

MSC FINANCE

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6011

TITLE: Corporate Finance

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

The modern corporation faces fierce competition not only in the product markets but the capital markets as well. The modern corporations must compete relentlessly with a plethora of competitors for the available pool of capital. The ability to consistently create value for investors is critical if a firm is to attract and retain the capital it needs to survive and prosper. This course describes the corporation and its operating environment, the manner in which corporate boards and management evaluate investment opportunities, arrangements for financing such investments and the development of financial risk management strategies. As such, the course provides students with an analytical framework for determining the intrinsic value of a corporation and to assess the effectiveness of corporate management in maximizing that value.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6015

TITLE: Equity and Fixed Income Securities

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

The objective of this course is to enable participants to be able to structure and manage a complex portfolio of equities and fixed income securities. The course aims to build on the concepts introduced in the Corporate Finance and Capital Markets course and develop advanced concepts and tools that are useful for investors, issuers, traders, and hedgers. In terms of Equities students will be exposed to asset valuations, fundamental equity analysis, financial statement analysis, technical analysis and risk management. In terms of Fixed-income securities students will be exposed to the basic analytics of fixed-income securities, forward rates, yield curve trading strategies, immunization techniques, embedded options and derivatives with fixed-income underlying securities. This course is focused on the concepts and tools that are useful to managers who want to use these securities, whether for investing, hedging, market-making, or speculating.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6016

TITLE: Alternative Investments

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

Traditionally Wealth Management has focused on the traditional financial assets such as fixed income securities and equities. Increasing investors are increasingly turning to Alternative Investments as a means of diversifying their portfolios and building wealth. The range of Alternative Investments is large and ever expanding, however the major investments include, Real Estate Investment Trusts, Private Equity, Commodities and Hedge Funds. The objective of this course is to help participants understand and appreciate the rapidly growing field of alternative investments. The course focuses on techniques for valuing alternative investments and analyzing their role in a portfolio of assets.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6017

TITLE: Quantitative Methods for Management

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

A wide range of quantitative techniques are applied to the analysis of management problems. This course will provide students with the skills to apply a wide range of quantitative techniques to a variety of management problems in the various areas of management. A critical feature of the course is the use of managerial oriented cases to focus students on the application of quantitative techniques to management problems. Particular emphasis will be placed on computer based applications of quantitative techniques.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6026

TITLE: Financial Reporting and Statement Analysis

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

Closely linked to the CFA syllabus, this Financial Reporting and Statement Analysis course seeks to introduce students to the key concepts that underline financial reporting. Students will learn how to format and use financial statements and how financial reports can be analysed to evaluate overall business performance. Additionally, students will become familiar with how to interpret numbers in financial statements and thus should leave the course with the ability to read and interpret financial statements and financial ratios. Students are expected to apply many of the theories learnt in previous courses, as the course will seek to build on key financial accounting concepts and techniques that are integral to the preparation and analysis of financial statements.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6027

TITLE: Portfolio Management and Wealth Planning

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to be closely aligned with the CFA topic area Portfolio Management and Wealth Planning, and as such, its content is synonymous to what is covered in the CFA syllabus. Specifically, it covers topics such as portfolio risk management, asset allocation, performance evaluation, modern portfolio theory, trading and portfolio construction. Throughout this course, students are expected to develop an understanding of the key theoretical underpinnings of portfolio management and wealth planning and be able to apply these concepts to current industry practice. This course is also intended to address new developments in portfolio management and wealth planning and hence will provide students with opportunities to discuss current, relevant topics in the field.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6038

TITLE: Asset Pricing

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

This course aims to introduce students to the principles of asset pricing in finance. Specifically, this course covers the basic theory necessary for graduate students in finance and other related areas by looking at key topics such as stochastic calculus, modern portfolio theory, the common factor models used in asset pricing, time series predictability, derivative pricing and option pricing. By the end of this course, students will understand the key asset pricing models and be able to apply these models in finance and investment decision making.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6900

TITLE: Applied Research Paper

CREDITS: 6

DESCRIPTION

This course requires students to independently complete a research paper that demonstrates the application of key concepts, techniques, and skills acquired throughout the programme. It will provide students with the opportunity to delve deeply into a finance-related topic or problem that is of personal interest to them by allowing them to choose the subject area of focus for their paper. With support from an appointed faculty advisor, students will seek to produce a research paper that either provides new insights or enhance knowledge in the field of finance.

