



Lincoln University
BA 444 – International Securities and Foreign Exchange
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2023

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| Instructor: | Dr. Mohamed Tailab |
| Lecture Schedule: | Wednesday, 3:30 – 6:15 pm |
| Credits: | 4 units (3 units/45 lecture hours + 1 unit individual research) |
| Level | Mastery 2/Research (M2R) |
| Office Hours: | Tuesday, 11:45 am – 12:30 pm, 4th Floor, Room, 402 Thursday, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, 4th Floor, Room 402 |
| Textbooks: | Tim Weithers “Foreign Exchange: A Practical Guide to the FX Markets” Wiley, 2013 ISBN-10: 0471732036 |
| Last Revision: | July 29, 2023 |
| NOTE: | This schedule is subject to change |



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) Prerequisite: BA 303

Course Objectives

To introduce students to the basic concept of international currency, securities, and futures markets, foreign exchanges including their specifics and time shifts, trading techniques, market analysis, investment strategies, and risk management to optimize investment and minimize risk.

Course Learning Outcomes¹

| | Course learning outcomes (CLOs) | Program Learning Outcomes | Institutional Learning Outcomes | Assessment activities |
|----------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Understand how international financial markets work | PLO 1 | ILO 1c, ILO 2c | Assignments, Midterm/ final exams |
| 2 | Be familiar with the modern trading approaches | PLO 2 | ILO 1c, ILO 2c, ILO 4c | Assignments, quizzes, Midterm/ final exams |
| 3 | Be able to implement a trading strategy in accordance with financial and business objectives | PLO 5 | ILO 4c, ILO 5c | Assignments; Midterm and Final |

¹ Detailed description of learning outcomes and information about the assessment procedure are available at the [Learning Outcomes Assessment](#) section of LU website.

Other Materials

Large notebook, mechanical pencil, eraser, pen, simple calculator, 3” x 5” index cards, rubber bands, ruler, and tab dividers. Assignments and projects require students to actively use resources of the library. Detailed guide to business resources of the library as well as the description of Lincoln University approach to information literacy are available at the [LU Library](http://lincolnuca.libguides.com) website (lincolnuca.libguides.com).

Keys to Success in International Securities and Foreign Exchange

To success in International Securities and Foreign Exchange you need to follow these steps:

1. Before class, read the PowerPoint slides posted on Canvas.
2. Take notes in the class; summarize the main ideas in your index cards.
3. If you are having difficulty, read the specified pages of the textbook and work through the end of chapter problems and solutions to supplement your understanding of the material.
4. If you are still facing some challenges, stop by my office either during office hours or any time by appointment through e-mail.

Grading

All activities will be graded according to the points as shown below.

| Grade | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | F |
|---|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Points | 95-100 | 90-94 | 87-89 | 84-86 | 80-83 | 77-79 | 74-76 | 70-73 | 67-69 | 60-66 | 0-59 |
| Tentative Weights | Participation and Homework | | | | | 10% | | Course group project | | | 10% |
| | Quizzes | | | | | 5% | | Mid-term exam | | | 25% |
| | Course individual project | | | | | 25% | | Final Exams | | | 25% |
| <p>Note: No student will get a grade above B+ without presenting, handling every homework and report, and taking the midterms. Missing the final exam will result in a failing grade for the course, no matter how much points you have accumulated.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared to take quiz and participate. If for some reason you are running late, do not skip the class. I prefer that you come late than not at all. If you must leave class early, please tell the instructor before class starts. If you cannot attend the class or other activities such as homework or quizzes for a strong reason, please inform the instructor in advance so that arrangements can be made to complete any missed work after the absence. All communication and electronic devices should be turned off or silent in the classroom (cell phones, music devices, etc.). **Please, do not eat food in class. It is distracting to me and your fellow students. Bottled water, coffee, tea, soft drinks, etc.**

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class session. If you cannot attend a class due to a valid reason, please notify the instructor prior to the class. Students will not receive any credit for missed assignments or quizzes.

Administrative policies on absences from classes are as follows:

- A student receives a warning notice after missing 20% of class meetings completed in a course.
- A student is placed on probation after missing 30% of class meetings completed in a course.
- A student may be dismissed after missing more than 40% of class meetings completed in a course

General safety on campus

The capacity of the elevator is four people, please practice common sense and do not take it if you are the fifth person.

