

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 371: Business Finance (Section 001)**  
**Fall 2019**  
**Class Time: M, W, F 10:30 am – 11:20 am**  
**Classroom: RCH 110**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Predrag Rajsic  
Office: HH 162  
Office Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 30174 (please do not leave voice mails)  
Office Hours: M, W, F 11:30 am – 12:30 pm or by appointment  
Email: [prajsic@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:prajsic@uwaterloo.ca)

**Notes on office hours or contacting instructor**

Office hours for the Final Exam Period will be announced in November.

If a student is not able to meet during office hours, I am open to arranging a mutually convenient appointment via email.

When sending email to your instructor, always use your University of Waterloo email account. **“ECON 371” must** appear in the subject line and the message must include **your full name and student ID number**.

Where to find this course outline:

This course outline is available at two locations for the duration of the term:

- Department of Economics website  
<https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/undergraduate/courses/outlines>
- LEARN web site (requires UW user id and password) <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>

**Course Description**

The course focuses on investment decisions by companies and individuals. It describes major players and types of financial instruments in financial markets, and it offers the general framework of financial landscape. This course will describe the basics of how firms make investment decisions and how they finance their investments. The goal is to understand financial markets and investment strategies. The understanding of the most important financial problems would lead to strategic planning and analytical understanding of possible solutions. Today's financial decisions are critical for the successes of the businesses in the future. This course will illustrate the importance of financial decisions and help students develop skills applicable to financial decision-making processes within businesses as well as in their personal lives.

## Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

The objectives of this course are for students to:

- understand the need for firms and individuals to make financial decisions and together work towards overcoming the universal problem of scarcity;
- appreciate the relevance of finance in a changing world;
- develop the capacity to apply critical thinking to finance issues.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- explain why maximizing market value is the logical financial goal of the corporation.
- calculate and interpret some key measures of firm performance.
- calculate present and future values of streams of cash payments.
- explain what a yield curve is and why expected short- term interest rates affect its shape.
- interpret price-earnings ratios.
- identify the cash flows properly attributable to a proposed new project.
- Use sensitivity, scenario, and break-even analyses to see how project profitability would be affected by an error in your forecasts.

## Textbook

- Jonathan Berk, Peter Demarzo, Jarrad Harford, David A. Stangeland, Andras Marosi. Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, Third Canadian Edition Plus MyLab Finance -- Access Card Package, 3/E
- The textbook is available from the UW BookStore.
- A copy of the textbook edition is on reserve at the Dana Porter Library.
- The use of MyEconLab tests is optional. You may use them as a practice tool, but they will not be used for grading purposes.

Examinations in this course are based on the material contained in the assigned textbook readings and presented as lecture content (which are strong complements, not substitutes—see Policy on Class Attendance).

## Notes from the BookStore

- The UW BookStore has the following editions of the same textbook package (buy only one):
  1. Hardcover and MyLab – ISBN: 9780135418178 - \$166.20
  2. Loose leaf and MyLab – ISBN: 9780135906552 - \$110.00
  3. MyLab and eText – ISBN: 9780135219508 - \$95.00

## Readings Available on LEARN

I will be posting the course lecture slides on LEARN before each class. The course lectures will closely follow the course textbook in terms of content and progression – but not in terms of the style of presentation. It is your responsibility to keep yourself current with the assigned textbook readings as well as maintaining an understanding of the lecture content.

- Any additional course materials (news, updates, announcements) will be posted on the LEARN web site <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>

- Online Review Quizzes (see below under *Review Quizzes*)
- The LEARN site is down occasionally. Save the course materials to your computer as soon as they are posted. Always be prepared!
- Students writing tests and exams are responsible to save course materials on LEARN before the access to their courses is shut off (normally on the first day of classes of the next term).

## Course Requirements and Assessment

The course grade will be based on review quizzes, three midterm exams, an op-ed assignment, and a final examination which will be held during the Official Examination Schedule. There will also be a bonus grade up to 2% for participation. The breakdown is as follows:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Review Quizzes	TBA	5%
Midterm 1	September 27, in-class	10% or 15% or 20%
Midterm 2	October 25, in-class	10% or 15% or 20%
Midterm 3	November 15	10% or 15% or 20%
Op-Ed Assignment Proposal	October 11, in-class	2%
Op-Ed Assignment Final Draft	December 2 in-class	8%
Bonus for participation <sup>1</sup>		2%
Final Exam	TBA (December 6 - 21)	40%
Total		100%

## Review Quizzes

- The purpose of the review quizzes is to help students identify and understand key concepts covered in the lectures and in the textbook.
- The format of the quizzes will mainly be multiple-choice questions, but there may also be some true-false questions, or short answer questions.
- The quizzes will be done online through the LEARN system.
- There will be a limited, but a reasonably long, time window set up in LEARN during which each quiz will be available for completion. There are two attempts for each quiz available and the better attempt counts.
- Quizzes that are not submitted on time will automatically receive a grade of zero.