COURSE CODE: ECON 6037

TITLE: International Finance

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

To deepen students' knowledge of the behaviour of markets for foreign exchange and global financial management. Course emphasizes balance of payments policy and exchange rate issues as well as the behaviour of international financial markets. Theories of balance of payments adjustment, purchasing power parity, models of exchange rate, foreign debt and foreign direct investment, the international monetary system, international capital markets, international banking, global finance and interest rates, currency swaps.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6001

TITLE: Behavioural Finance

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

Behavioural Finance is an area that combines both behavioural and cognitive psychological theory with conventional finance principles in order to better understand how individuals make financial decisions. This course will provide an in-depth overview of the efficient market hypothesis and will consider alternative models in decision making, specifically the Prospect Theory. The psychological biases that arise in decision making will also be examined, as well as the role of herding and the limits to arbitrage. Additionally, the course will explain how behavioural theories can be used to explain market anomalies.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6002

TITLE: Financial Analysis and Modelling

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

Financial Analysis and Modelling is designed provide an understanding of how businesses assess and forecast their financial performance. As such, the emphasis of this course is on the practical application of finance theory and on the provision of the knowledge, tools and techniques needed to implement various financial models. Some of the topics that will be covered include, but are not limited to, simple regression, multiple regression, VAR, ARCH and GARCH techniques and the techniques of determining the existence of unit roots. By the end of this course, students will be able to develop simple financial models that can be applied to analyse and solve financial problems.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6004

TITLE: Financial Econometrics

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

Financial analysis utilizes econometrics and statistical methods to the problems encountered in financial markets and the financial industry in general. Financial institutions as well as regulatory agencies all use the tools of financial econometrics to make financial decisions, which involve the analysis of vast amounts of data on asset returns, volatilities, and other financial variables in both long and high frequency domains. The ability to analyse agent's behaviours and financial market reactions requires knowledge of time series properties as well as appropriate estimation methods. This course aims at extending students' knowledge in financial analysis and equip them with methods and techniques that allow them professionally to analyse financial aspects relevant to financial institutions, markets and industry.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6005

TITLE: Computational Finance

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

Computational finance utilises mathematical, programming and statistical tools to solve problems encountered in finance. Financial institutions (e.g. investment banks, commercial banks and insurance companies) as well as regulatory agencies all utilise the tools of computational finance. Students will be introduced to the tools used in computational finance, which should help them to drive innovation and efficiency in their business or industry.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6006

TITLE: Ethical and Professional Standards for the Finance Professional

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students with to business ethics and corporate responsibility. As required by the CFA Institute, it examines the ethical and professional responsibilities of finance professionals. In doing this course, students will become acquainted with the content, structure, implementation and application of the CFA Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct. Using real-life case studies, they will learn to recognize and avoid unprofessional and unethical practices, gain experience in analysing and resolving complex ethical challenges in finance and become skilled in practicing competent ethical decision making.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6080

TITLE: Risk Management of Financial Institutions

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the financial services industry, which comprises deposit-taking banks, insurance companies, investment banks, pension and mutual funds. It examines the major risks of financial institutions management: interest rate risk, liquidity risk, market risk, operational risk, country/sovereign risk, foreign exchange and credit risk. The course presents quantitative methods used by financial institutions to measure and manage these risks and provides a critical analysis of specific topics and financial regulations: liquidity and capital requirements in banking, sovereign risk, debt sustainability, debt restructuring. The course is quantitative in nature.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6090

TITLE: Derivatives

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

This module is intended to provide a rigorous foundation in the study of options, futures and other derivative securities. During the past decade, the derivatives market has experienced phenomenal growth, and these products are now used by financial institutions, major companies and government and quasi-governmental agencies. The knowledge of derivative securities is therefore central to investment, trading and risk management operations. This course is intended to provide the student with solid understanding of these products, their construction, use and valuation.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6100

TITLE: Advanced Corporate Engineering

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

This module provides an in-depth analysis of several advanced topics in financial engineering. Central in the module is the problem of understanding and analysing credit risk for derivatives and swaps. The aim is to bring together original thinking on the most important issues in credit risk, starting with quantitative and the methodological problems, and moving on to managerial and structural issues.

COURSE CODE: FINA 6130

TITLE: Advanced Corporate Finance

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

Building on the concepts presented in ACCT 6011 Corporate Finance, this course will enable students to develop the necessary knowledge of more advanced and specialized decision situations in the areas of corporate investment and financing. Specifically, it will enable students to apply knowledge about the cost of capital and asset valuation and develop valuation techniques such as ratios as used in acquisitions or mergers. This course will also evaluate cases on capital investments and the design of optimal capital structures. Most importantly, the relevance of the tools and concepts presented in this course to finance and other related sectors, will be discussed.