

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 371: Business Finance (Section 001)
Spring 2020

Instructor Information

Instructor: Predrag Rajsic

Office Hours: merged into class chat times (see below).

Email: prajsic@uwaterloo.ca

T.A. Information: TBA.

New: Remote Delivery Essentials

- PowerPoint slides of each lecture will be uploaded on the UW LEARN website on Mondays and Wednesdays by 7:00 pm EST
- Short videos (5 - 15 minutes) with key concepts will be uploaded on the UW Microsoft Team ECON 371 S2020 page by Mondays, and Wednesdays by 7 pm EST
- Class Video Chats:
 - Because many of you do not live in the same time zone as I do, I will be refocusing teaching activities and office hours to pre-recorded videos and online video chats. The pre-recorded videos will give you an opportunity to follow the teaching activities at your own pace guided by your time zone and other constraints. The plan is to give you the opportunity to see the PowerPoint slides and short videos before having the opportunity to see me through a class video meeting. There will be two video meeting slots available during selected days in the MS Teams video conferencing tool. Please pick **either one** slot that has the most convenient time for you. The purpose of the video meetings is to provide a more direct learning experience where I could answer student questions, clarify concepts from the PowerPoint slides and previously uploaded pre-recorded videos, discuss course materials and course organization, discuss midterms or quizzes or other course-related issues. The purpose of having two slots in a day as opposed to only one is to accommodate students in different time zones.
 - Class Video-Chat Times:
 - Tuesdays, Thursdays: 9:00 – 10:00 AM EST **OR** 8:00 – 9:00 PM EST (Pick **one** of the two time slots in a day—you don't have to stay committed to the same slot throughout the semester)

You can access the MS Team ECON 371 S2020 using your University of Waterloo login credentials here: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>

MS Teams is also available for download as a Windows, Apple or Android app.

- Please note that the MS Teams software is at a pilot stage at the University of Waterloo, so this may be a learning experience for us, the users, but also the UW support staff. As we progress through the semester, I will aim to resolve any potential technical issues or adjust the delivery mode to best suit the class educational needs and outcomes.

Notes on office hours or contacting instructor

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 businesses 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 and individuals 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 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
- define and understand the fundamental features and elements of stocks and bonds
- use financial models to value stocks and bonds
- 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.
- The use of MyEconLab tests is optional. You may use them as a practice tool, but they will not be used for grading purposes.

Notes from the BookStore

- Hardcover and MyLab – ISBN: 9780135418178 - \$166.20
- Loose leaf and MyLab – ISBN: 9780135906552 - \$110.00
- MyLab and eText – ISBN: 9780135219508 - \$95.00
- Learning Catalytics Code - \$17.25 (one year)

Readings Available on LEARN

- LEARN web site <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>
- Announcements, lecture slides, midterm solutions
- Review Quizzes
- Midterms
- Final Exam

The LEARN site is down occasionally. Save the course materials to your computer as soon as they are posted. Always be prepared!

Examinations in this course are based on the material contained in the textbook and the content presented in the PowerPoint slides and the pre-recorded videos (which are strong complements, not substitutes).

Microsoft Team

- You can access the MS Team ECON 371 S2020 through your University of Waterloo account here: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>
- MS Teams is also available for download as a Windows, Apple, and Android app.

- MS Teams will be used for class video chats (more details in **Remote Delivery Essentials** at the beginning of this outline)
- This is also where the pre-recorded short lecture videos will be uploaded. (Note that the videos may also be loaded in LEARN if the play quality is sufficient. My students had difficulties playing videos in LEARN in the past, and this is why I chose MS Teams as the platform for the videos.

Course Requirements and Assessment

The course grade will be based on review quizzes, two midterm exams, and a final examination which will be held during the Official Examination Schedule. The midterms will be completed online through the LEARN system on the dates specified below. There will be a 24-hour window during which each of the midterms will be available for completion. The midterm duration will be 90 minutes from the moment you start the midterm in LEARN. The midterm with the better mark will be worth 30% of your final grade, while the second-best midterm will be worth 25% of your final grade. The final exam will constitute 35% of your final grade and will be comprehensive (i.e., cover all course material from beginning to end). The final exam will be completed online through the LEARN system. There will be a 48-hour window during which the final exam will be available for completion.

