

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Division of Economic and Financial Studies



**UNIT OUTLINE
2004**

**FIN 310
ISSUES IN APPLIED FINANCE**

**Dr. Ronald D. Ripple
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Unit overview

This unit attempts to provide an understanding of how theory and practice mesh in cutting-edge issues in applied finance.

Lectures are presented by leading practitioners from the finance industry, who outline and discuss with students the latest models and techniques. These are supplemented by lectures from experienced university staff.

Presenters are also often more than willing to answer informal questions about what the industry expects from graduates in finance, how best to obtain and survive an interview, how to get a challenging and promising position in the finance and investment industry, how to plan a successful career, and the mistakes to avoid.

The list of presenters, their affiliations and their topics, and the dates of their presentations is given below.

Unit meeting and lecturer contact info

Lecturer	Class Location	Class Time	Contact	Consultation Times
Dr. Ronald D. Ripple	C5C T1	Monday: 6-9pm	Office: C5C 364 Phone: 9850 7063 Email: rripple@efs.mq.edu.au	Tuesday: 10am-noon Wednesday: 2pm-4pm

Assessment

The unit assessment will be based on a semester essay and an examination, with the following weights:

Semester essay: 25%
Examination: 75%

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

The essay is to be 2000 words in length. The topic will be selected by the student, and will be drawn from one of the topic areas to be lectured on during the semester. Additional details related to formatting, etc. will be provided in a separate handout. The due date for the essay is 28 May 2004.

The examination will be comprised of both multiple choice and long-answer questions.

Class/lecture preparation

It will typically be the case that the overheads for each lecture will be available in ERIC and on the WebCT by the end of the day, on the Thursday prior to the lecture. Occasionally there will be additional suggested reading available at the same time.

FIN310 Prize

The *Australian Financial Review Prize in Applied Finance* is awarded each year to the most outstanding student in FIN310. The prize is kindly sponsored by the Australian Financial Review and is valued at \$250 plus a six month complimentary subscription to the AFR.

Lecture and Topic Schedule

Week	Date	Lecturer and Topic
1	1 March	Dr. Ronald D. Ripple (Macquarie University) <i>Introduction, and Ethics, Codes of Conduct, and the Finance Industry</i>
2	8 March	Dr. Ronald D. Ripple (Macquarie University) <i>Real options valuation</i>
3	15 March	Ms. Jennifer Elliott (Managing Director, Moodys) <i>The Credit Rating Process</i>
4	22 March	Mr. Tim Stringer (Property Portfolio Manager, AMP) <i>Commercial Property Investment</i>
5	29 March	Mr. Tim Stringer (Property Portfolio Manager, AMP) <i>Commercial Property Investment</i>
6	5 April	Mr. David Pearson (Head of Risk Operations, Trading Risk Management, Westpac) and Dr. Giulio Katis (Quantitative Analyst, Trading Risk Management, Westpac) <i>Managing Market Risk</i>
Mid-semester Break		
7	26 April	ANZAC DAY – NO CLASS
8	3 May	Mr. Martin Stockley-Smith (Sydney Futures Exchange) <i>Clearing Operations</i>
9	10 May	Ms. Olivia Howell (Australian Equities, GMO Australia) and Mr. Sean Gleason (Australian Equities and Tactical Asset Allocation, GMO Australia) <i>Global Funds Management</i>
10	17 May	Dr. Arthur Wassink (Head of Portfolio Management Unit and Financing Product, Westpac) <i>Credit Risk Modeling I</i>
11	24 May	Dr. John Jarratt (Head of Group Portfolio Unit, Westpac) <i>Credit Risk Modeling II</i>
12	31 May	Dr. Edwin Franks (Macquarie University) <i>Applications of Stochastic Analysis in Finance</i>
13	7 June	Dr. Edwin Franks (Macquarie University) <i>Applications of Stochastic Analysis in Finance</i> and Dr. Ronald D. Ripple (Macquarie University) <i>Unit summary</i>