



ACST 306 / 816

Quantitative Asset and Liability  
Modelling 1

Semester 1, 2011

*Department of Actuarial Studies*

**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS  
UNIT OUTLINE**

**ACST 306 / 816 Quantitative Asset and Liability Modelling 1**

**FIRST SEMESTER 2011**

**Unit convenor:** Piet de Jong  
**Prerequisites:** ACST202(P) and STAT272(P). Please consult the Unit Convenor if you do not meet any of the prerequisite requirements for the unit.  
**Credit points:** 3 (ACST306) and 4 (ACST816)

Students in this unit should read this unit outline carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult the unit convenor.

**ABOUT THIS UNIT**

The unit examines utility theory and asset allocation, mean-variance portfolio theory, the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), single/multi index model and arbitrage pricing theory (APT), measures of investment risk and the efficient market hypothesis. With the introduction of the relations among short rate, forward rate and default-free zero coupon bond price, stochastic interest rates; moments of the accumulation of a string of payments are studied. Also with the introduction of derivatives: Forward, Futures and Option, single-period to three-period Binomial option pricing model (discrete time model) and simple version of Black-Scholes option pricing model (continuous time model) are covered.

**TEACHING STAFF**

The staff involved in the teaching of this unit are

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>Prof. Piet de Jong</b>	piet.dejong@mq.edu.au	9850 8576	E4A 611
<b>Dr Jiwook Jang</b> (Unit Convenor)	jiwook.jang@mq.edu.au	9850 8575	E4A 613
<b>Pan Jiang</b> (Unit Administrator/Tutor)	jennypan408@gmail.com		
<b>Jacqueline (Yixin) Xu</b> (Tutor)	yixin.xu@students.mq.edu.au		
<b>Celeste Chai</b> (Tutor)	chai.celeste@gmail.com		

Prof. Piet de Jong is the unit convenor and will be taking 5 weeks of classes after study break, and Dr. Jiwook Jang will be taking first 7 weeks of classes.

Pan Jiang is a teaching administrator for this unit, who is responsible for all the administrative aspects of the unit. Administrative questions *that are not covered in this unit outline* should be directed to her on the Private Mail facility of the website. If the questions are of interest to everyone in the unit, the question and the reply will be posted to the Discussion Board, so you should specifically request if you want your message to remain private.

Questions about unit content should be sent to the Discussion Board of the website or raised during tutorials or lectures.

## CLASSES

This unit will consist of 2 hours of lectures and 1 hour tutorial per week. Lectures are held at the following times:

Day	Time	Location
Tuesday	11.00 am – 1:00 pm	E7B T4

ACST 306 Tutorials are held at the following times, commencing in week 2:

Day	Time	Location	Tutor
Tuesday	9.00 am – 10:00 am	W5C 309	Jacqueline (Yixin) Xu
Tuesday	4.00 pm – 5:00 pm	X5B 134	Pan Jiang
Wednesday	4.00 pm – 5:00 pm	W5C 309	Celeste Chai

ACST 816 Tutorial is held at the following time, commencing in week 2:

Day	Time	Location	Tutor
Tuesday	1.00 pm – 2:00 pm	E6A 133	J. Jang / P. de Jong

You must attend the tutorial class in which you are enrolled. The tutorial is an opportunity for you to attempt the section exercises given at the end of each section of work, and to discuss problems with the tutor.

There is **no** tutorial held during Week 1.

Any alterations to the class times or locations will be advised in lectures and via the website.

## CONSULTATION HOURS

There will be no consultation hours with lecturers as questions about unit content should be initially posted on the Discussion Board of the website.

If face-to-face consultations for academic queries are required, students should contact lecturing staff via the Macquarie University e-mail system to make an appointment.

## REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

The recommended textbooks for this course are:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Chapters</b>
Investment Science	David G. Luenberger	Chapters 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Modern Portfolio Theory and Investment Analysis	Edwin J. Elton, Martin J. Gruber, Stephen J. Brown and William N. Goetzmann	Chapter 4, 5, 6, 13, 16, 17, 21, 23, 24
Options, Futures and Other Derivatives (7th edition)	John Hull	Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 19

Each copy of these books is available in the Reserve section of the Library.

Lecture notes can also be found from the ActEd Study Materials (subject CT8). You can purchase these notes via ASSOC at a discounted price. Information about their availability and price will be confirmed on Blackboard and in the lectures.

