

GE2260: INTRODUCTION TO FINANCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Introduction to Finance

Subject Code

GE - Gateway Education

Course Number

2260

Academic Unit

Economics and Finance (EF)

College/School

College of Business (CB)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

GE Area (Primary)

Area 2 - Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

CB3410 Financial Management

Not for undergraduate students under College of Business and its departments

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course demystifies finance in an accessible and relatable way to give students a broad and general knowledge of some key fundamental concepts in Finance. This course covers topics such as role of money and interest in everyday life, ethical and social responsibility of financial decisions at both individual and organizational levels, various financial investment tools and funding sources, formulating investment strategies, understanding and interpreting financial news, etc. It is anticipated that through the continuous assessments, including introducing various financial products, analyzing financial news and investment games, students from many disciplines will find this course useful not only for managing their own personal wealth in the future but also for knowing how to become responsible citizens by establishing proper attitude towards finance. In addition, the financial knowledge acquired in this course will help students hone their financial sense to know when things are going well and when something is not right in whatever organizations that they may work for in the future.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the role of money and interest, and importance of financial management in everyday life.	15	x	x	
2	Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and analyse the general investment tools, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.	20	x	x	
3	Justify the ethical and social responsibility of financial decisions at both individual and organizational levels (both private and public sectors).	15	x	x	x
4	Design the skills of evaluating financial projects through assessing various sources of financing available to individuals and companies in real life with aid of suitable database and information sources.	30	x	x	
5	Demonstrate the ability to interpret financial news.	20	x	x	x

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 real-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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Student will engage in lecture activities to think critically and logically by getting students to solve the problems by themselves rather than giving out the solutions without engaging students.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3
2	Peer Discussion	Students will engage in structured discussion with peers to identify areas to improve on in their returned assessment tasks.	2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Individual Assignments ¹	1, 2, 3, 5	10	-	Yes
2	Mid-term exam ²	1, 2	20	-	No
3	Group project ³	2, 4, 5	20	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Additional Information for ATs

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

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Final Examination (one 2-hour exam)

Criterion

Demonstrate having a good understanding of relevant ethics and social responsibility, various financial investment tools, basic finance concepts and the capability of applying those financial knowledge and skills learned to tackle problems and to critically analyse / evaluate simulated scenarios and cases devised in the examination.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Individual Assignments

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding the finance concepts by tackle various problem solving questions as assigned by the lecturer.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Mid-term Test

Criterion

Demonstrate having a good understanding of relevant ethics and social responsibility, various financial investment tools, basic finance concepts and the capability of applying those financial knowledge and skills learned to tackle problems and to critically analyse / evaluate simulated scenarios and cases devised in the test.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Group Project

Criterion

Demonstrate the ability extract relevant information or data from various sources and to apply the financial knowledge and concepts learned to investigate and solve real-life issue(s)

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

1. Ethics and social responsibility
2. Time value of money
3. Interest rates
4. Saving and expenditure
5. Risk and return
6. Risk diversification
7. Stock
8. Bond
9. Mutual Funds
10. Real estate
11. Cost of financing
12. Project appraisal
13. Financial statements
14. Financial news

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Introduction to Finance: Markets, Investments, and Financial Management, Ronald W. Melicher, Edgar A. Norton, latest edition

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Financial Markets, Instruments and Institutions, Santomero, A.M. and D.F. Babbel, current edition, McGraw Hill.
2	Fundamentals of Financial Management, Eugene Brigham and Joel Houston, latest edition.
3	Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, Stephen A. Ross, Randolph W. Westerfield, and Bradford D. Jordan, latest edition.
4	Corporate Finance Essentials, Stephen A. Ross, Randolph W. Westerfield, and Bradford D. Jordan, latest edition.
5	Articles published by international financial institutions, such as World Bank, International Monetary Funds, Asian Development Bank, OECD, Bank for International Settlements and others.
6	Articles published by relevant financial organizations in HKSAR, such as Securities and Futures Commission, Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing, HKSAR Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, and others.
7	Lecture notes, newspaper clippings and articles
8	http://www.adb.org
9	http://www.worldbank.org
10	http://www.imf.org
11	http://www.info.gov.hk/hkma
12	http://www.sehk.com.hk

Annex (for GE courses only)

A. Please specify the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) that the course is aligned to and relate them to the CILOs stated in Part II, Section 2 of this form:

Please indicate which CILO(s) is/are related to this PILO, if any (can be more than one CILOs in each PILO)

PILO 1: Demonstrate the capacity for self-directed learning

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 2: Explain the basic methodologies and techniques of inquiry of the arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science and technology

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 4: Interpret information and numerical data

2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 5: Produce structured, well-organised and fluent text

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 6: Demonstrate effective oral communication skills

2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 7: Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in a team

2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 8: Recognise important characteristics of their own culture(s) and at least one other culture, and their impact on global issues

1

PILO 9: Value ethical and socially responsible actions

1

PILO 10: Demonstrate the attitude and/or ability to accomplish discovery and/or innovation

2, 3, 4, 5

B. Please select an assessment task for collecting evidence of student achievement for quality assurance purposes. Please retain at least one sample of student achievement across a period of three years.

Selected Assessment Task

Final Examination