

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



**University  
of Victoria**

## **Course Outline**

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**Department of Economics**

**ECON 529 A01  
Economics of Finance  
Fall 2025, CRN 11139**

**Instructor:** Ke Xu  
**Office:** BEC 382  
**E-Mail:** kexu@uvic.ca

### **Class Information**

**Class time:** TF (A01) 11:00-12:20 @ BEC 363

**Regular Office Hour:** Wednesday 11:30-12:20 (starting January 17) at BEC 382 and Thursday 3:00-4:00 (starting January 27) on Zoom. See below for Zoom link.

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/81025564185?pwd=kxlz5pGlgMlO7D8WkYzhFF8ZH8CygQ.1>

**Email:** kexu@uvic.ca

### **Teaching and assessment modality statement**

This course is face to face and all exams are held in person.

### **Course Content**

This is a course on asset pricing and financial markets. Mastering concepts and models as well as demonstrating knowledge of some institutional details will matter for successful completion of this class. The models are organized around three principles: Capital Asset Pricing Model, Efficient Market Hypothesis, and Option Valuation. These principles are fairly abstract, and the associated models are quite mathematical.

We will cover fixed-income, equity and derivatives markets. This is viewed to be a challenging course. The course material is tricky and is best learned by hands-on involvement/active learning. There are two main active-learning components in this course. First, the exam material is best mastered by working on analytical problems – practice questions during the lecture and online assignment questions. Second, there are two group assignments involving empirical analysis with historical market data. Computational skills and academic writing are required to complete the assignments. Presentation skills are also required. A

group presentation is required for the second group assignment.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- *Students will be able to understand finance theory that is applicable in capital markets.*
- *Student can solve a problem of optimal portfolio selection.*
- *Student can understand Capital Asset Pricing Model and apply it to find trading opportunities.*
- *Student can work with financial market data to do portfolio analysis and firm valuation.*
- *Students will learn option trading strategies and option valuation.*

### **Repeating Courses**

Be aware of the policy regarding the repeating of courses; see [University Calendar](#).

In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the [Repeating Courses](#) policy on the Economics website.

Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course.

### **Textbook**

**Required Textbook:** The main textbook for this course is *Investments*, 9th Canadian Edition, by Bodie, Kane, Marcus, Perrakis and Ryan (McGraw-Hill Ryerson).

Weekly online assignments will be created on Accepi. You can register for Accepi at the following link: [accepi.com/register?t=c3C8QTTg](https://accepi.com/register?t=c3C8QTTg). Please register by September 30, 2025.

The assignments are designed for students to read the textbook before the lectures. These assignments are only accessible through Accepi. You can buy access to the online assignments at the link provided above.

### **Brightspace**

Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture notes will be posted in Brightspace. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures. All announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Students are advised to check it frequently.

### **Grading**

The final grade is determined as follows:

One Midterm (Oct 21)	20%
Two group assignments	30% (15% each)
Accepi online assignments	10%
Attendance	5%
Final (TBA)	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

**All exams are essential course requirements, meaning, they must be attempted in order to pass the course.**

Use of AI: Use of AI is not allowed for assignments and exams.

### **Mandatory/Essential Course Components**

All exams are essential course requirements. They must be attempted to pass the course. Note that essential course requirements are deferrable. Failure to complete **the midterm exam or final exam** will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

### **Exams Schedule**

Midterm	October 21
Final exam	To be announced

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the final exam timetable

has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination.

**Please note that you are expected to show up in person for every exam. The location of the exam will be announced in Brightspace. Attendance will be checked by the TA during the exam. If you missed one or more exams, you need to request an academic concession (RAC).**

**Midterm:** The date of the midterm exam is TBA. If you miss the midterm with a valid reason (see the departmental policy and the related medical form), the weight will be carried by the final exam. Should you miss an exam without prior approval of the instructor or appropriate medical proof, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam. *Note:* it is the student’s responsibility to provide medical documentation in a timely manner.

**Final exam:** It is scheduled on the last day of class. Participation for all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the [University Calendar](#).

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

### **Grading Scale:**

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F or N
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	50-59	0-49

Students should review the University’s more detailed [summary of grading](#).

### **Missing Assessments**

Missed exams: If you cannot complete an exam, please let me know as early as possible. You must make a formal request and state the reason for missing an exam clearly and explicitly. Please see details at [Undergraduate requests for academic concession \(RAC\)](#). I will confirm the alternative arrangement (based on the outline) by replying to your email. **Please note that if I do not get a formal request in email within a week from a missed exam (and reply to your email), you will not be considered for alternative arrangements.** For in-course extensions (i.e. missed midterm exams), please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#). In case you miss the final exam, please formally apply to [Request a Deferral](#) to write a deferred exam in person **in a scheduled deferred exam session**. You won't get a final grade until the deferred exam is taken. You need to complete at least one midterm exam to be eligible to take a deferred exam. If you missed both midterm exams, you should take the course again. The deferred exam may not be in the same format as the original exam.

