant emergency, there will be no make-up midterms. Students, who are not present at the midterm exams due to illness, are required to provide a medical certificate. Midterms cover all the material up to the exam date.

The final exam is a comprehensive exam covering all the material in the course. Please note that the final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. I will not permit anyone to take the final exam at another time unless you are ill or face a significant emergency. Students, who are not present at the final exam due to illness, are required to provide a medical certificate. Students with a conflict with the date of the final exam must let me know well before the final (at least 4 weeks).

#### **Practice Problems:**

Practice problems with solutions are included on the course website to help you practice applying the concepts we cover in class. You need not turn them in. I strongly advise you to try to do the problem sets on your own, first, without the aid of the solutions. We will go over your questions about the problem sets in the lectures before the midterms and final. You can work through these problems in groups. The practice problems are an excellent way of preparing for the exams.

**Please Note**  
Department Policies for 2017 – 2018

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/2017/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/2017/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/2017/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](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 1<sup>st</sup> term half course: **Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Last day to **add** a 2<sup>nd</sup> term half course: **Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Last day to **drop** 1<sup>st</sup> term half course without academic penalty: **Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Last day to **drop** 2<sup>nd</sup> term half course without academic penalty: **Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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](mailto: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](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 Counsellor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the Academic Counsellor 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 Counselling 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/2017/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.