## Participation

Participation is recommended, and it will be rewarded through bonus marks up to the total of two percentage points (2%) that will be added to the students' final grade. Participation will be monitored through an online tool Learning Catalytics. The primary purpose of this tool in this class is to enhance the feedback mechanism between students and the instructor so that we can identify areas that may

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<sup>1</sup> If a student's Total grade, including participation, is more than 100%, the participation grade is applied up to the value that produces the Total grade of 100%. Otherwise, the full participation grade is applied.

require special focus. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. Your participation grade will **not** depend on the correctness of your answers to the in-class questions.

## **Learning Catalytics**

We will be using the Learning Catalytics classroom response system in class. Included with the purchase of a new text is a subscription to Learning Catalytics (through MyEconLab), which is a web-based student response system - please bring a smart device (laptop, tablet, or smart phone) or a text-capable cell phone to class.

If you do not have a new text or code to MyEconLab, codes can be purchased separately through the bookstore as it is the cheapest option - **\$17.25 CND for 12 months.**

Through the Learning Catalytics website the cost is \$12 **USD** (6 months) or \$20 **USD** (12 months).

To register please visit [www.LearningCatalytics.com](http://www.LearningCatalytics.com).

Please reference the step-by-step login document for detailed instructions. Under the Training & Support tab, you will find helpful information including technical support.

Please email the Rep Kyle if you need anything at all - [kyle.monotiuk@pearsoned.com](mailto:kyle.monotiuk@pearsoned.com).

## **Midterms and Final Exam**

The format for the midterms and the final exam will be mix multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and long answer questions.

- The midterm tests will be written during the class time.
- Midterm marks will be posted on LEARN.
- The final exam period for the Fall Term 2019 is December 6 – 21 inclusive. Students are expected to be available during this time. Travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time. <http://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations/examination-regulations-and-related-matters>
- The exact date and time for the final exam for this class will be determined by the Registrar's Office. The exam schedule is posted online, will be announced in class, and posted on LEARN.
- Only the Registrar's Office can issue final grades.

This grading scheme will be implemented strictly for all students in the course (with the exception of verified illnesses – see below).

## **Op-Ed Assignment**

One of the objectives of this course is the development of communication skills. The Op-Ed Assignment is supposed to incorporate theoretical aspects of the course that are communicated to a general audience with some basic background and interest in finance. The assignment should be no more than 1500 words, and the style should be punchy but also have a firm basis in the course material. For a good example of guidelines for an effective Op-Ed, please take a look at the Financial Times guidelines:

<https://www.ft.com/content/b927be8a-198a-11e5-8201-cbdb03d71480>. More specific guidelines on the eligible topics, minimum requirements in terms of content and level of analysis will be communicated in class and posted in Learn.

### **Missing a Midterm Due to Illness During the Term**

- Missing a midterm will automatically result in a grade of zero for that midterm. If the illness can be documented with a UW Verification of Illness Form (the only acceptable document), with approval you may transfer the weight of the missed midterm to the final exam. This remedy is a privilege and not a right.
- The midterm exam schedule has been set and will not be changed for whatever reason (no make-up midterm exams will be offered).

### **Missing the Final Exam Due to Illness**

- Missing the final exam is a very serious matter which automatically results in a grade of zero for the final exam and possibly a failing grade for the course. Please carefully read the Economics Department policy on deferred final exams for instructions.
- No deferred final exam will be provided for students who missed all the exams (including the final exam) in this course.

### **Submission of Exam Papers**

- Late submission of exam papers is not accepted and missed submissions will receive a zero mark for whatever reason.
- Exam papers must be submitted in whole and on time in the exam room. Exam paper
  - a) not submitted on time,
  - b) submitted with missing pages,
  - c) submitted elsewhere, with the exception of students with permission to write in the AS Office,
  - d) not received at all

will receive a grade of zero for whatever reason.

- It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they write exams in the location, date, and time assigned to their section. Students writing exams in the wrong section will be assessed a 20% penalty on the final exam grade. There will be no accommodation for possible differences in exam material or content.