Homework

The homework problems cover all chapters from 1 through 14 in the textbook. The assignments will be posted on canvas. After each deadline, assignments will no longer be accepted. These assignments must be typed and uploaded to the e-campus platform (Canvas). They must be submitted on time. Please do not send them via email. If you did, you will not be graded. No homework will be accepted after the final due date. The first assignment is to read the course syllabus, which would be delivered by hand. Otherwise, the syllabus can be downloaded from the LU website, and is available on Canvas as well.

Quizzes

Eight (8) lesson quizzes will be given at the very beginning of the class. The primary purpose of these quizzes is to encourage and reward the student's timely progress through the course materials. Each lesson quiz covers only the material for the previous lecture. Each lesson quiz consists of some combination of true/false, multiple choice, and calculated questions. Only the 5 best out of the 8 possible quiz scores will be used in determining a student's final grade. **There will be no makeup quizzes given.**

Exams

Two exams [**Written Essay Exams and Closed Book**] will be given throughout the course. Each exam will run for two hours. Please note that the exams will be given from [**3:30-5:30 pm**]. If you need additional time on an exam because of a university-recognized disability, I must be informed directly by the admission office. I will make whatever accommodations are recommended by them. The exams are not comprehensive and will cover only the materials indicated in the box below. Students are expected to take all exams at the scheduled time in the classroom. If a student is unable to take an exam at the scheduled time due to an emergency or extenuating circumstance, the student can take the exam during the instructor's office hours.

Gum Chewing during exams: Please be advised that gum chewing may impede the concentration process of your fellow students because gum chewing can be noisy and distracting to other students.

Course Projects

- Every student who is enrolled for 4 units must complete, submit, and present the assigned group course project. Students, who are enrolled for 1 unit, may skip this group project.
- Every student must complete an individual assigned course project (1 unit). The project requires 45 hours of self-study.

Exams Preparation

In order to perform well on exams, the students must study as a group. One week before each exam, a sample exam with solutions will be posted on canvas. These sample exams will assist the students in preparing for the exams. Students **MUST** come to the exam with a pencil, eraser, and a simple calculator (cell phones will not be allowed as calculators).

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from a 0 or F on an assignment, through an F for the course, to expulsion from the university. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the

incident to the Dean of Students, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action.

Academic Honesty

In the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property. Accordingly, Lincoln expects the highest standards of honesty and integrity from all members of the academic community. As a student, you must know that all forms of cheating, falsification, and plagiarism are against the rules of this course and of Lincoln University. It is your responsibility for asking the instructor for clarification, if you are not sure of what constitutes academic dishonesty are.

Discussion and Participation

Participation includes preparing for class, completing assignments on time, engaging in class discussions and team presentations and homework explanations. Students are expected to be prepared for and participate in each week. You would lose some participation points if you were absent without informing the instructor, and if your behavior in the class obstructs other students to learn by leaving and returning to class while it is in session.

Extra Help

If you find the course material challenging, please see me anytime. So, I can help you by clarifying lecture material. Additionally, do not wait to see me, if you are struggling.

Methods of Instruction

The instructor will conduct the course by giving lectures, facilitating solutions to in-class exercises, and conducting discussions to encourage class participation by students. Students must read each chapter before class according to the tentative schedule provided (see below), and they are responsible to ask questions and request clarifications during the class session. The PowerPoint slides are designed to give students a head start in learning course materials, but they are not intended to substitute.

Recording of Lectures

Audio and/or video recording of lectures is prohibited unless the student has a learning disability that requires such recording, and it must be used only by the person making them and must be destroyed at the end of the semester.

E-mail and Canvas

E-mail and Canvas are required for this course. E-mail is the best way to contact the instructor. E-mails are generally answered within 24 hours during the week. If you do not hear from me within that time, please contact me again. Students are required to use their university e-mail for correspondence and are responsible for checking their account daily for correspondence from the lecturer.

Work Ethics

Lincoln University instructs and evaluates students on work ethics. These work ethics have been identified and defined as essential for student success: appearance, attendance, attitude, character, communication, cooperation, organizational skills, productivity, respect, and teamwork. So,

Lincoln University' students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of these 10-character traits in their behavior as well as their coursework.

