

Course Information

Instructor: Yuan Shi

Office: PHBS Building, Room 615

Phone: 86-755-2603-5230

Email: yuan.shi@phbs.pku.edu.cn

Office Hour: Mon 9:00 – 10:20

Teaching Assistant: Shuxuan Yu

Email: 2401212359@stu.pku.edu.cn

Classes:

Lectures: Monday & Thursday 3:30am- 5:20am

Venue: to be announced

Course Website:

<http://cms.phbs.pku.edu.cn/index.php>

Financial Markets 2025_F5Int

Please make sure to enroll to the website online ASAP in order to access to course materials. The enrolment key: FM2025_M2

Lecture notes will be posted the night before the class. You are supposed to download and bring your own copy.

1. Course Description

1.1 Context

Course overview:

The goal of this course is to provide an introduction into the financial markets. The course will discuss the basic role of financial markets, the types of financial assets and how they are traded.

Prerequisites: no

1.2 Textbooks and Reading Materials

Textbooks

The main textbook for the course is [“Investments” by Zvi Bodie, Alex Kane and Alan J. Marcus, McGraw-Hill/Irwin](#), 12th edition (2021), ISBN 9781260013832. This book is an excellent source of how modern financial markets work and explains the basic tools that financial economists use to analyse them. A large majority of the materials covered are also included in the 9th(2010), 8th edition (2008), 7th edition (2006) or 6th edition (2004) of the book, which are more affordable.

2. Learning Outcomes

2.1 Intended Learning Outcomes

Learning Goals	Objectives	Assessment
1. Our graduates will be effective communicators.	1.1. Our students will produce quality business and research-oriented documents.	Yes
	1.2. Students are able to professionally present their ideas and also logically explain and defend their argument.	Yes
2. Our graduates will be skilled in team work and leadership.	2.1. Students will be able to lead and participate in group for projects, discussion, and presentation.	Yes
	2.2. Students will be able to apply leadership theories and related skills.	
3. Our graduates will be trained in ethics.	3.1. In a case setting, students will use appropriate techniques to analyze business problems and identify the ethical aspects, provide a solution and defend it.	Yes
	3.2. Our students will practice ethics in the duration of the program.	Yes
4. Our graduates will have a global perspective.	4.1. Students will have an international exposure.	Yes
5. Our graduates will be skilled in problem-solving and critical thinking.	5.1. Our students will have a good understanding of fundamental theories in their fields.	Yes
	5.2. Our students will be prepared to face problems in various business settings and find solutions.	Yes
	5.3. Our students will demonstrate competency in critical thinking.	Yes

2.2 Course specific objectives

2.3 Assessment/Grading Details

40 points: Class project

50 points: Final exam

10 points: Class participation

Final grades are curved, the letter grades are given roughly by the following rule:

A: the top 30% of the class

B: above the lower 10% of the class

F: fail to participate in the group project or total final numerical score is less than 70

There will be no opportunities for extra credit. I count the class participating by random calls in class. Each time of missing a call costs 5 participating points. Personal reasons, other school business, or family

emergency will not be considered as excuses for missing class. For illness, you need to provide doctor's prescription. I will only consider upgrading marginal cases where a student's letter score is F. In this case, the student must have full class participation score, and none zero project score, and his/her final score should be at least 65. The upgrade is automatically applied, so no need to talk to me, no other upgrade will be considered in this class. There is little can be done after an unsatisfactory grade has been given.

Project:

One of the main goals of this class is to promote self-learning, problem solving and team work. These are vital skills for future success. To achieve this goal, I will assign team of 4-6 to prepare a class project on a pre-specified topic. The class project accounts for a considerable portion (40%) of your final score.

Nature of the project

Each team will be assigned to a topic closely related to current economy. Teams are expected to do independent research on the topic from various sources such as publications from library, internet, and collect data (from WIND, Bloomberg etc.) if necessary. Presentations are scheduled for Week 8, during which you will receive feedback that should be used to revise your PowerPoint. After making the necessary improvements, you are required to submit your final power point before the end of Week 9.

Team management

You are encouraged to form your team with students from different programs and nationalities. Working with team is essential. Once the team is assigned, the members cannot be changed. I will not interfere with work load assignment or how you interact with others. However, free-riding is not allowed. This means that you have to reach an agreement beforehand regarding how to work on the project. For any member who does not do his/her part, you should report to me, this member will not get the score for the group project which means he/she will fail this class.

Requirement for presentation

All presentations and PowerPoint slides must be in English and should be treated as practice for future professional presentations. The total score for the presentation is 40 points, divided into four categories: 10 points for group storytelling, 15 points for the quality of group materials, 10 points for individual delivery, and 5 points for the final PowerPoint.

Use of AI for project

Do not copy and paste AI-generated content without review. AI-generated material may be repetitive, illogical, or inaccurate. It is your responsibility to critically evaluate the content and verify its accuracy before using it. Cite your sources clearly. In your final PowerPoint presentation, you must clearly indicate the source of every piece of information, image, or material you reference. Ensure clarity and structure. Your project should reflect YOUR thinking—not the AI's. Make sure it is well-organized, logically structured, and clearly written.

Final Exam:

This is a closed-book exam, but you are allowed to bring two A4-sized cheat sheets. If you miss the exam, you will receive a zero with no exceptions. You are responsible for all content covered in the relevant textbook chapters (see below) as well as the material presented in lectures.

Course Evaluations:

At the end of the semester, please let me know what you liked and what you disliked about this class by taking advantage of the University's course evaluation system. I really appreciate your feedback – incorporating your suggestions will help me in updating the course for future generations of students.

2.4 Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

It is important for a student's effort and credit to be recognized through class assessment. Credits earned for a student work due to efforts done by others are clearly unfair. Deliberate dishonesty is considered academic misconducts, which include plagiarism; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; or altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying of data, research procedures, or data analysis.

All assessments are subject to academic misconduct check. Misconduct check may include reproducing the assessment, providing a copy to another member of faculty, and/or communicate a copy of this assignment to the PHBS Discipline Committee. A suspected plagiarized document/assignment submitted to a plagiarism checking service may be kept in its database for future reference purpose.

Where violation is suspected, penalties will be implemented. The penalties for academic misconduct may include: deduction of honour points, a mark of zero on the assessment, a fail grade for the whole course, and reference of the matter to the Peking University Registrar.

AI tools requirements:

Using AI tools to complete assignments or assessments without the approval of the course instructor will be regarded as an act of academic dishonesty. Depending on the severity of the situation, penalties will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Peking University Graduate Student Handbook.

For more information of plagiarism, please refer to *PHBS Student Handbook*.

3. Topics, Teaching and Assessment Schedule

Tentative Course Outline (details will change over the course of the semester):

Week	Topics	Textbook
1	Introduction, Efficient Market Hypothesis	Ch. 1, Ch. 11
2	Financial Market Participants and Their Balance Sheet	NA
3 & 4	Money and Bond Markets	Ch. 2
5 & 6	Equity Markets	Ch. 2
6 & 7	Security Trading and Derivatives	Ch. 3, Ch. 20, Ch. 22
8	Presentations	
9	Banks/Private Equity/Foreign currency	To Be Determined