

MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

ECON 867
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
Semester 1, 2009 – Thursday Classes
Unit Outline

Lecturer in Charge: Dr. George Milunovich

Students should read this outline carefully at the start of semester. If you have any questions regarding the contents of the outline contact the lecturer-in-charge as soon as possible.

1. Course Overview

The focus of ECON867 is to provide the student with a thorough introduction to the analytical tools required by a financial manager to operate in the international business environment. This includes developing a full understanding of the foreign exchange market and its operation; the relationships between exchange rates, interest rates, and price levels; the financial instruments that facilitate the conduct of international corporate activity, including currency risk management; and how international corporations make financing and investment decisions.

2. Teaching Program

Lecturer	Class Times and Locations	Office Hours:
Dr. George Milunovich Office: E4A 443 Phone: 9850 8543 gmilunov@efs.mq.edu.au	Attend ONE of the following two: Thu 9:00 – 12:00 E7B T3 or Thu 18:00-21:00 W6B 336	To be Announced

The class sessions will be conducted typically conducted as lectures, with practical examples and problems introduced where appropriate.

The text for this class is:

Eiteman, David; Stonehill, Arthur; Moffett, Michael (2007)
Multinational Business Finance, **Eleventh (international) Edition**
Pearson Addison Wesley Inc., Boston.

Set chapters for each topic's lecture are drawn from this text and identified in the lecture topic table below. Students should read these chapters prior to the lecture, so that they are familiar with the material to be covered. This will greatly enhance your learning experience. An additional resource is the textbook webpage that contains solutions for selected end-of-chapter problems, internet exercises, a glossary and other additional information. This site may be accessed at <http://www.aw-bc.com/eiteman>.

Other reference texts addressing international financial management topics may be found in the library. Three such references are:

- Moosa, Imad A., (2004) *International Finance: An Analytical Approach*, 2nd Edition, Irwin/McGraw-Hill, Sydney.
- Juttner, D. Johannes, (1998) *International Finance and Global Investments*, 4rd edition, Addison Wesley Longman Australia Pty Limited, Frenchs Forest.

3. Course Calendar

Topic/ week No.	The Week of:	Topic	Chapters
1	26 February	Comparative Corporate Governance and Financial Goals The International Monetary System	1&2
2	5 March	International Monetary System The Balance of Payments	2&3
3	13 March	International Parity Conditions	4
4	19 March	Foreign Exchange Determination and Forecasting	5
5	26 March	The Foreign Exchange Market	6
6	2 April	Foreign Currency Derivatives	7
7	9 April	Mid-semester test (one hour duration) Transaction Exposure	8
Mid-semester Break			
8	30 April	Transaction Exposure Operating Exposure	8&9
9	7 May	Global Cost and Availability of Capital Sourcing Equity Globally	11&12
10	14 May	Financial Structure and International Debt Interest Rate and Currency Swaps	13&14
11	21 May	International Portfolio Theory and Diversification	15
12	28 May	Foreign Direct Investment Theory and Management Political Risk Assessment and Management	16&17
13	4 June	Multinational Capital Budgeting Cross-Border Mergers, Acquisitions, and Valuation	18&19

4. Important Dates for the Semester

Mid-semester test: **Week 7** (to be held in our usual classroom).

Mid-semester break: **10 April – 26 April**

Assignment is due: **4 June** (hardcopies to be submitted to boxes provided in ERIC + electronic copies online)

Final exam: **To be Announced**

5. Course Assessment

Assessment will be based on participation in online discussions, a semester assignment, a mid-semester test and an examination, with the following weights:

Participation in Online Discussions	5%
Assignment	15%
Mid-semester test	20%
Examination	60%

The final exam MUST be passed for you to gain a passing mark in this unit.

- **ONLINE DISCUSSIONS**

Points will be awarded only for relevant discussions on Topics 1 – 13 using the following formula: (Number of Topics Discussed/13)*5%. You have two weeks following the topic's week to post your discussion.

- **MID-SEMESTER TEST**

The mid-semester test will be a multiple choice quiz of one hour duration. It will cover everything taught up to and *including* **Topic 6 “Foreign Currency Derivatives”**.

ASSIGNMENT - NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

The specific essay topic will be provided in a separate handout, on the unit homepage. The assignment is to be submitted by **June 4, 2009** to the ECON867 boxes in ERIC (E4B) as well as online.

The essay must be submitted using the official cover sheet, with the plagiarism declaration (available on the unit homepage) **signed**. It is your responsibility to keep a dated, witnessed copy of your assignment in the case of any mishandling.

- **FINAL EXAM**

It will consist of both multiple choice and long-answer questions and will be set over a two-hour duration.

In addition to the assignment, mid-semester test, and the exam there will be weekly problems assigned, which you are recommended to solve. You will not be required to submit these solutions and they will not be marked. *Nevertheless, you should take the time to work on the problem sets, since they will tend to be similar in nature to the problems you see on the test and exam.* Solutions will be provided for the assigned selected questions.

6. Learning Outcomes

The globalization of financial markets offers opportunities but it also introduces new risks. As a response, novel investment techniques and market as well as credit risk management models have been introduced or are in the development stage. This unit, will help you manage, and keep abreast of, changes which will accompany you in your future professional career.

Generic Skills: Dealing with advanced material in our subject area requires a range of generic skills. This unit aims at developing such skills. The lectures and in particular the assignment are tailored to enhance critical analysis, problem-solving and creative thinking, comprehension, computing and writing skills. Class discussions promote verbal expression while contributions to the *Bulletin Board* improve your

writing skills, which through email serve as an increasingly important communication medium. However, you will only acquire these skills by attending classes, immersing yourself into solving the assignment questions and participating in verbal and written class debates.

7. Plagiarism

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: “Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one’s own.” Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University’s rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University’s practices and procedures on plagiarism. These may be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at : <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the steps that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

8. University Policy on Grading

The Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across a range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardized numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (i.e., the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the Senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, and so that students with similar performances compared with past students should achieve similar results.

It is important that you realize that the policy does not require that a minimum number of students be failed in any unit. In fact, it does something like the opposite, requiring examiners to explain their actions if more than 20% of the students fail a unit. The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher raw mark than another student will also receive a higher final scaled mark.

For an example of the policy see

<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/MQUonly/Issues/Guidelines2003.doc> or
<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/MQUonly/Issues/detailedguidelines.doc>

9. Student Support Services

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.