Subject Outline

FIN 921
Managerial Finance
Autumn 2005
Wollongong Campus
University of Wollongong

6 Credit Points

Dr. Scott Dobbs
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sedobbs@uow.edu.au

School of Accounting and Finance
Subject Details

Description

This subject introduces students to the finance and investment decisions facing the investor, executive, and manager. It explores the fundamental basis of investing and decision-making within the various market structures. An emphasis upon a practical approach to capital investment decisions and financial management in the real world will assist students to understand the decisions facing investors, fund managers, and corporate executives who must use financial information in a complex financial environment. The skills from this class are indispensable to any professional who must utilize financial information in the real world.

Objectives

Upon completion of this subject, students should be able to apply sufficient theoretical and practical knowledge to exhibit understanding to:

♦ Thoroughly grasp the impact and issues involved in alternative decision choices in a financial environment;
♦ Have a solid grasp on the fundamentals of time value of money, cash flow issues, working capital management, and budgeting, including financial analysis and planning incorporating accounting information and other financial considerations in an environment of risk;
♦ Identify, and solve problems facing an investor in the selection, construction, and maintenance of a portfolio of assets;
♦ Explain, evaluate and discuss organisation and function within alternative financial asset markets, including product development and recent trends in capital markets;
♦ Recognise and discuss the techniques and measures in the evaluation of investment performance;
♦ Define portfolio management strategies and the fundamental issues and decisions involved in each strategy.

Method of Delivery

This subject is delivered in a combination of lecture, tutorial, and additional print material, coupled together with a hard copy textbook. In addition, some cd material included in the textbook, may be incorporated into the course which may assist student learning.

Web CT

A site is currently under construction, but it is NOT a web ct site. Lecture slides and other material, such as tutorial solutions and notes, may be posted to this site. More information will be given in the first week of lectures.
Study Time

This is a rigorous and substantive class and, as the subject progresses, concepts covered in earlier material are assumed knowledge for later more difficult and complex decisions. Students should be aware that the University of Wollongong considers that for every credit point assigned to a subject, a minimum of 2 hours each week should be set aside by the student for careful study. As FIN 921 is a 6 credit point subject, students should devote at least 12 hours each week to this subject, including class times. Some students may require more time to grasp the material in any given week. Students are warned that this class is not one where an apathetic or lethargic attitude can be entertained in the first weeks and then devotion and “cramming” manifest in the later part of the course. The material is difficult and should be carefully studied from the first week of class to the final examination and, hopefully, carried into professional life.

Lectures and Tutorials

Lecture Tuesday – 2:30 – 4:30 pm 20.4

Students are to sign up for tutorials within the TPS online tutorial signup scheme. No additional students are to be allowed in any tutorial where they are not properly signed up and any tutorial changes must be approved by the subject coordinator. Students who choose to reside outside the Wollongong area should be advised that they will receive no preference in their tutorial choices for this reason.

Dr. Scott Dobbs will give all lectures.

Assigned Textbook


Recommended Texts

In addition to the assigned text, students may find the following texts helpful. This list is not exhaustive and students are encouraged to search out material individually.

Bishop, Faff, Oliver, Twite 2004, Corporate Finance 5th edition, Pearson Education/Prentice Hall [very good text for additional explanation and reference guide]


Frino et al. 2004, Introduction to Corporate Finance 2nd edition Pearson Education

**Subject Coordinator**

Dr. Scott Dobbs  
School of Accounting and Finance  
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Email: sedobbs@uow.edu.au

**Tutor**  
Brian Murphy  
School of Accounting and Finance  
Office: 40.311  
Phone: 4221-5510  
Fax: 4221-4297

**Consultation Times - Scott**

Monday 4:30 – 5:30 pm  
Tuesday 11:30 am – 1:30 pm  
Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 am

**Consultation Times – Brian**  
TBA

**Student Administration**

Telephone: 612 4221 3938  
Fax: 612 4221 4322  
Email: studenq@uow.edu.au  

**Library**

Telephone: 612 4221 3548  
WWW: [http://www-library.uow.edu.au](http://www-library.uow.edu.au)
Unishop Bookstore

Telephone: 612 4221 8050  
Fax: 612 4221 8055  
Email: unishop@uow.edu.au  

Students are free to purchase books anywhere they wish, but the proper texts have been ordered by the Unishop to accommodate the numbers in this class, given past experience with student numbers. If additional texts are needed, they will be promptly ordered from the publisher.

