

MSC FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS

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 6014

TITLE: Corporate Tax Planning and Management

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

The objective of this course is to provide participants with a framework for analyzing tax planning. Adopting this approach has two important advantages. First, the framework offers an approach to tax planning and business strategy that remains useful long after the next revision of the tax code. Second, it offers an approach that can be readily employed in an international setting. After developing the framework, it will be applied to a variety of business settings that integrate topics from accounting, finance and economics in order to provide participants with a more complete understanding of the role of taxes in business strategy. Throughout, two important concepts will be applied: the concept of implicit taxes (tax induced differences in before tax rates of return) and the concept of tax clienteles (the effect of cross sectional differences in tax rates). The course will also pay particular attention to differences in corporate taxation across countries. On completing this course, students should be able to: Understand and evaluate cross country differences in corporate tax systems; Understand and evaluate the impact of taxation on a variety of corporate decisions; and Devise business strategies that exploit value creating opportunities create by the tax code.

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 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 6035

TITLE: International Tax

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

International taxation is one of the most exciting and fastest growing areas of tax practice. This course examines the tax and business issues faced by businesses seeking to expand operations across international boundaries. The course focuses on US, UK and Canadian tax legislation and considers the US tax treatment of businesses investing abroad and the US taxation of inbound foreign investment.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6036

TITLE: International Investments

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

International Investments aims to build upon the general knowledge obtained in previous financial courses. This course will help aspiring finance and investment professionals answer important questions such as how the regulations and constraints in different countries impact valuation. Topics covered in this course include globalization and its driving forces, asset pricing, the international stock and bond markets, alternative investments and the global monetary system.

COURSE CODE: ACCT 6037

TITLE: Investment Analysis

CREDITS: 3

DESCRIPTION

This course discusses the strategies of investing and seeks to help students to make informed investment decisions. It provides an overview of securities markets and discusses the fundamental valuation tools, including models of risk and return, and other key topics such as equity valuation and fixed income securities. On successful completion of the course, students will be equipped with the necessary knowledge in investment analysis to be sufficiently confident in their decision-making ability.

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: 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 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 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.