Recommendation Letters

Students are eligible to apply for a Board Trustees Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded from funds provided by the University. The instructor gives only two recommendation letters one week before the semester ends. The best candidates should match the work ethics.

Course Schedule

| # | Week | Topic | Chapters |
|----|--------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | 23-Aug | (a) About the Course (b) Money and Currency | Ch.1 |
| 2 | 30-Aug | Trading Money | Ch. 2 |
| 3 | 6-Sep | Markets, Prices, and Market making | Ch. 3 |
| 4 | 13-Sep | Interest Rates | Ch. 4 |
| 5 | 20-Sep | Brief History of Foreign Exchange | Ch. 5 |
| 6 | 27-Sep | Foreign Exchange Spot Market | Ch. 6 |
| 7 | 4-Oct | Foreign Exchange Arbitrage and Spot Market | Ch. 6 |
| 9 | 11-Oct | Midterm Exam | Chs. 1-6 |
| 10 | 18-Oct | (a) Foreign Exchange Forwards (b) Foreign Exchange Forwards | Ch. 8 Ch. 8 |
| 11 | 25-Oct | Foreign Exchange Futures | Ch. 9 |
| | 1-Nov | Foreign Exchange Swaps | Ch.10 |
| 12 | 8-Nov | Foreign Exchange Options | Ch. 11 |
| 13 | 15-Nov | Fundamental and Technical Analyses | Ch. 13 |
| | 22-Nov | Fall recess | |
| 15 | 29-Nov | Course Project Presentations | |
| 16 | 6-Dec | Final Exam | Ch. 8-13 |

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT (1 UNIT)

Each student registered for a 400-level course must complete a one-unit research project in addition to the coursework described in this syllabus. The specific topic will be assigned by the instructor.

The project requires 45 hours of independent study with regular consultations in accordance with the schedule determined by the instructor. The project work results in a written report (not less than 15 pages; APA style) and an oral presentation during the class session.

Evaluation of the student's work on the Individual Research Project will be done using the following rubric:

| WRITTEN REPORT | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | <i>Exceeds Standards</i> | <i>Meets Standards</i> | <i>Does Not Meet Standards</i> | <i>Not Present</i> |
| <i>Research Problem Statement</i> | The statement of a research problem is crystal clear, novel, and thought provoking | Clearly and concisely identifies a research problem | The statement of a research problem is incomplete, lacking precision. | The statement of a research problem is absent. |
| <i>Organization</i> | The report is logically organized; ideas are exceptionally well-developed and support a thoughtful and engaging conclusion. | The development of ideas is present; the conclusion is effective and directly addresses the original thesis. | Organization is confusing, disjointed, and inconsistent; ideas, if present, are not developed; the conclusion is vague and/or does not address the original thesis. | The report lacks organization |
| <i>Sources and formatting</i> | A variety of high-quality sources is used; all factual claims are supported with citations. The report follows the APA style guidelines. | A few high-quality sources are used; majority of factual claims are supported with citations. The report mostly follows the APA style guidelines. | Sources used are of a questionable quality; factual claims are not supported. Use of APA style is inconsistent. | Sources are not identified or of a poor quality; factual claims are unsubstantiated. The report is poorly formatted |
| PRESENTATION | | | | |
| | <i>Exceeds Standards</i> | <i>Meets Standards</i> | <i>Does Not Meet Standards</i> | |
| <i>Style and Organization</i> | Presentation is clear, confident, and fully engaging; the use of visual aids enhances its effectiveness; the presentation is well timed and structured. | Presentation is clear; the use of visual aids is not detrimental to audience engagement; all necessary components are given appropriate time. | Presentation lacks clarity, no attempt is made to engage the audience; visual aids are haphazard and distracting; lack of structure results in an inefficient use of time. | |
| <i>Questions and Answers</i> | Student demonstrates extensive knowledge of the topic by providing confident, precise, and appropriate responses to all audience questions. | Student demonstrates knowledge of the topic by responding adequately to questions of the audience. | Student demonstrates lack of knowledge of the topic by responding inaccurately and inappropriately to audience questions. | |