Assessment Guidelines

General Criteria

There will be four assessments in total comprising 100 marks in this class. The amount of marks available in each assessment task is as follows:

- Midterm examination (1) 20% Chapters 1-7
- Midterm examination (2) 20% Chapters 8-15
- Class Participation 10%
- Final examination 50%

Students are encouraged to “work together” in most aspects of the preparation of the examinations. Students may not work together in any tutorial work preparation. This means that students can talk together, discuss relevant sources of materials, and discuss procedures, but may not (figuratively speaking) touch, look at, or even breathe on another student’s work, past or present, in the production of any tutorial work in this subject. Students who submit work unduly similar who are caught, cannot give the excuse that they “worked together” in the production of this assessment task as a defense. Students need to understand this aspect of the subject requirements very clearly!

Students must achieve a satisfactory result (at least 45%) in every assessment task and, must achieve a clear “pass” in the final examination in order to pass this subject. This assessment criterion will be rigidly enforced.

Although the emphasis in any assessment in this subject lies upon the substantive issues, a manifestly inadequate form or format may also result in loss of marks in any assessment. Students should, therefore, think carefully about the presentation of any assessment task. Marks may be scaled in any assessment in this subject at the subject coordinator’s discretion.

Students should be made clearly aware that all classes in this subject are compulsory. Although a role is not contemplated, at present, for the lecture times, examinable material is presented during these times, which might not be given in any other
format, or at any other time. The policy of the University of Wollongong requires that no marks may be awarded for attendance, *per se*, nor is attendance to be used for the calculation of any assessment. **Lack of attendance, therefore, can severely hinder the award of marks, but no marks are awarded for attendance on its own.** If a student misses four tutorials without proper medical certification, a “fail” grade is automatically recorded for that student. A student must attend at least 75% of the tutorials to pass this subject. The Federal Government Department of Immigration requires that all overseas students attend at least 90% of classes and the University of Wollongong has an obligation to report to DIMIA any student who does not meet this requirement.

Where a student’s marks fall at the border between gradients, the manifest effort and participation within the tutorial regime throughout the duration of the subject may be taken into account in the scaling or modification of any student’s marks. Final marks are scaled at the subject coordinator’s discretion.

### Performance grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>85% or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>75%-84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>65%-74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>50%-64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0-49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At present information it is understood that “pass conceded” is not available in this subject.

### Special Consideration

Students who, through serious illness or circumstances beyond their control are unable to attend a tutorial, examination, or submit an assessment task in a timely manner are required to submit proper medical documentation, as soon as the problem becomes known, to the University of Wollongong Administration. The hard copy of any supporting documentation must be presented to Administration using the proper form, but students can submit the initial application through the SOLS system online at [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/). Students should be made clearly aware that they have an obligation to communicate to the subject coordinator or their tutor as soon as a problem is foreseeable. Students who submit requests for special consideration at or after the due date for an assessment or examination are normally scrutinized very carefully to ascertain the legitimate underlying validity of their request. Proper documentation, therefore, does not always ensure special consideration. Special consideration is not automatically extended to the student except in very exceptional cases.

### Supplementary examinations

Supplementary examinations are **not** automatically extended to students upon request for special consideration. In rare cases where a supplementary exam is awarded,
however, the student(s) will be required to take the examination on a date normally set within three (3) weeks of the end of the examination period, or within three weeks of the date of the midterm examination. No other provision is made for supplementary examination and if the student is not able to attend the supplementary examination, a “fail” grade is normally recorded in the absence of extraordinary circumstances or submission of proper medical documentation. Students will be notified prior to the examination, usually by email, and it is the student’s responsibility to ensure their proper addresses both email and postal, are correctly recorded on the University records. In addition, the student’s phone number on record with the University of Wollongong needs to be valid.

Full details of the University’s policy regarding special consideration are available on the University’s website. Students should familiarise themselves with these policies at: http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/specialconsideration.html.

