

Higher School of Economics, Moscow

Syllabus for Introduction to Finance

Class teacher: Kristina Sosnina

Contacts: kristina.sosnina.ol@gmail.com

1. Course description

“Finance” is an introductory course for international students. The course is taught in English. The course develops theoretical framework for understanding and analysing major financial problems in market environment. The approach of the course is analytical and emphasizes the link between microeconomics, banking and finance.

2. Course prerequisites

Basic knowledge of calculus is required. The course itself provides a basis for more advanced courses in banking and finance such as Asset Pricing and Financial Markets, Corporate Finance, Investment Management, etc.

3. Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are:

- to expand the students' knowledge in the field of banking and finance and to make them ready to analyse real situations;
- to provide students with the knowledge of the key concepts of modern theory of finance and the consequences of asymmetric information and transaction costs on banking;
- to develop the students' ability to apply the knowledge acquired to the analysis of specific cases, recognising the proper framework of analysis.

4. Intended Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should:

- be able to discuss
 - ✓ the main theoretical and empirical drivers of financial and real asset valuation,
 - ✓ main differences between financial systems,
 - ✓ the role and origins of financial intermediaries,
 - ✓ the methods used by banks to manage various types of risk,
 - ✓ the rationale for bank regulation.
- be prepared for further units which require a knowledge of principles of banking and finance;
- be capable to work in a team.

5. Forms of control and grades determination

The course consists of 18 three-hour classes (4 academic hours each).

Control takes the following forms:

- individual home assignments (HA);
- group assignments (GA);
- quizzes (small tests during the class);
- written mock exam in the middle of the course (mock);
- written final exam at the end of the course (final).

Final grade = 10% × Class participation + 20% × HAs + 10% × GAs + 30% × Mock + 30% × Final

There are no retakes for home assignments, group assignments, quizzes and mock exam. Retake exam is organized in accordance with the [HSE Interim and Ongoing Assessment Regulations](#)

Sample materials for knowledge assessment will be available in information system.

6. Course outline

№	Topic	Total Hours	Class hours	Self-study hours
1	Introduction. Basic principles of finance	8	4	4
2	Basic principles of accounting	16	8	8
3	Structure of financial markets	16	8	8
4	Banking sector	24	12	12
5	Mock exam	4	4	-
6	Project valuation methods	16	8	8
7	Assets pricing	16	8	8
8	Market efficiency	8	4	4
9	Fintech	16	8	8
10	Revision	8	4	4
11	Final exam	4	4	-
Total		136	72	64

7. Literature

Main Reading

- Mishkin, F., Eakins, S., *Financial Markets and Institutions*, Global edition (Pearson International, 2013)
- Berk, J., DeMarzo, P., *Corporate Finance*, 2nd edition (Pearson, Boston, 2011)
- Brealey, R.A., Myers S.C., Allen, F., *Principles of Corporate Finance*, 10th edition (McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2011)
- Saunders, A., Cornett, M., *Financial institutions management*, 2nd edition (McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2000)

Further Reading and Resources

Will be uploaded into the system