

**RISK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**  
**ECONOMICS EC2191A-001**  
Department of Economics  
Western University

September 2019

**Instructor:** Desmond McKeon  
**Office:** 4052 SSC  
**Phone:** (519) 661-2111 ext. 85303  
**E-mail:** [dmckeon@uwo.ca](mailto:dmckeon@uwo.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Friday 11:00-1:00  
**Classroom:** Tuesday 8:30 -10:30, Thursday 8:30 -9:30 SSC 2036  
**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 this 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 prerequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 2122A/B, Economics 2150A/B, 2152A/B, or Economics 2154A/B**

*Prerequisite(s) for your course can be found in the Western Calendar at:*

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ECONOMIC&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites 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.

## Course 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.

## Textbook(s):

The main textbook used in the course will be; Saunders, Anthony, Marcia Cornett and Patricia McGraw *Financial Institutions Management a Risk Management Approach* 9<sup>th</sup> edition McGraw Hill Ryerson 2018 (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* 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Grading:

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. 1 during class time, room TBA

Test 2.....NOV.12 during class time, room TBA

## 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, (FI) and Chapter 19 (RM)

Market Risk.....chapter 15 ,16 (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.**

**No makeup tests will be given.** Students who are approved to miss a test will have its weight reallocated to the final exam. This is **the only method** of accommodation for missed tests that will be used in this course.

**Copyright:**

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes. Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.

## Please Note

### Department Policies for 2019-2020

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they 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://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/administration.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf).
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 an official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20)).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.
6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at:  
[http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14)

Please note the relevant deadlines.

The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. A 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:  

Deadline to <u>add</u> a first term half course:	<b>Friday September 13, 2019</b>
Deadline to <u>drop</u> a first term half course:	<b>Tuesday November 12, 2019</b>
9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

### **Policy on Tests, Final Exams and on Missed Academic Responsibilities**

Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted. Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements due to extenuating circumstances can follow Western University procedures to request academic consideration through the following routes:

- a) Submit a Self-Reported Absence form if the conditions for submission are met (e.g., only for exams or assessments worth 30% or less of the course mark; not applicable to final exams; maximum 2 self-reported absences per academic year; see [link](#) for full list of conditions and info).

If the conditions for submission of a Self-Reported Absence form are not met, then:

- b) For medical absences, submit a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner along with a request for academic consideration to Academic Counselling in the student's home Faculty (see [link](#) for full info) ; or
- c) For non-medical absences (e.g., religious or compassionate), submit appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in the student's home Faculty (see [link](#) for full info).

It is strongly recommended that students notify their instructors as soon as possible. University policy is that students **must** communicate with their instructors no later than **24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment to meet with their instructor as soon as possible. If the instructor is not available, send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca).

Note: Academic consideration is not normally intended for long-term, recurring absences, an existing disability, or high levels of stress related to academic performance. In such cases, students should consult their academic counsellor. See [link](#) for full information. In all cases, if the documentation submitted to request academic consideration is not acceptable, students will receive a grade of zero for the missed test, exam, or assignment.

**For full information about Western University's policies and procedures for student absences and requests for academic consideration, please visit this [link](#).**

### **Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation**

The Faculty of Social Science's policies regarding academic accommodation is found at [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having\\_problems/index.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html).

"Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the Western Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>. 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 the instructor deems a student's class attendance as unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, the student will be notified in writing.

### **Statement on Mental Health and Support Services**

Students under emotional/mental distress should visit [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.