

School of Economics and Finance

MOFI 406 – STRATEGIC PORTFOLIO THEORY

Trimester 1 2006

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Coordinator
Room and Phone
Email

Professor Glenn Boyle
RH 12.15 Phone: 463-7487 extn: 7487
glenn.boyle@vuw.ac.nz

Class Times and Room Numbers

Class times Thursday 9.30 – 11.20am
Office hours Thursday 2.00pm – 4.00pm

The examination period for 1st trimester is between 12th to 23rd June, 2006.

Course Objectives

This course provides a rigorous examination of modern theoretical research in long-run, or strategic, portfolio choice. Two themes are emphasized: (i) the prescriptive role of theory in aiding financial decision-making and (ii) the explanatory role of theory in resolving or highlighting empirical anomalies.

This course is designed for postgraduate students. Familiarity with introductory finance theory (e.g., MOFI 305), multivariate calculus, algebra, and basic probability and statistics is therefore assumed. You should be aware that this course is not easy: much of the material is technically challenging and most of it contains considerable conceptual subtlety. To paraphrase Keynes, "(finance) is a difficult and technical subject, but nobody will believe it."

Much of the formal class time will be spent in a quasi-seminar format. That is, discussion will flow both ways; you will be expected to ask and answer questions. In short, you cannot afford either to sleep or be ill-prepared. As preparation for class discussions, you will need to undertake assigned readings that I shall specify.

Readings

There is one text for this course:

J Campbell and L Viceira, 2002. *Strategic Asset Allocation*, Oxford University Press.
(and the accompanying appendix, available at:
<http://kuznets.fas.harvard.edu/~campbell/papers.html>)

You are not required to buy this book, but you will find life very difficult if you do not have ready access to it.

A reading list of relevant journal articles will also be provided. This consists of articles from which the course material is drawn. All are available on reserve at the library.

Assessment Requirements

1. Exam (50%):

Comprehensive examination of all course material. Date and time TBA.

You must pass the exam in order to pass the course.

2. Problem Sets (50%)

A series of problems requiring extension of the course material. All will count towards your grade. Unless otherwise advised, dates for these are:

	Handed Out	Due
Problem Set 1 (5%)	2 March	9 March
Problem Set 2 (15%)	16 March	30 March
Problem Set 2 (15%)	6 April	27 April
Problem Set 3 (15%)	18 May	2 June

All solutions must be typed and presented in accordance with *Journal of Finance* style formats.

Penalties

Late assignments will be not marked.

Communication of Additional Information

If you have questions about any aspect of the course, please feel free to come and see me during the office hours listed at the beginning of this document.

If you have questions outside these times, please send them by email. I shall attempt to respond asap by return email.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student Administration Office

The Student Administration Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce & Administration and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- FCA Student Administration forms (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).

- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

Check with the Student Administration Office for opening times (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor.

This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, or phoning 463-6070, email: disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, please contact the relevant Course Co-ordinator, or Associate Dean who will either help you directly or put you in contact with someone who can. The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/ or email student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building, phone 463 6983 or 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Maori and Pacific Mentoring programme (Faculties of Humanities and Social sciences and Commerce and Administration).

- **What:** Academic Mentoring for Maori and Pacific students studying at all levels in the above faculties. Weekly sessions for an hour with a mentor to go over assignments and any questions from tutorials or lectures. Registered students can use the faculty's study rooms and computer suite at any time at Kelburn and Pipitea.
- Mature student and Post grad network

If you would like to register as a mentor or mentee please contact the coordinator.

Where:

Melissa Dunlop, Programme Coordinator, Room 109 D, 14 Kelburn Parade: back courtyard
Ph: (04) 463 6015 - Email: Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz

Please Note: A mentoring room will also be running at Pipitea Campus starting January. Please contact the Programme Coordinator for details.