

**Commerce 3FC3
International Finance
Fall 2024 Course Outline**

**Finance and Business Economics
DeGroot School of Business
McMaster University**

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Waquar Ahmad

Ahmadw9@mcmaster.ca

C03: Tues 4:30 pm – 6:20 pm and Thu 4:30 pm – 5:20 pm

C04: Tues 12:30 pm – 2:20 pm and Thu 12:30 pm – 1:20 pm

Office: DSB 311; Office Hours: Thu 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Student TA: TBA

Course website: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

COURSE ELEMENTS

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures: 3 hours per week

Course Delivery Mode: In-person

Course Description: The goal of this course is to examine the challenges and opportunities encountered by finance managers of multinational corporations in making financing and investment decisions with a global perspective. It also involves the understanding of the macroeconomic environment governing international business.

This course is taught primarily through lectures, readings, and in-class discussions.

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Mosaic](#)
- [Avenue to Learn](#)
- [Student Accessibility Services - Accommodations](#)
- [McMaster University Library](#)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to complete the following key tasks:

- Appreciate the financial challenges and opportunities encountered by multinational corporations.
- Understand the economic determinants of foreign exchange rate and the role of the central bank in the foreign exchange and money markets.
- Recognize the relations among interest rate, inflation rate, and foreign exchange rate in the spot and futures markets.
- Measure and manage transaction, translation and operating foreign exchange exposures.
- Use financial derivatives to manage foreign exchange risks.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

Central to the understanding of international financial management is the concept of exchange rate and the financial risks associated with them. We will study the economics underlying the determination of exchange rates and their parity relationships. We will discuss the foreign exchange markets and the tools that can be used to hedge exchange rate risks using tools such as options, futures, and swaps contracts. We will discuss the different kinds of foreign exposures - transaction, translation, and operating exposures – and how these can be effectively managed.

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND TEXTS

International Financial Management, 10th edition with Connect, by Eun, Resnick & Chuluun, McGraw-Hill (available in the McMaster bookstore).

Students will need access to Connect which will be used for graded weekly assessments.

One case study from Harvard Business Publishing.

Further reading materials may be suggested by the instructor during the lectures. Slides and other teaching materials can be downloaded from Avenue to Learn. Students are encouraged to keep themselves up to date with current issues in international finance, as they may be discussed in class when appropriate. Students are also advised to practice on selected end-of-chapter questions and problems suggested by the instructor.

COURSE EVALUATION

There are three different types of assessments for this course. The final student grade will be calculated based on these. The components of the course grade will be weighted as follows. The instructor reserves the right to modify the weightings to adjust for material covered during the semester. Although there is no mark for class participation, student questions and/or comments are encouraged and appreciated.

Components and Weights

Assessments	Weight	Type of question	Due	Location
Weekly Quiz (x8)	2.5%*8 = 20%	MCQs/Short problems (completed individually)	Tuesday (11:59 pm)	Connect
Test (x2)	30%*2 = 60%	MCQs and short questions (One-page personal help sheet)	Test 1: 08 Oct 5:30 pm Test 2: 26 Nov 4:30 pm	In person
Case report	20%	Completed in group of 3 - 5	15 th December 11:59 PM	Avenue Dropbox

Weekly quiz (8 quizzes carrying 20%) – Connect

There will be eight weekly quizzes based on the lectures and materials assigned for that week. These will take place on Connect. The quizzes will open every Thursday at 8:00 pm and will be due the following Tuesday at 11:59 pm.

Tests (2 tests carrying 2*30% = 60%) – In person

The two tests have a duration of 100 minutes each. The tests will take place on 8th October (5:30pm) and 26th November (4:30 pm) respectively. The tests are non-cumulative.

The tests will have two components – multiple-choice questions and short questions. The short questions will need to be answered with pens and within the designated space in the exam booklet. Students will be allowed to bring a self-made **help sheet** in the midterm tests. *The help sheet must be one 8.5”x11”;* **one-sided** and may be handwritten or typed with any notes.

Missed tests/exams will receive a grade of zero unless the student has submitted and been approved for a Notification of Absence or MSAF.

Academic conflict with test date/time: The test dates have been approved by the exam office to ensure minimum academic conflict. If you *still* have an academic conflict, use MSAF to apply to your home faculty & reach out to Student Experience office of DSB at buscom@mcmaster.ca for approval of the conflict so you may be eligible for the alternate write. **You will need to make this application at least 10 business days prior to the scheduled midterm test dates.**

At McMaster University, student learning in undergraduate courses should be assessed on more than one occasion. No single academic obligation (e.g., essay, test, examination, etc.) should have a value of more than 75% of the final grade without approval from the Department Chair or Associate Dean’s Office. The two midterm tests in this course

are each worth 25% of total grade. To this end, a student can request relief for one of the tests only (as approved by the Student Experience Office for coursework worth more than 24%). If a student needs to submit a request for missed coursework for both tests during the semester, s/he will have to communicate with the instructor so that an alternate arrangement can be made. The final exam marks will be reweighted in case of approved missed tests.