Disability Policy

Any student who suffers with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in this subject are strongly advised to discuss the matter with the tutor and/or subject coordinator at the earliest possible convenience. In addition, the student should contact the Faculty Disability Advisor or the Disability Liaison Officer, and register with the University of Wollongong’s Disabilities Unit. More details can be found on the web at http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/disabl.html.

Non Discriminatory Language

The University of Wollongong endorses a policy of non-discriminatory language practice and presentation in all academic and administrative activities. The policy is available at http://www.uow.edu.au/eeo/nondiscrimlanguage.html.

Receipt of Assessment Tasks

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that a signed receipt is issued in regard to the submission of any assessment task.

Midterm Examinations

The midterm examinations contain multiple choice and “short-answer” questions, most of which are purely mathematically based, comprising 20% each of the marks available in this subject. The first examination is to be held on 9 April, and the second on 7 May. Both will be held in building 67 lecture theatres. The start time is 9:30 a.m. and the examination will last approximately two (2) hours each. The class may be divided for convenience and more information will be given in the weeks prior to the
exam. More information will be given to students regarding the midterm examination as the course progresses. Check your SOLS mails frequently.

Students should be aware that a dismal failure in the midterm examination will normally preclude further participation in this subject, for the student will be deemed to have failed to achieve a satisfactory result on an assessment task and will, therefore, fail this subject. In addition, due to class participation assessment in this subject, manifestly inadequate preparation in the tutorials may lead to a failure in this subject.

Final Examination

The final examination is worth 50% of the marks available in this subject. All aspects of the topics in this subject are examinable, but an emphasis may lie upon the later sections of the class material. The exam will last 3 hours and 15 minutes and is “closed book”. The final examination is a discriminatory examination in that it discriminates heavily against those students who are not thoroughly familiar with the material of the subject, and discriminates heavily in favour of those students who are thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the subject topics. It will be heavily weighted toward mathematical aspects of the subject at the discretion of the subject coordinator. More information will be given to students as time progresses toward this examination. The University of Wollongong schedules the examination during the examination period at the end of the semester, and students must check for the notice of time and place.

Submission Requirements

All assignments, if any, are to be placed in the box provided for this purpose, which will be displayed outside the office area of the School of Accounting and Finance in building 40, 3rd floor, or outside the subject coordinator’s office (40.312). If instructed during the class to submit directly to your tutor or course coordinator, then this is to be done. Otherwise, no other place of submission is acceptable. Students should be clearly aware that under no circumstances is an assignment to be faxed to the School to avoid late penalties. Faxed assignments will not be accepted. If an assignment is to be posted to the School of Accounting and Finance, it must be postmarked clearly and the date of the postmark will be deemed to be the date of submission. No assignment will be accepted if emailed to the tutor, lecturer, course coordinator, or the School of Accounting and Finance. All assignments must have a School of Accounting and Finance cover sheet providing the course number, code, the name and student number of the student, the due date of the submission, the course coordinator and the tutor and tutorial time of the student submitting the assessment task. All pages of the assignment must be numbered with a maximum of 15 mm margin on both the left and right sides and 30 mm top and bottom margins. 1 ½ or 2 line spacing is permissible, but any wider spacing will be penalized, as well as excessive margins to inflate the impression of the length of the work.
The School of Accounting and Finance cover sheet is available on the web, at the following: http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/accy/resources/index.html.

More information will be provided to students as the submission date draws nearer.

**Acknowledgment/Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is not acceptable and will certainly result in the imposition of severe penalties. The University of Wollongong provides clear guidelines regarding the practice of plagiarism and how it can be avoided. Students are directed to the University of Wollongong handbook, located on the web at: http://www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/plagiarism.html

Students are reminded that there is a prohibition in this subject regarding the use of any work produced by another student, past or present, in the generation of any tutorial material. Any student found violating this prohibition will be severely penalized and a submission and report will be handed to the Faculty Investigation Committee to be permanently bonded to the student’s records. This constitutes academic misconduct and students have been expelled from this University for academic misconduct. In addition, the students should be aware that Professional bodies take a very dim view of those who practice dishonesty and many persons have been refused admission to the professional bodies on the basis of dishonest conduct. Honesty and integrity should be the foremost hallmark character attribute of any professional. Academic misconduct, therefore, is viewed as a loathsome practice.

