

## Commerce 2FA3 Introduction to Finance Fall 2024 Course Outline

Finance and Business Economics Area  
DeGroot School of Business  
McMaster University

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### *INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION*

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**Instructor:** Yingnan Zhao

Email: [zhaoy502@mcmaster.ca](mailto:zhaoy502@mcmaster.ca)

Lecture C01: Wednesdays, 12:30-14:20, see Mosaic for the venue

Office Hours: Thursdays, 13:30-14:30, DSB 411

**Teaching Assistant:** Eric Wilson

Email: [wilsoe40@mcmaster.ca](mailto:wilsoe40@mcmaster.ca)

Tutorial T01: Tuesdays, 13:30-14:20, see Mosaic for the venue

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 14:30-15:20, details to be provided on A2L after the semester starts

**Course Website:** <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

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### *COURSE OBJECTIVE*

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The goal of this course is to provide students with an introduction to finance and develop an understanding of the key concepts used in the business world.

This course provides an overview of financial management and the financial system. The goal is to equip students with a basic understanding of how financial decisions are made. Students will learn fundamental finance concepts and tools, and how they are applied in practice. The course will lay a foundation for more advanced finance courses that students will subsequently take. Topics include the time value of money, capital budgeting, risk and return trade-off, and security valuation.

## ***COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OUTCOMES***

This course is intended to provide students with literacy in the problems and methods of modern business finance. During the lectures, the course will also discuss real-world applications of the financial concepts that we cover.

## ***COURSE INFORMATION***

All lectures, tutorials, and office hours are held in person. The tutorials are an integral part of the course, where our teaching assistant will cover additional materials and exercises that complement the discussions from the lectures. Regular attendance at the tutorials is expected and crucial for success in the course.

## ***COURSE ELEMENTS***

Credit Value:	3	Leadership:	Yes	IT skills:	Yes	Global view:	Yes
A2L:	Yes	Ethics:	No	Numeracy:	Yes	Written skills:	Yes
Participation:	No	Innovation:	Yes	Group work:	No	Oral skills:	No
Evidence Based:	Yes	Experiential:	No	Final Exam:	Yes	Guest speaker(s):	No

## ***REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND READINGS***

- Avenue registration for slides, readings and other course materials: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>
- REQUIRED: Ross, Westerfield, Jordan, Pandes and Holloway, Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, 11th Canadian Edition. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson: henceforth RWJPH. **(Note: you can purchase either the hard copy of the textbook or the e-book)**
- REQUIRED: **Connect** Access for RWJPH Textbook

## ***COURSE EVALUATION***

### **Components and Weights**

The following weighting scheme will be used:

<b>#</b>	<b>Grade Component</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
1	Weekly Connect Quizzes (Best 6 out of 8)	10%	See below
2	Term Test 1 (2 hours) covers Week 1 to 4	25%	Friday, Oct 11*
3	Term Test 2 (2 hours) covers Week 5 to 8	25%	Friday, Nov 15*
4	Final Examination (2.5 hours) is cumulative and covers the whole semester	40%	TBA
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\*Both tests will take place between 6:30-10:30 pm, with the exact test times announced after the semester begins.

The term tests and the final exam will cover materials from the textbook, readings, lectures, tutorials, and class discussions. All exams are closed-book and will be held in person. Students should bring a non-programable calculator; the use of a financial calculator is optional. No other aids will be allowed.

Quizzes will be completed online through Avenue. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions, with a 30-minute time limit and a single attempt allowed. Quizzes will be released on Wednesdays and will be due on Thursdays, as per the specific dates listed below.

<b>Quiz #</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Release date</b>	<b>Due Date (11:59 pm)</b>
1	Chapter 5	25-Sep	26-Sep
2	Chapter 6	02-Oct	03-Oct
3	Chapter 7	09-Oct	10-Oct
4	Chapter 12	30-Oct	31-Oct
5	Chapter 13	06-Nov	07-Nov
6	Chapter 8	13-Nov	14-Nov
7	Chapter 9	27-Nov	28-Nov
8	Chapter 10	04-Dec	05-Dec

## ***COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK***

Students who wish to correspond with instructors or TAs directly via email must send messages that originate from their official McMaster University email account. This protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information as well as confirms the identity of the student. Emails regarding course issues should NOT be sent to the Area Administrative Assistants.

Students who have concerns about the course content, evaluation methods, or delivery should first reach out to the course instructor. If your concern remains unresolved after speaking with the instructor, you may then reach out to the relevant Area Chair for further consideration.