Missed tests will not be eligible for 'curve' used for the test, if any.

Case report (In group of 3 to 5; 20%) – Avenue

Students will form group of 3 to 5 to work on a case. Groups will be formed within your cohort and the group constituents are to be reported to the TA by 27th September.

Each group will be randomly assigned a case from a pool of cases. Once assigned, each group will 'buy' the assigned case from HBR (cost ranging between \$5 - \$8 for the case for a group).

The group members are responsible for making sure smooth functioning of the group. The instructor and/or the TA will not intervene in group activities for any reason.

COURSE DELIVERABLES

Test #1 – 8th October

This test is worth 30% of the final grade and will be marked individually. The assessment will measure student knowledge and understanding of the materials covered in the first five weeks of class. The test will have two components – multiple-choice questions and short questions. Students are allowed to bring a one-page one-sided self-made help sheet for the test.

Test #2 – 26th November

This is a non-cumulative test and is worth 30% of the final grade. The test will be marked individually. The assessment will measure student knowledge and understanding of the materials covered in the second half of the course. The test will have two components – multiple-choice questions and short questions. Students are allowed to bring a one-page one-sided self-made help sheet for the test.

Weekly Quiz – Connect

There will be eight weekly quizzes on Connect. The quizzes will open every Thursday at 8:00 pm and will be due the following Tuesday at 11:59 pm. Students will complete these individually. Students can spend as much time as needed on these assignments within the deadline. However, you can 'submit' these only once.

No weekly quiz will take place during the midterm recess week and the two weeks when tests are scheduled.

The due dates of the quizzes will be made available on Avenue.

Each quiz will carry a total of 2.5% of total grade. Student grading of these weekly quiz will be done by a combination of accuracy (2%) and completion (0.5%). Time extensions are not granted for the weekly quizzes under any circumstances. Missed weekly quiz will receive a grade of zero unless MSAF is used.

Case Report – Avenue Dropbox

Students will form group of 3 to 5 to work on a case. Groups will be formed within your cohort and the group constituents are to be reported to the TA by 27th September.

The details on case report requirements will be shared during class. The report must be to the point and concise: fifteen double-spaced typed pages using a minimum font size of 11, added with at most five one-page exhibits, etc. You may use font size 10 for the exhibits.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The case report is due on 15th December at 11:59 pm. One group will submit their report once. It must be submitted to Dropbox on the course website on Avenue. Late submission will lose 10% for delay of incremental 6 hours (delay of 1 minute to 6 hours – lose 10%; delay of 6 hours 1 minute to 12 hours – lose 20%, so on).

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.

Please add 'COM 3FC3' in the subject line of email correspondence with the instructor and the TA. Students will receive evaluation feedback for at least 30% of the final grade prior to Week #9 in the term.

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.

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 Course Work protocols outlined by their home faculty and Program Office.**

COURSE MODIFICATION

From time to time there may be a need to remove/add topics or to change the schedule or the delivery format. If these are necessary, you will be given as much advance notice as possible.

GENERATIVE AI

SOME USE PERMITTED

Students may use generative AI for [editing/translating/outlining/brainstorming/revising/etc] their work on the case report so long as the use of generative AI is referenced. Use of generative AI outside the stated use of [editing/translating/outlining/brainstorming/revising/etc] without reference will constitute academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to be clear on the limitations for use and to be clear on the expectations for citation and reference and to do so appropriately.

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](#).

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.

AUTHENTICITY/PLAGIARISM DETECTION

This course will use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. Avenue to Learn, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

This course will use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn, Connect, HBR cases, websites, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

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 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 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 image 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, Avenue to Learn and/or McMaster email.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES

Your enrolment in Commerce 3FC3 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

**Commerce 3FC3
International Finance
Fall 2024 Lecture Schedule**

Week	Topics to be covered
1	Introduction Globalization and the multi-national firm (Chapter 1)
2	International Monetary System (Chapter 2)
	The market for foreign exchange (Chapter 5)
3	The market for foreign exchange (Chapter 5)
4	International parity relationships and forecasting fx rates (Chapter 6)
5	International parity relationships and forecasting fx rates (Chapter 6)
6	8-Oct: TEST #1; Chapters: 1, 2, 5, 6 5:30 pm to 7:10 pm (T13 101)
7	MIDTERM RECESS
8	Futures and options on foreign exchange (Chapter 7)
9	Interest rates and currency swaps (Chapter 14)
10	Management of transaction exposure (Chapter 8)
11	Management of translation exposure (Chapter 10)
12	Management of economic exposure (Chapter 9)
13	26-Nov: TEST #2; Chapters: 7, 8, 9, 10, 14 4:30 pm to 6:10 pm (T13 101)
14	Wrap-up
15-Dec	GROUP REPORT SUBMISSION 11:59 PM on Avenue Dropbox

** This is a tentative schedule. If the subject matter designated for a week is not completed during scheduled weekly lecture, the remainder will be covered in the following week.*