Financial Markets and Institutions
Syllabus

Course Information	
Academic Year & Semester	115/1, 2026 Fall
Class Schedule	Thursday, 10:10 – 13:00
Venue	Room 201, College of Management
Credit(s)	3, Compulsory, for Undergraduate Students
Prerequisites	Financial Management I & II, Investments
Instructor Contacting Information	
Instructor	Dr. Chia-Hsien Lin
Contact Email	amberchlin@alum.ccu.edu.tw
Office Hour	Thursday 13:00 – 15:00
Office Location	Office 339, College of Management

- Feel free to reach out by email to schedule an appointment if you would like to discuss any matters with the instructor. Please note that the instructor may not be available without a prior appointment.
- Please ensure to include your name and maintain a polite tone in all email correspondence. Emails without a name or lacking politeness will not receive a response from the instructor.

Course Description

This course aims to explore the fundamentals of financial markets and financial instruments, as well as the characteristics of modern financial market formation. It emphasizes the practical application of financial instruments, delves into various types of financial institutions, and examines their roles and functions within the financial markets.

The knowledge, skills, and competences acquired through the study of this discipline will prove valuable for specialists in finance, banking, exchange business, and solving various administrative, analytical, research, settlement, and economic challenges. Furthermore, this knowledge will serve as a foundation for grasping financial concepts and applying analytical tools to develop effective financial strategies.

Class sessions encompass both lectures and in-class practice. The lectures are meticulously crafted to acquaint students with fundamental concepts and their practical applications. A written examination (closed-book), comprising tests and problems, is a mandatory component of the learning process.

Textbook & References

Required textbook

- Financial Markets and Institutions (2024 Release), 9th Edition, Anthony Saunders, Marcia Millon Cornett, and Otgontsetseg (Otgo) Erhemjamts (ISBN: 9781266825811)

  The instructor reserves the right to adjust this syllabus as necessary. Any modifications will be communicated through class announcements.

Course Schedule

W1 (9/10)	Course introduction Chapter 1: Introduction
W2 (9/17)	Chapter 2: Determinants of Interest Rates
W3 (9/24)	Chapter 2: Determinants of Interest Rates Chapter 3: Interest Rates and Security Valuation
W4 (10/1)	Chapter 3: Interest Rates and Security Valuation
W5 (10/8)	Chapter 5: Money Market
W6 (10/15)	Chapter 5: Money Market
W7 (10/22)	Chapter 6: Bond Market In-course Discussion of Case Analysis [2 hours]
W8 (10/29)	**Midterm Examination**
W9 (11/5)	Chapter 6: Bond Market Mid-term Progress Check [2 hours]
W10 (11/12)	Chapter 7: Mortgage Market
W11 (11/19)	Chapter 7: Mortgage Market
W12 (11/26)	Chapter 8: Stock Market In-course Discussion of Case Study [2 hours]
W13 (12/3)	Chapter 8: Stock Market In-course Discussion of Case Study [2 hours]
W14 (12/10)	Chapter 8: Stock Market **Deadline of Case Analysis**
W15 (12/17)	**Final Examination**
W16 (12/24)	Review Session
W17 (12/31)	Flexible Course
W18 (1/7)	Flexible Course

Evaluation Criteria

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on the following:

- Exams (50%, 25% for each)
- Case Analysis (40%)
- Class Participance (10%)

Exams (50%)

- There will be one midterm and one final closed-book exam.
- All class discussions will be covered in exam, including those not in the textbook. Therefore, students who miss any class meetings cannot complain about unfamiliar content appearing in the exams.
- Absence from the exams will not be excused, except for serious medical reasons supported by a doctor's letter (explaining why the student couldn't participate). There will be no make-up exams for other reasons.
- A final exam review session will be held during week 15, during which students will have the opportunity to check their answers and review the exam. Please note that students who do not attend the review session will not be permitted to dispute their final exam results or the overall course grade.

Case Analysis (40%)

- Students must form groups of 5 to 6 members by Week 3. Group composition will remain fixed throughout the semester. Groups may freely select one case from the provided reference list based on their interest.
    - To ensure diversity, each case is available on a first-come, first-served basis (maximum of two groups per case).
- Each group must conduct a comprehensive analysis and prepare a detailed slide deck. The presentation should cover necessary analytical frameworks (e.g., SWOT analysis, scenario analysis, valuation models) and deliver clear, actionable recommendations addressing the case questions.
    - The instructor will conduct an in-advance progress check during Week 9 to provide guidance and feedback.
    - The final version of your analysis slides must be uploaded to eCourse2 by Week 14.
- Group assessments account for 40% of your final course grade, structured as follows:
    - Group Performance (25%): A shared grade based on the collective outputs and deliverables of your group.
    - Individual Contribution (15%): Personalized score based on your active involvement and peer evaluations.
- To ensure fairness and accountability, an anonymous online peer evaluation survey will be administered in Week 15 and due in Week 16.
    - Every student must evaluate all team members by assigning a contribution score and providing detailed qualitative feedback on each member's specific tasks and responsibilities.
    - Individual scores for group participation and case studies will be adjusted based on these survey results.

  - Assigning identical or maximum scores to all group members is strictly prohibited. If a student submits uniform grades for all team members, that student will automatically receive the lowest contribution score awarded within their group.

- Students have an optional opportunity to earn up to 8 bonus points added directly to their final course grade.
  - Students should select a real-world Taiwanese company facing a strategic or financial challenge similar to the one in your assigned case, and conduct a parallel case analysis using the same framework.
  - This is a group-based bonus project. Group members may choose whether to participate; not all team members are required to join. Participating members will get the bonus points based on their submission.
  - Interested students/groups must submit their member list, target company, and proposed topic to the instructor before Week 9. Late declarations will not be accepted.

Class Participation (10%)

- Throughout the semester, there will be 4 to 5 in-class problem-solving sessions.
  - These exercises feature advanced application questions based on the concepts and examples taught during the lecture.
  - Sufficient class time will be dedicated for students to work on these problems, and students are encouraged to check their calculations, steps, and final answers with the instructor during the session.

- Your overall participation grade depends on the cumulative number of correctly completed sessions:
  - 2 or More Correct Sessions: Earns 10 / 10 Points (Full Credit)
  - 1 Correct Session: Earns 6 / 10 Points
  - 0 Correct Sessions: Earns 0 / 10 Points

- Since 4 to 5 sessions are offered throughout the semester while only 2 correct sessions are required for full credit, multiple buffer opportunities have already been built into the system to accommodate personal circumstances.
  - Consequently, no make-up sessions will be provided for missed classes. Any absence including sick leave, official university leave, or personal leave will be counted toward the total number of missed sessions.