Accommodations from CAL: please be advised that your instructor and the department unfortunately lack the resources available through the Center for Accommodated Learning (CAL) to provide identical accommodations. For those registered with CAL, we strongly advise you to secure your examination slots well in advance. It is essential to recognize that this responsibility rests with you, ensuring that you have ample time to make necessary arrangements.

I appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we strive to ensure a fair and supportive examination environment for all students.

### **Class Participation**

**Group Assignments:** They are designed to allow students to learn the materials in depth and prepare for the exams. They will be posted on Brightspace and should be submitted in the dedicated assignment drop-box in the Economics Department before their deadlines. You may discuss with other groups how to answer them. However, each group must submit your own work, independently written up. A group presentation is required for the second group assignment.

*Note:* If caught copying other students' answers, the assignment will receive a grade of 0, and will be counted directly in the overall grade for the course. In addition, the standard procedures pertaining Academic Integrity will also be initiated.

**Accepi Assignments:** Weekly online assignments will be created on Accepi. The assignments are designed for students to read the textbook before the lectures. These assignments are only accessible through Accepi. You can buy access to Accepi at [accepi.com/register?t=c3C8QTTg](https://accepi.com/register?t=c3C8QTTg). Please register by September 30, 2025.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken during the lecture by signing your name on an attendance sheet.

### **Technologies**

We will use Zoom, Microsoft 365, Accepi, and BrightSpace this term. All students are expected to be fully functional with them. Please check the tech guide for the key functions we use in this course. The university provides Zoom and Microsoft 365 to all students.

## **Course Policies**

This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following is some elaboration of these policies.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

- Show your respect. Do not create negative externality.

### **Academic Integrity**

- Please browse <http://library.uvic.ca/instruction/cite/plagiarism.html#whatis> for the definition of plagiarism.

### **Language**

- English is the instruction language at the University. Your enrollment implies that you can function with it. All communications between you and the classmates (in class), the instructor and the teaching assistant should be in English. You should make sure that all written work is complete and understandable. Dictionaries are not allowed in examinations.

### **Email**

- You may contact the instructor by email at [kexu@uvic.ca](mailto:kexu@uvic.ca). Please include your full name (the name in university records preferred) and lab section number in your email. Please write in a formal letter format and avoid inappropriate nicknames, email ids and signatures. Text message lingo should not be used.
- You should contact me by email primarily on matters that relate to missing mandatory/essential course components, e.g. you have a medical condition that prevents you from attending an exam or missing the lectures for a prolonged period. For questions about the course materials, it is best to ask them in class or during office hours.

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance:

### **Waitlist Policies**

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please, review.

University Policies

- University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Non-academic Student Misconduct](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Diversity / EDI](#)
- [Equity statement](#)
- Discrimination and Harassment [Policy](#)
- [Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness](#) - The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

### **Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response**

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca).

## **Resources for Students**

[UVic Learn Anywhere](#) - UVic Learn Anywhere is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.

[Centre for Accessible Learning](#) - Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Centre for Academic Communication](#) - Offers coaching on [academic integrity](#), including preventing accidental plagiarism. Provides support to students with time management, reading, writing, speaking, understanding academic expectations, and other aspects of academic communication as well as creating academic posters, blogposts, PowerPoint slides, and e-portfolios.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Support Connect](#) - a 24/7 mental health support service for students

- Toll-free (calls from North America): 1-844-773-1427
- International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

[Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Indigenous Student Services](#) - Indigenous UVic students have access to many sources of support on campus. Before, during and after your time at UVic, you are encouraged to explore programs and services available to you, such as [Indigenous counselling services](#) and the [Elders in Residence](#), as well as non-academic programs that may be of interest to you.

[International Student Support](#) - The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program.

For academic advising-related questions, students in the Economics Department are also encouraged to meet with the Economics Undergraduate Advisor (Brooklynn Comish-Trimble, [ecadvice@uvic.ca](mailto:ecadvice@uvic.ca)) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#).

The International Student Liason in the Economics Department is Dr. Paul Schure who can help you connect with other international and domestic students in the Department. His email address is [schure@uvic.ca](mailto:schure@uvic.ca). Please, reach out if you are interested.

### **Course Experience Survey (CES)**

I value your feedback, which I rely on to build the course and make it better. I'd appreciate it if you can share your experience and your suggestions with me any time during the term.

Towards the end of the term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to your CES dashboard. You will need to use your UVic Net Link ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you at the end of the term, but please think about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.