



School of Economics and Management

NEKN84, Economics: Topics in Finance, 7.5 credits

Nationalekonomi: Teman i finans, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economics on 2013-10-15 to be valid from 2013-10-15, spring semester 2014.

General Information

This is a single subject master course in economics that is obligatory within the Master Programme in Finance (two years) at Lund University.

Language of instruction: English

Teaching is in English. (In some semesters the course can be taught in Swedish, see the appropriate application catalogue).

Main field of studies

Economics

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

1. Knowledge and understanding

The goal of the course is to deepen students' understanding of models in finance and develop their ability to analyse and to apply the models to the real world problems.

More specifically, after completing the course, the student shall have developed:

- a deep understanding of the selected theoretical and empirical issues in finance,
- an ability to learn new and advanced concepts in finance,
- an ability to conduct independent analyses of issues in finance,
- an ability to understand advanced academic research in selected topics and evaluate related real-world problems.

2. Skills and abilities

Students shall have the ability to independently apply their knowledge to real world problems. Students shall have developed an ability to conduct a clear and pedagogical report of their own and others' empirical analyses. Students shall also have developed an ability to pursue further studies in the selected topics and related subjects within finance.

3. Applying knowledge and making judgements

Upon completing the course, students shall have the ability to independently employ the methods and theories they have learnt to carry out their own analyses of real world problems. Students shall also have developed an ability to identify related problems in the real world and to incorporate adequate methods and theories to analyse these problems.

Course content

The course covers selected topics from both theoretical and empirical models in financial economics and corporate finance. The topics can vary over time. In financial economics, the emphasis is on current research in areas such as asset pricing, interest rate models and volatility models. The empirical part of the course employs the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) to estimate the stochastic discount factor models of asset pricing. In corporate finance, the emphasis is on corporate financial policies. Building on students' previous knowledge of corporate valuation and the theory of corporate finance, the course deals with financial decision-making on issues such as value-based management, operating and financial restructurings, cash management, corporate funding, distribution policies etc. The relationship between corporate financial policies and corporate strategy is a key concern.

No specific gender perspective is adopted in this course.

Course design

1. Teaching: Tuition consists of lectures and computer labs.

Assessment

1. Examination: Examination forms depend on selected topics and may be in the form of written exams, essays, case studies and labs.

2. Limitations on the number of examination opportunities: –

The University views plagiarism and other academic dishonesty very seriously, and will take disciplinary action against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specified period.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

1. Grading: Grade (Definition), Points or percentage out of maximum points, Characteristic

A (Excellent), 85–100, A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

B (Very good), 75–84, A very good result with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

C (Good), 65–74, The result is of a good standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

D (Satisfactory), 55–64, The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

E (Sufficient), 50–54, The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought, but not more.

U (Fail), 0–49, The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought. Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.

2. Weighting grades from different parts of the course: –

3. Grading scales for different parts of the course: –

Entry requirements

Students admitted to the Master Programmes in Finance (two years) are qualified for this course. The course is not available for other students.

Further information

1. Transitional regulations: –

2. Limitations in the period of validity: –

3. Limitations: –

4. Similar courses: –

5. Limitations in renewed examination: –

Subcourses in NEKN84, Economics: Topics in Finance

Applies from V14

1301 Topics in Finance, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A