

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Economics and Finance
with effect from Semester A 2017/18**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Introduction to Financial Markets

Course Code: CB3044

Course Duration: 1 Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: B3

Arts and Humanities

Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Science and Technology

Proposed Area:
(for GE courses only)

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) CB3410 Financial Management or
FB3410 Financial Management

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) EF3333 Financial Systems, Markets and Instruments
(Not for students major in Finance, and Computational Finance)

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course is designed to introduce the major financial markets and their roles and business activities across countries. Familiarity with these topics is necessary for students to be competent in their future professional career.

Students will study the present-day financial problems and their broad applications. They will make use of the information they obtain from the lectures to analyse financial topics related to different types of financial systems / markets.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs [#]	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Study the role and importance of the financial markets and institutions, and analyze the financial development and activities across countries	15%	√	√	√
2.	Explore the major risks of the financial markets and their relationship with the monetary policy conducted by central banks	40%	√	√	√
3.	Understand different activities of different financial institutions such as commercial banks, insurance companies and pension funds	30%	√	√	√
4.	Critically examine the recent innovation in the financial markets	15%	√	√	√
		100%			

* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

[#] Please specify the alignment of CILOs to the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning outcomes (PILOs) in Section A of Annex.

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Lectures	Lectures, group discussions of latest big events related to financial markets.	√	√	√	√	
Individual Assignments	Essential questions from the textbook and related reading materials to help students to study and understand the concepts and theories of important topics.	√	√	√		
Group project	Students are expected to use the knowledge that they learn from lectures to discuss / explain / solve some real life issues, such as the relationship between financial markets and economic development, by analyzing the datasets and market settings. Students are also encouraged to retrieve data from database such as Bloomberg and other online resources. High marks will be given to those who show team effort, creative thinking and reasonable analysis.		√	√	√	
Midterm test	The mid-term test covers half semester's material; it contains multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. It will test the students' ability to discover and make use of the knowledge to carry out analysis of real life issues.	√	√	√	√	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 60%						
Individual assignments	√	√	√		15%	
Group projects		√	√	√	15%	
Mid-term test	√	√	√	√	30%	
Examination: 40% (duration: 2 hours, if applicable)						
Final Examination	√	√	√	√	40%	
					100%	

* The weightings should add up to 100%.

The final examination contains multiple choice questions and essay questions. The questions will require students to integrate the knowledge they learned from lectures and develop their problem solving attitude. This also reflects the students' accomplishments in discovery and innovation.

Students are required to pass both coursework and examination components in order to pass the course.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Individual assignments		Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of the subject of financial instruments and market system; evidence of extensive knowledge base as outlined in CILOs; ; very strong overall ability to discover and innovate, and very strong evidence of accomplishments of discovery	Evidence of knowing how to apply the related concepts outlined in CILOs; strong overall ability to discover and innovate, and strong evidence of accomplishments of discovery.	Some evidence of knowing how to apply the concepts outlined in CILOs; some ability to discover and innovate, and satisfactory evidence of accomplishments of discovery	Marginal familiarity with the subject of financial instruments and market system; marginal ability to discover and innovate, and marginal evidence of accomplishments of discovery.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject of financial instruments and market system; or no show and no excuse in final exam; little evidence of ability to discover and innovate, and little evidence of accomplishments of discovery
Group projects						
Mid-term test						
Examination						

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

Interest Rate Risk
Risk and Term Structure of Interest Rate
Financial System.
Structure of Central Banks
Monetary Policy
Operations of Deposit-taking and Loan-issuing
Insurance Companies and Pension Funds
Security Brokers and Dealers, Underwriting, and Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A)
Money Market
Foreign Exchange Market
Stock Market
Future Market
Option Market

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Valdez, S. and P. Molyneux (2015), <i>An Introduction to Global Financial Markets</i> , 8th ed. Palgrave.
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2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Howells, P., and K. Bain (2007), <i>Financial Markets and Institutions</i> , 5th ed. Financial Times / Prentice Hall.
2.	Pilbeam, K. (2010), <i>Finance and Financial Markets</i> , 3rd ed. Palgrave