Other examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Students improperly gaining knowledge of an assessment task or examination and using that knowledge in the assessment task or examination;
- Students forging the name of another student on a class role;
- Students having work prepared for them, for remuneration or otherwise, and submitting that work as their own.

**Extensions**

Extensions are almost never granted, except in very unique circumstances. If, however, a student encounters circumstances beyond the student’s control which interferes with the ability to complete an assessment task and submit in a timely manner, the student should make the matter known to the subject coordinator as soon as it arises and seek an extension prior to the assessment task’s due date. No extension will be granted on or after the due date of an assignment without proper submission of acceptable medical documentation. As this subject does not have a major assessment task, this section is less relevant than other classes.

**Late Penalties**

A penalty will be applied to any assignment not submitted on or prior to the due date of 10% for every day, or part thereof, that the assignment is late. This also includes the weekends, so if an assignment is due on Friday, but is handed in on Monday, the
penalty will be 30% of the marks available for that assignment. As the major assignment in this subject is worth 20 marks, if an assignment is submitted 3 days late, the student will be penalised 6 points. If the student would have received, say, 14 points out of the possible 20 on the assignment, this means that they will receive only 8 points \((14 - 6 = 8)\). Students have complained in the past that they were penalized 30% of the marks in the assessment task when it was submitted 10 (ten) minutes late on a Friday night. The answer to this complaint is for students to clearly understand that they have a professional obligation to meet deadlines and hand in work on time. **Any assignment submitted 7 days late or more will be penalised so heavily that the student will be deemed, in the absence of acceptable medical documentation or permission from the course coordinator, to have failed the subject.**

**Final Words of Grave Importance**

Each term, students are warned regarding the difficulty of class material, the need for continual and persistent effort, and the assumed accumulation of knowledge throughout the subject progression. Each term, students continually forsake these wise words, and depend too much on friends, attempt to cram for exams, plead with the subject coordinator for extended submission dates and leniency in the award of supplementary assessment tasks, such as supplementary exams, or for extra marks. Students should be clearly forewarned that they forsake wisdom at their own peril. The current subject coordinator is *notoriously* intolerant toward students who do not make sincere effort throughout the entire course. This subject builds each week upon material presented in previous sections and students should accept the University guidelines as a *minimum dedication* to the learning requirement in this subject. Steady and focused dedication is needed to do well in this subject. Good luck.

**Readings and Tutorial Questions**

**Readings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Beginning date</th>
<th>Text chapters</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>21 February</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>Intro to subject.basic Fin stats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>Ratio analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Time value of $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>6, 7</td>
<td>Valuation issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>8, 9</td>
<td>Decision-criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Break: 26-March to 3 April</td>
<td>Study hard for 1st test – 9 April</td>
<td>Chapters 1-7 test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Risk &amp; return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Beginning date</td>
<td>readings</td>
<td>Tutorial Questions</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>21 February</td>
<td>Ch. 1,2</td>
<td>No tutorials this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>Ch. 3,4</td>
<td>1:7,9,14, 2:13,20</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
<td>3:1,4,5,10,11 4:4,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Ch. 6,7</td>
<td>5:1,2,5,7,8,10,47,48</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Ch.8,9</td>
<td>6:1,7,11,21,26 7:14,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break: 26-March to 3 April</td>
<td>Study hard 😊</td>
<td><strong>9 April</strong> test 😊</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Ch. 10,11</td>
<td>8:10,12,16 9:1,12</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
<td>10:1,2,4 11:2,9,14,16</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>Ch. 13,14</td>
<td>12:1,4,10,15,18</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Ch. 15</td>
<td>13:5,15,19 14:13,14</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>Ch.,16, 17</td>
<td>15:2,6,7,9</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Work hard 😊</strong> 7 May test 😊</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9 May</td>
<td>Ch. 18, 19</td>
<td>16:8,10,16 17:2,9,15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>Ch.21</td>
<td>18:3,5,12 19:4,9</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>23 May</td>
<td>Ch 20 and review</td>
<td>21:2,13,21 - review</td>
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<tr>
<td>stuvac</td>
<td></td>
<td>Study hard 😊</td>
<td>exams start 😊</td>
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