There will also be a bonus grade up to 2% for participation (more on participation below under **Participation**). The grade breakdown is as follows:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Review Quizzes	TBA	10%
Midterm 1	Tuesday, June 16	25% or 30%
Midterm 2	Tuesday, July 14	25% or 30%
Bonus for participation ¹		2%
Final Exam	12:00 am on August 12 to 11:59 pm on August 13	35%
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.

¹ 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.

Participation

I will be adding participation questions in the pre-recorded short lecture videos. 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. You will be able to participate in any Learning Catalytics session at any time throughout the semester at your own pace. 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 require special focus, and, of course, to motivate you to watch the pre-recorded lecture videos. You will be able to submit answers to the questions I ask in the lecture videos 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-video 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.

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.

Midterms and Final Exam

- The format for midterms and the final exam will be a mix of multiple-choice questions, numerical calculation questions, and written problems.
- The final exam period for the Spring Term 2020 is August 7 – August 15 inclusive. More on the UW Final Examination policy can be found here: <http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/Acad-Regs-Assignments-Tests-and-Final-Exams>
- The time window for the final exam for this class is 12:00 am EST on August 12 to 11: 59 pm EST on August 13
- Only the Registrar's Office can issue final grades.

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

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 documented², with approval you may transfer the weight of the missed midterm to the final exam or request a deferred midterm to be scheduled by the instructor. This remedy is a privilege and not a right.

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.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an accommodation.
- Students are permitted to self-declare illness due to COVID-19, but will require a virtual Verification of Illness Form if they missed an exam due to mental health or non-covid-19 related illness.
- The Undergraduate Associate Chair will determine whether or not a deferred exam will be granted if required.
- No deferred final exam will be provided for students who missed all the exams (including the final exam) in this course

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 posted in LEARN.

Week	Date ³	Theme and Topic	Readings Due
1	May 12, 14	<i>Introduction to Business Finance:</i> Course Orientation and Organization	Chapter 1

² Students are permitted to self-declare illness due to COVID-19, but will require a virtual Verification of Illness Form if they missed an exam due to mental health or non-covid-19 related illness.

³ The dates refer to the when the MS Teams video chats are occurring. The actual PowerPoint lectures are downloaded the day before as outlined in Remote Delivery Essentials.

Week	Date ³	Theme and Topic	Readings Due
		Corporate Finance and the Financial Manager	
2	May 19, 21	<i>Introduction to Business Finance:</i> Financial Statement Analysis	Chapter 2
3	May 26, 28	<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	June 2, 4	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> The Valuation Principle: The Foundation of Financial decision Making Midterm 1 Review	Chapter 3
5	June 9, 11	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> The Time Value of Money	Chapter 4
6	June 16, 18	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> The Time Value of Money MIDTERM 1 (June 16)	Chapter 4
7	June 23, 25	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Interest Rates Midterm 2 Review	Chapter 5
8	June 30, July 2	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Interest Rates <i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Bonds	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
9	July 7, 9	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Bonds <i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Valuing Stocks MIDTERM 2 (July 14)	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
10	July 14, 16	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Valuing Stocks Midterm 3 Review	Chapter 7
11	July 21, 23	<i>Interest Rates and Valuing Cash Flows:</i> Valuing Stocks <i>Investment Decisions:</i> Investment Decision Rules	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
12	July 28, 30	<i>Investment Decisions:</i> Investment Decision Rules Fundamentals of Capital Budgeting	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
13	August 4		

Tentative Schedule of Review Quizzes

- Quiz 1: Released May 16, due May 25. Coverage: Ch 1, Ch 2

- Quiz 2: Released June 2, due June 9. Coverage Ch 3
- Quiz 3: Released June 30, due July 7. Coverage: Ch 4, Ch 5
- Quiz 4: Released July 7, due July 14. Coverage: Ch 6
- Quiz 5: Released July 21, due July 28. Coverage: Ch 7
- Quiz 6: Released July 28, due August 5. 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.

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 / 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](#), 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 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72\)](#).

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.