#### **UNIT WEB PAGE**

To access the website, go to <http://learn.mq.edu.au> and login using your usual login and password. You will then have access to the websites for all the units in which you are enrolled. If you have any trouble logging in (e.g. you have forgotten your password), please contact the Student IT Helpdesk.

Before logging in, you should follow the link labelled “Technical Information” and read all the information there, including the Information Technology Security Policy and Rules and the Information Technology Usage Rules. This technical information also mentions a number of “plugins” that may be required. Of those listed, in this unit you will only need Acrobat Reader.

The web site will be used as an integral part of this unit. The website for this unit contains:

- **Course content:**
  - **Unit outline.** A copy of this unit outline.
  - **Lecture notes.**
  - **Weekly exercises with solutions.**
  - **Tests and exams.** Past class tests and exams with solutions.
  - **Links.** Any web links you need to use will be made available here.
- **Discussions.** A Discussions board to discuss problems with your fellow students.
- **Mail.** To contact the teaching administrator and for the teaching administrator to contact you.

**It is your responsibility to check the website regularly to make sure that you are up-to-date with announcements and with messages sent to your Mail address.**

Remember to close your browser when you have finished using the site. If you don't, another person can use the still running browser to access the website with your account.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

This unit aims to introduce students to financial market theory and portfolio management, stochastic interest rate models, derivatives on assets, one to three-period Binomial option pricing and simple version of Black-Scholes option pricing. You should review lecture notes in advance of each lecture and after completing each section of work.

On completion of this unit, students should be able to do the following:

1. Decision making vis utility functions.
2. Asset pricing using Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), single/multi index models and Arbitrage Pricing Theory (APT) Model.
3. Measuring investment risk using various risk measures.
4. Detecting three forms of market efficiency.
5. Understanding the relations among short rate, forward rate and default-free zero coupon bond price.
6. Finding the mean and variance of the accumulation of a string of payments .
7. Understanding derivative contracts - forward, futures, swap and option.
8. Pricing options via single-period to three-period Binomial option pricing model (discrete time model) and simple version of Black-Scholes option pricing model (continuous time model).

In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills in a range of areas. One of the aims of this unit is that students develop their skills in the following: *Critical analysis skills; Problem-solving skills; Creative thinking skills.*

### TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

The unit material is covered in the two hours of lectures each week. The tutorial is an opportunity for you to attempt questions for each section of work, or to ask questions. In addition to the tutorial, you should use the Discussion Board to ask questions or discuss concepts covered in the unit.

Week	Week Beginning	Lecture Topics	Tutorial	Lecturer
1	21 February	Utility Theory		JJ
2	28 February	Mean-Variance theory, The CAPM portfolio	Tutorial	JJ
3	7 March	The CAPM	Tutorial	JJ

4	14 March	Single/multi index models. Arbitrage Pricing Theory (APT) Model	Tutorial	JJ
5	21 March	Measurements of Investment Risk, Efficient Market Hypothesis	Tutorial	JJ
6	28 March	Stochastic interest rate models	Tutorial	JJ
7	4 April	<b>Test 1</b>	Tutorial	JJ
<b>Study Break</b>	11 April - 18 April			
8	25 April	<b>Easter Monday and Anzac Day Holiday</b>	<b>No Tutorial</b>	<b>No Lecture</b>
9	2 May	Spot, Futures and Options	Tutorial	PdJ
10	9 May	Spot, Futures and Options	Tutorial	PdJ
11	16 May	Binomial option pricing model	Tutorial	PdJ
12	23 May	<b>Test 2</b>	Tutorial	PdJ
13	30 May	Introduction of Scholes option pricing model.	Tutorial	PdJ

#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This unit is assessed using two class tests and a final examination. The following table gives an indication of the relative weighting of the assessment components:

<b>Mid-Semester Test 1</b> (Cover topics up to Week 6)	<b>15%</b>
<b>Mid-Semester Test 2</b> (Cover topics up to Week 11)	<b>15%</b>
<b>Final Examination</b> (Cover all topics)	<b>70%</b>

The assessment structure is suitable given the problem-solving and technical nature of the unit, and is also aimed at encouraging you to regularly review the material. An assessment schedule is given below and any changes to the assessment or assessment due dates will be advised in classes/on website.

In addition to tasks that count for assessment, you will be provided with Lecture Examples and Tutorial Exercises to attempt before the tutorials. Lecture Examples and Tutorial Exercises solutions are available on the website after lectures/tutorials. Lecture Examples and Tutorial Exercises are aimed at helping you to understand the fundamental concepts before moving on to more difficult material. They are also aimed at developing your understanding of the unit material so that you are able to successfully complete the assessable tasks.