## ***MISSED ACADEMIC WORK***

There is no accommodation for missed quizzes, but only the top 6 out of 8 quizzes will count towards the final mark.

Missed tests or exams will receive a grade of zero unless the student has submitted and been approved for a Notification of Absence or MSAF. If a student files a successful MSAF for missing the midterm, the weight of the midterm exam will be transferred to the final exam. The final exam will be comprehensive and cover the entire course.

## ***REQUESTING RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK***

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar [“Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”](#) and the link below;

<http://ug.degroot.mcmaster.ca/forms-and-resources/missed-course-work-policy/>

\* Non-Commerce students must follow the Missed Coursework Protocols outlined by their home faculty and Program Office.

## ***GENERATIVE AI***

Students may use generative AI throughout this course in whatever way enhances their learning; no special documentation or citation is required.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

## ***ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)***

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of the term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## ***COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING***

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright-protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or images may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## ***EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES***

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## ***RESEARCH USING HUMAN SUBJECTS***

All researchers conducting research that involves human participants, their records or their biological material are required to receive approval from one of McMaster's Research Ethics Boards before (a) they can recruit participants and (b) collect or access their data. Failure to comply with relevant policies is a research misconduct matter. Contact these boards for further information about your requirements and the application process.

McMaster Research Ethics Board (General board): <https://reo.mcmaster.ca/>

Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (Medical board): <http://www.hireb.ca/>

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### ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES***

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Your enrolment in Commerce 2FA3 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.**

Lack of awareness of the course policies **cannot be invoked** at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

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**COMM 2FA3 – Introduction to Finance C01  
Fall 2024 Course Schedule  
(subject to changes during the semester)**

Topic Number	Lecture Date	Tutorial Date	Topic Description	Reading in RWJPH (11 <sup>th</sup> Canadian Edition)	Suggested textbook practice problems
1	Sep 4	Sep 10	Introduction to Corporate Finance	Chapter 1	1.1-1.5, 1.7, 1.10, 1.12, 1.13 (from Concept Review)
2	Sep 11	Sep 17	Time Value of Money	Chapter 5	5.1-5.3, 5.8, 5.10-5.13, 5.18, 5.20
3	Sep 18	Sep 24	Discounted Cash Flow	Chapter 6.1-6.3	6.1, 6.3-6.4, 6.6-6.8, 6.11, 6.18, 6.30, 6.35
4	Sep 25	Oct 1	Bond Valuation	Chapter 7.1-7.4, 7.6	7.1-7.3, 7.6, 7.8, 7.11-7.12, 7.14, 7.26
5	Oct 2	Oct 22	Lessons from Capital Market History	Chapter 12	12.1-12.2, 12.4, 12.7, 12.9, 12.13-12.14, 12.16
		Oct 8	<b>MIDTERM #1 (Oct 11<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Topics 1-4</b>	Midterm Prep
			<b>Fall Recess</b>	<b>No Classes</b>	
6	Oct 23	Oct 29	Return, Risk & SML	Chapter 13.1-13.5	13.1-13.3, 13.6-13.7, 13.9, 13.11, 13.13-13.15, 13.19-13.20, 13.23-13.24, 13.26
7	Oct 30	Nov 5	Return, Risk & SML / Stock Valuation	Chapter 13.6-13.7 / Chapter 8.1	8.1-8.2, 8.6, 8.8-8.9, 8.11, 8.14, 8.20-8.21, 8.23-8.24, 8.26
8	Nov 6	Nov 12	Stock Valuation & Exam Review	Chapter 8.2-8.4	
		Nov 19	<b>MIDTERM #2 (Nov 15<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Topics 5-8</b>	Midterm Review



Topic Number	Lecture Date	Tutorial Date	Topic Description	Reading in RWJPH (11 <sup>th</sup> Canadian Edition)	Suggested textbook practice problems
9	Nov 20	Nov 26	NPV Analysis	Chapter 9	9.1, 9.3, 9.5-9.6, 9.8, 9.15-9.16, 9.19, 9.21, 9.23
10	Nov 27	Dec 3	Capital Investment Decisions	Chapter 10.1-10.6	10.1, 10.3-10.7, 10.12-10.14, 10.16, 10.18, 10.21, 10.25
			<b>Exam Period (Dec 6-19)</b>	<b>Topics 1 to 10</b>	<b>Final Exam Date TBD</b>