### **Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy**

- Deferred Final Exam Policy found at <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>.

### **Course Outline**

This class schedule is ambitious. Modifications and/or eliminations of certain content might be required given our limited time together. Any necessary modifications or eliminations to the course content will be communicated to you in the regular class period.

Week	Date	Theme and Topic	Readings Due
1	September 4, 6	<i>Introduction to Business Finance:</i> Course Orientation and Organization Corporate Finance and the Financial Manager	Chapter 1
2	September 9, 11, 13	<i>Introduction to Business Finance:</i> Financial Statement Analysis	Chapter 2
3	September 16, 18, 20	<i>Introduction to Business Finance:</i> Financial Statement Analysis <i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> The Valuation Principle: The Foundation of Financial decision Making	Chapter 2 Chapter 3
4	September 23, 25, 27	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> The Valuation Principle: The Foundation of Financial decision Making Midterm 1 Review <b>MIDTERM 1 (In class, September 27)</b>	Chapter 3
5	September 30, October 2, 4	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> The Valuation Principle: The Foundation of Financial decision Making <i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> The Time Value of Money	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
6	October 7, 9, 11	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> The Time Value of Money	Chapter 4
7	October 14 <sup>2</sup> , 16, 18	<i>Reading Week (No Classes)</i>	
8	October 21, 23, 25	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Interest Rates Midterm 2 Review <b>MIDTERM 2 (In Class, October 25)</b>	Chapter 5
9	October 28, 30, November 1	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Bonds	Chapter 6
10	November 4, 6, 8	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Bonds <i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Valuing Stocks	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
11	November 11, 13, 15	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Valuing Stocks Midterm 3 Review <b>MIDTERM 3 (In Class, November 15)</b>	Chapter 7
12	November 18, 20, 22	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Valuing Stocks	Chapter 7 Chapter 8

Week	Date	Theme and Topic	Readings Due
		<i>Investment Decisions:</i> Investment Decision Rules	
13	November 25, 27, 29	<i>Investment Decisions:</i> Investment Decision Rules Fundamentals of Capital Budgeting	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
14	December 2	<i>Investment Decisions:</i> Fundamentals of Capital Budgeting Final Exam Review	Chapter 9

### **Tentative Schedule of Review Quizzes**

- Quiz 1: Released September 16, due September 30. Coverage: Ch 1, Ch 2
- Quiz 2: Released September 30, due October 7. Coverage Ch 3
- Quiz 3: Released October 7 due October 30. Coverage: Ch 4, Ch 5
- Quiz 4: Released October 30, due November 11. Coverage: Ch 6
- Quiz 5: Released November 11, due November 25. Coverage: Ch 7
- Quiz 6: Released November 25, due December 2. Coverage: Ch 8, 9
- Any changes to this schedule and any other relevant information will be announced in class and posted in the LEARN News section.

### **Late Work**

See above under *Review Quizzes, Midterms and Final Exam, Missing the Final Exam Due to Illness, and Submission of Exam Papers.*

### **Electronic Device Policy**

- Laptop computers or other electronic devices (i.e., Apple or Android smartphones and tablets) may only be used to view lecture material or to access the Learning Catalytics page for this course.
- Photographic devices are not permitted in class due to copyright and privacy issues.
- Audio or video recording devices are not permitted in class due to copyright and privacy issues.

### **Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is an integral part of your educational experience. It is an important factor in ensuring your complete understanding of the material presented. You are responsible for all material presented in the scheduled lecture periods whether you choose to attend lectures or not.

- I do NOT lend my lecture notes to students for any reason.
- In order to maintain a productive learning environment in the classroom, we all need to show the highest level of courtesy and professional behaviour. In particular, please be punctual and turn off all audible ringers on all devices during class.

- As a courtesy to the custodial staff, if you have coffee, water, etc., please dispose of your garbage when you leave the classroom.
- Please leave your private conversations for after the class.

### **Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy**

Deferred Final Exam Policy found at <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>.

### **Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

#### **On Campus**

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
- **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

#### **Off campus, 24/7**

- **Good2Talk**: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- **Here 24/7**: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME**: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

### **Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009**

#### **Academic Integrity**

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

#### **Discipline**

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For



typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

## **Grievance**

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70), Section 4 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

## **Appeals**

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

## **Note for Students with Disabilities**

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

## **If Using Turnitin in your Course**

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

*Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. See [guidelines for instructors](#) for more information.*

## **Faculty of Arts-required statements for undergraduate course outlines**

### **Cross-listed Course (if applicable)**

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.