

School of Economics and Finance

**ECON-FINA 531 RESEARCH PAPER IN
ECONOMICS/FINANCE**

Trimester 3, 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Coordinator:

Dr. Chia-Ying Chang
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Office hours: by appointment.

Administrator:

Debbie Turner
Room 321, Rutherford House, Pipitea campus, Wellington
Phone: (04) 463-5380
E-mail: debbie.turner@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.

Lecturers: Staff in the School of Economics and Finance will act as supervisors.

Course website: <http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>

Pre-requisites: ECON-FINA 430.

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 2nd March – Friday 5th June.

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 13 March 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 15 May 2015. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks or [online](#).

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lecture time: All students are expected to meet their supervisors on regular basis.

Course Delivery

Students are expected to meet with their supervisors on regular basis and deliver the final paper on time.

Expected Workload

It is expected students will spend approximately 300 hours on their research. These hours are spread evenly over 12 teaching weeks and the mid-trimester break, averaging roughly 22 hours per week from the start of the course until the submission date of the project.

Prescription

Research paper on a selected topic in economics, econometrics or finance intended to answer a question or controversy related to the subject being studied.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Plan and carry out a small supervised desk research project on a specific topic in their subject area.
2. Present the results of their research coherently and in appropriate written format.

Course Content

Students will agree on a topic with a supervisor and prepare a literature review under the direction of the supervisor. The final report should include an analysis and synthesis of different views on this question expressed in the relevant literature, followed by the student's own conclusion.

Readings

It is expected that all students will read and cite extensively the academic literature in their chosen area of research. The university library has extensive online access to journals.

Assessment Requirements

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

The assessment is based on

10% of search strategy, criteria for selection, and summary of items to be included (maximum 1500 words). **Due on the Friday 13 March (week 2) to the supervisor.**

90% research essay (maximum 10,000 words). Please upload the final thesis on the Blackboard of ECON-FINA 531 no later than **5pm, Friday 5 June (week 12) 2015**. The due time is non-negotiable.

Your project may be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Penalties

For late submission of the project, penalties may apply, and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the

discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Examinations

There is no examination for this course.

Mandatory Course Requirements

1. Both assessments must be submitted on time.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected for the entire class of Honours, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students in class or via Blackboard.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.
