



LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

BA 444 – International Securities and Foreign Exchange

Spring 2015 Course Syllabus

Course Number: **BA 444**

Course Title: **International Securities and Foreign Exchange**

Units: 4 (45 hours of lectures + 45 hours of self-study research projects)

Semester Offered: Spring 2015

Course Meeting Days: Tuesdays

Course Meeting Time: 3:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Course Meeting Place: TBD

Instructor Information:

Name: Daniel Sevall

E-mail Address: dsevall@lincolnuca.edu

Office Location: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

1. Course Description

The course includes an overview of the foreign exchange market (Forex), foreign securities, international equities markets, international debt securities, futures and options. The course describes the fundamental principles and operations on these markets. A one-unit written research project and its oral presentation are required for the course. (4 units)

2. Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand the major steps in the construction of an international investment portfolio.
- Identify types of financial markets and recent trends in various foreign markets.
- Determine the expected return and risk of portfolios that are constructed by combining risky assets with risk-free investments in Treasury bills.
- Provide interpretations of various stock market “anomalies”.
- Analyze the factors likely to affect the shape of the yield curve at any time.

- Predict the effect of monetary and fiscal policies on key macroeconomic variables such as gross domestic product, interest rates, and the inflation rate.
- Use a firm's income statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flows to calculate standard financial ratios.
- Formulate futures markets strategies for hedging or speculative purposes.
- Demonstrate the advantages of international diversification.

3. Instructional Methods:

Lecture method is used in combination with the case studies to provide a rich learning experience for the student. The course requires the practical use of a calculator, a computer, and the Internet to solve managerial accounting problems. The emphasis will be on learning by doing. Every student must participate in an intensive classroom activity. Reading, writing, and problem solving assignments will be made throughout the course.

4. Instructional Material and Texts

Financial Management: Theory and Practice, Brigham and Ehrhardt, 13th edition, 2011 (ISBN: 978-1-4390-7809-9)

There is a more current version of the above text, but the 13th edition is fine to use. We will use this text on a regular basis in addition to studying current events in Japan, Switzerland, the European Union, the United States, as well as other countries and regions.

Online Components of the Course

I will create a YahooGroups as a means of posting information, and offering an opportunity for you to ask questions regarding course material. I will plan on adding students to the Yahoo site, once the class rosters are finalized.

5. Academic Honesty Honor Code

The faculty, administration, and staff recognize their obligation to provide continuing guidance as to what constitutes academic honesty and to promote procedures and circumstances that will reinforce the principle of academic honor. Fundamental to the principle of independent learning is the requirements of honesty and integrity in the performance of academic assignments, both in the classroom and outside. Students should avoid academic dishonesty in all of its forms, including plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. The University reserves the right to determine in any given instance what action constitutes a violation of academic honesty and integrity.

6. Diversity

A diverse classroom is a better classroom. Sharing our experiences and our ideas contribute to our better understanding of the material. I will be committed to ensuring that all students receive the attention needed to grasp the key accounting concepts for this class. To that end, all questions relating to the course material will be answered in a timely fashion.

7. Requirements

All students are required to attend the class. Continuous assessment is emphasized. Students must complete all assignments and take all quizzes, mid-term exam and final exam ON THE DATES DUE. Plagiarism will result in the grade “F” and a report to the administration.

8. Assessment

A. Exams:

- Students must take a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course. The final exam is *comprehensive* and covers the material from the entire semester.
- Make-up exam policy: Students must take the exams as scheduled. No make-up exam will be given.
- Partial Credit is awarded on exams for problems (not multiple choice) when the computations are shown. Show all work on problems for maximum partial credit.
- Students may use laptops or programmable calculators. While these may help students in the calculation of certain accounting problems, ultimately the student will need to use critical reasoning to be successful in this course.
- Students may e-mail me to be informed of their respective grades.

B. Homework:

- Homework sets and due dates will be posted regularly.
- Solutions to some homework problems will be reviewed in class.
- Critical thinking essay, cases, and problems are included as part of the regular homework and class demonstration problems.

9. Grading and Assessment Criteria

Break-even Midterm	10%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%
Homework	10%
Case Analyses	10%
Research Project	25%
Final	35%
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Total	100%

Letter grades will be given based on the following scaling:

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	0 - 59

10. Expectations for Students

A. Attendance:

- Attendance at all classes is essential to acquiring the requisite information for successful completion of this course. The topics covered in this course are much related to each other. If you miss a lecture, it would be hard to catch up. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each session. Students are expected to show up to every class meeting and stay for the entire period.
- Students may attend either session of the lecture as space permits. Students must attend the exams during the session in which they are registered unless prior permission is obtained.
- Students are required to inform the instructor in advance by email or verbally in case of not being able to attend class.

B. Class Participation:

- Class participation is very essential to learning this subject. Be prepared to participate in class discussions (answering the questions and solving the problems), group work, and reviewing the homework.

C. Student Code of Conduct:

- Students are expected to respect the instructor and each other. Students must turn off their cell phones and pagers during the entire class time.

11. Course Schedule

Include dates of class meetings, topic, assignments, and assignment due dates.

Session 1 and 2	Foreign Exchange Rates
Session 3 and 4	Introduction to Options Strategy
Session 5 and 6	Case Studies: Switzerland's de-pegging from the Euro-Currency
Session 7	Midterm
Session 8 and 9	Case Study: Japan and "Abenomics"
Session 10 and 11	Valuations of Precious Metals, Commodities and Equities
Quantitative Easing	
Session 12	Presentations
Session 13	Course Review
Session 14	Final Exam

12. Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to modification. I am committed to letting students know changes to the syllabus as soon as feasible.

Last Update: 1/17/2015