Past class tests and examinations with full solutions are available from the website, and give you a good source of practice questions that are of examination difficulty.

#### Mid-Semester Tests

There will be two class tests, each worth **15%** of the final assessment for the unit. You will be allowed to take **one** A4 page into the exam (handwritten or typed and filled in on one or two sides).

- Test 1 will be held **Tuesday 5 April** at 11 am. It will cover topics up to Week 6.
- Test 2 will be held **Tuesday 24 May** at 11 am. It will cover topics up to Week 11.

Please note that coverage may be subject to change and that any alterations will be advised in lectures/on Blackboard.

The format of the mid-semester test will be a written paper consisting of 3 or 4 questions. You will answer in the spaces provided on the test paper, although a writing booklet will be distributed to you for scribbling (which is NOT collected or marked). All answers must be written in black or blue pen or a pencil (do NOT use a red pen).

When the test is marked, you will be notified to collect them from **BESS** (E4B106). Class feedback and a marking guide will be provided on the website. It is hoped that marked papers will be returned within 12 working days of the class test date.

You should contact the unit convenor immediately (eg. prior to the test) if unexpected ill-health or other disruption affects your preparation for or performance in a class test. Applications for special consideration due to documented illness or unavoidable disruption must then be made on the "Special Consideration" form, available at <http://www.registrar.mq.edu.au/Forms/APScons.pdf>, and submitted to the unit convenor.

## **Exam**

The final examination (3 hours with 10 minutes reading time) is worth **70%** of the final assessment for the unit. The examination will cover the entire course. You will be allowed to take **one** A4 page into the exam (handwritten or typed and filled in on one or two sides).

The University Examination period in First Half Year 2011 is from 6 June to 24 June.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. The University's policy on special consideration process is available at [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. (Individual Faculties may wish to signal when the Faculties' Supplementary Exams are normally scheduled.)

The Macquarie university examination policy details the principles and conduct of examinations at the University. The policy is available at: <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.htm>

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### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR EXAM**

The University is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. In stating this commitment, the University recognises that there may be circumstances where a student is prevented by unavoidable disruption from performing in accordance with their ability. A special consideration policy exists to support students who experience serious and unavoidable disruption such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level. The policy and procedure are available at:

[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/procedure.html)

### **RULES REGARDING TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS**

Normal examination rules apply to the conduct of test and the final examination. These rules are set out under the heading "Conduct of Examinations" in the Student Information – Assessment section of the current Macquarie University Handbook of Undergraduate Studies. Students are responsible for familiarising themselves with these rules prior to the class test and the final examination.

You should ensure that your handwriting in the class test and in the final examination is legible. Sections of work that are not legible will not be marked.

Academic Senate has resolved that no mobile phones should be brought into examination rooms. Mobile phones must be switched off and sealed in closed bags during class tests.

Calculators will be allowed in the class test and the final examination but a clear indication of the steps involved in every calculation must be shown. Any machines that have a text-retrieval capacity, whether or not they have a full alphabet on the keyboard, are not allowed. Calculators may be checked at the commencement of class test and final exam, and the make/model may be recorded.

Dictionaries will not be permitted in the class test or the final examination.

### **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 can 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 procedures 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.

#### UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING

Macquarie University uses the grades HD (High Distinction), D (Distinction), CR (Credit), P (Pass), and F (Fail) for grading the achievements of students in units of study. Grade descriptions and other information is in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

#### GRADING APPEALS AND FINAL EXAMINATION SCRIPT VIEWING

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for appeal before appealing your grade.

[http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/for/new\\_and\\_current\\_students/undergraduate/admin\\_central/grade\\_appeals](http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/for/new_and_current_students/undergraduate/admin_central/grade_appeals)

There will be a very limited time to make this request, and this must be done through the formal process rather than by a request to the unit convenor.

Please note that all marks will not be recorded on exam scripts in this unit. Instead, marks and marker notes / comments are recorded in detailed spreadsheets (which are not provided to individual students). **You will not, therefore, gain access to your raw marks by viewing your exam scripts.** The purpose of viewing your exam script is to compare your answers with the sample solutions for the purpose of identifying where you showed a lack of understanding.

#### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

**BESS.** Business and Economics Student Services (BESS) is located in room E4B106. Information about facilities and services is at:

[http://businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/for/new\\_and\\_current\\_students/undergraduate/bess](http://businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/for/new_and_current_students/undergraduate/bess)

In this unit, class tests will be returned via BESS.

**Consultation room.** Consultation sessions with tutors will be held in the FBE Consultation Room E4B 104. The consultation times will be confirmed on Blackboard and in the lectures.

**ACSTINFO.** This ACSTINFO site is used to distribute information to all students majoring in actuarial studies. The information supplied may include administrative information and job advertisements. You will retain access to this site during the vacation following the end of this semester. It is to your advantage to ensure you read information on this web site regularly. You should not assume that information posted there will also be repeated in lectures. To access the site, login at: <http://learn.mq.edu.au/> and the site should appear among your list of units. When you first login, please read the section labelled "How to use this site." This contains useful information which will help you determine when there is new information on the site which you should read.

#### **IT CONDITIONS OF USE**

Access to all student computing facilities within the Faculty of Business and Economics is restricted to authorised coursework for approved units. Student ID cards must be displayed in the locations provided at all times.

Students are expected to act responsibly when utilising University IT facilities. The following regulations apply to the use of computing facilities and online services:

- Accessing inappropriate web sites or downloading inappropriate material is not permitted. Material that is not related to coursework for approved unit is deemed inappropriate.
- Downloading copyright material without permission from the copyright owner is illegal, and strictly prohibited. Students detected undertaking such activities will face disciplinary action, which may result in criminal proceedings.

Non-compliance with these conditions may result in disciplinary action without further notice.

Students must use their Macquarie University email addresses to communicate with staff as it is University policy that the University issued email account is used for official University communication.

#### **EXEMPTIONS**

The units ACST306/816 and ACST307/817 together correspond to the professional subject CT8. The exemption will be recommended **if and only if a SNG of at least 60 is achieved in both units and the average SNG is at least 65.**

#### **INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES OF AUSTRALIA**

The Institute of Actuaries of Australia (IAAust) allows students to become IAAust University Subscribers free of charge. Full time undergraduates studying at an

Institute accredited university who are members of a university student actuarial society are eligible. To sign up, go to

<http://www.actuaries.asn.au/Membership/MembershipoftheInstitute/Subscriber.aspx>

The University Subscriber offer is not a membership of the IAAust but a subscription to receive information on career opportunities, invitations to selected IAAust events and online publications. You might also consider joining the IAAust – there are advantages in doing so while a full-time student. For membership information, go to

<http://www.actuaries.asn.au/Membership/MembershipoftheInstitute.aspx>

### **CLASS ETIQUETTE**

Mobile phones should be switched off during all lectures and tutorials. If there is an important reason for you to keep your phone on you should request to be allowed to do so before the start of the class.

Lectures commence at 5 minutes past the hour and you are expected to be punctual. You are expected to keep talking to a minimum so as not to disrupt your fellow students (and the lecturer!).

### **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND YOUR STUDENT FILE**

Every business keeps a record of its correspondence with its customers. The University is no exception and it maintains a file for every student. Staff are required to ensure that copies of all correspondence with you are added to your file. Historically, “correspondence” meant letters, but nowadays it also includes electronic communication such as email. Staff have some discretion here and might not file copies of trivial emails, but it is difficult to define precise boundaries here, so it is safer to assume that any email you send to a staff member will be added to your file.

Some people regard email as more ephemeral than a letter and thus tend to take less care with issues such as clarity of expression, grammar and spelling. Before sending an email to a staff member, a good question to ask yourself is: “If a member of staff is reviewing my student file prior to writing a reference for me, and they see a copy of this email, would that staff member gain a favourable impression of my level of communication skills?”

In this context, email includes communications you send to staff with the mail tool in the unit’s web site. It does not normally include postings you make to the discussion area. However, in those very rare cases where a student makes an inappropriate posting to the discussion area, a copy of the posting would be added to that student’s file.

### **FEEDBACK**

We would welcome your feedback on any aspect of the unit.

If you see that something could be improved, let us know your ideas and if we agree that your ideas are good we will make changes. You can give us feedback in lectures or by posting to the website (anonymously if need be).

We hope not to see any feedback in the end-of-semester unit evaluations that we haven't heard about already and therefore had the opportunity to respond to. Please get involved in making this unit as useful and rewarding as possible.

Piet de Jong / Jiwook Jang  
17 February 2011