



Econ2300A 670
Investment and Financial Markets
Summer 2026

Instructor: Jingjing Xu, PhD
Email: jxu938@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: Online Asynchronous

Calendar Description:

This course provides an introduction to investment strategies and financial markets with an emphasis on the Canadian Financial System.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B; and one of MCV4U, Mathematics 0110A/B, Calculus 1000A/B, Calculus 1500A/B, Mathematics 1225A/B, or Mathematics 1230A/B.

Anti-requisite(s): Economics 2121A/B, Economics 2181A/B, and Economics 3346A/B.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: CATEGORY A

Subject Code: ECONOMIC

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Economics 2300A (670)
Investment and Financial Markets
Intersession/Summer 2026**

Instructor: Jingjing Xu

E-mail: jxu938@uwo.ca (Please include “Econ 2300A” in the subject line.)

Lectures: **Online asynchronous**

Virtual Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00 am – 11:00 am (Eastern Daylight Time) or by appointment

Overview

This course aims at providing students with an introduction to and understanding of investments and the financial system, and the roles and functions of financial markets and institutions, with special emphasis on the Canadian Financial System in the context of the global economy.

Topics covered include the role of financial markets, the importance and relevance of interest rates, and the conduct of monetary policy (with special reference to Canada), international finance and monetary policy, debt and equity markets, market microstructure, and other select topics.

Course Objectives

To provide students with a structured learning process to enable them to understand, appreciate, apply, and derive insights from the concepts, theories, and applications in select issues in the economics of investment and the financial markets, and the Canadian Financial System in the context of the global economy.

Learning Outcomes

- Students develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and skills in selected topics in investments and the financial system.
- Students are also expected to have increased competencies and familiarity in applying financial data to obtain results and using the same for financial decision making.

Prerequisites: Economics 1021 A/B and Economics 1022 A/B; and one of MCV4U,

Mathematics 0110 A/B, Calculus 1000 A/B, Calculus 1500 AB, Mathematics 1225 A/B, or Mathematics 1230 A/B

Antirequisite: Economics 2121A/B, Economics 2181A/B, and Economics 3346A/B.

Statement Regarding Senate Policy on Pre-requisites:

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course, and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

Class Format

This course begins on May 4, 2026 and continues until June 12, 2026, honouring all important dates derived from university approved guidelines and academic policies

This is a fully online course that will use OWL Brightspace, and other educational resources based on the needs of the course. This class is designed to be **asynchronous**, meaning there will be no regular, mandatory times for the entire class to be online together. **The only synchronous session will be our first class.** I will send an announcement with the meeting time and a Zoom link.

All course materials will be posted in “Content” section on the course OWL Brightspace. There will be lecture slides as well as recorded video lectures. Each lecture will be composed of multiple video clips. The links will be made available at the beginning of each week. Students can watch the lectures at their convenience but are strongly encouraged to complete watching them during the week they are posted.

Online office hours

Interactive online office hours will be held on Zoom. Links to the office hour sessions will be provided on OWL Brightspace.

Required Materials

- Financial markets & institutions, Jeff Madura, 14th Edition, Cengage ISBN 9780357988299, \$199.95 (ISBN for the e-Book is ISBN: 9780357988381 Price: \$74.95)

Previous copies from seniors / classmates are also ok.

Course Outline

The following outline is tentative and subject to change. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as well as drop one or two topics if there is insufficient time

All the changes in schedule and deadlines will be announced via Brightspace in advance. Students are responsible for learning about these changes – not knowing about the change does not qualify as an excuse.

Chapters

- Chapter 1: Role of Financial Markets and Institutions
- Chapter 2: Determination of Interest Rates
- Chapter 3: Structure of Interest Rates
- Chapter 4: Functions of the Fed
- Chapter 5: Monetary Policy
- Chapter 6: Money Markets
- Chapter 7: Bond Markets
- Chapter 10: Stock Offerings and Investor Monitoring
- Chapter 11: Stock Valuation and Risk
- Chapter 12: Market Microstructure and Strategies

Evaluation

The final course grade will be calculated as a weighted average of the following components:

Online Quizzes (TWO)	Date of each quiz to be updated on OWL Brightspace	20%
Participation Points	See below for detailed explanation	15%
Mid-term Exam	Friday, May 22, 2026 10:00 am – 11:30 am (Eastern Daylight Time)	25%
Final Examination	To be scheduled during exam period	40%

- **Online Quiz:** TWO quizzes will be held online via OWL Brightspace and account for up to 20% of the grade. It will open within a 3-day window (for example, available on Tuesday midnight and be live till Friday midnight) and will be accepted until 5 days after the posted date. There will be 30-35 MCQs for each quiz. Students will be given 60-70 minutes to complete the quiz. There will be an announcement on OWL Brightspace when the quiz goes “live”. **Submissions past the final accepted date (5 days) will NOT be accepted and will be assigned a mark of zero.**

In case a student misses a quiz, there will be **NO** make-ups. Not being aware of the quiz is not an excuse. Only in medical emergencies or other unforeseen circumstances could exceptions be made. If such an emergency occurs, notify your instructor immediately, via email. In addition, documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the

Academic Dean's Office. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor.

- **Participation Points**

In this online asynchronous course, participation points are awarded based on meaningful engagement with the course content and community. This includes activities such as:

- Leaving thoughtful comments or questions on lecture videos
- Contributing to discussions in the course forum
- Responding constructively to peers' posts
- Sharing relevant resources or insights related to course topics

- **Midterm:** The midterm Exam will be held on **Friday May 22, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am (Eastern Daylight Time)**. The exam will contain exercise problems only. The exam will be open book; however, the use of AI generative tools (e.g., ChatGPT or similar) is strictly prohibited. If you are found using such tools, you will receive a grade of zero for the exam.

There will be no deferred midterm exam. Students who can document a compelling reason for the missing of the midterm will be excused and the weight of the midterm will be automatically added to their final exam.

- **Final:** The final exam will take place during the summer term examination period at a time set by the University. The exam will contain Exercise Problems. It will be an open book examination. However, again, please note that the use of AI generative tools (e.g., ChatGPT or similar) is strictly prohibited during the exam. If you are found using such tools, you will receive a grade of zero for the exam.
- Both mid-term and final exams **MUST** be **handwritten** and uploaded in a **PDF format** via OWL Brightspace. It's the responsibility of the students to convert their documents into a clean and readable PDF format. See [Here](#) and [Here](#) for some tutorials that how to scan and convert a document to PDF using your cellphone.
- At the end of each exam, you will be given an additional 5 minutes to convert your documents into the PDF format.

!!!IMPORTANT!!!!: One requirement that must be met to pass the course:

- Though the final course grade is calculated based on the weighted average of the above components, **there is one additional requirement that must be met to pass the course: Your FINAL EXAM GRADE must be NO LOWER THAN 45** (i.e., if your grade for the final exam is lower than 45, even if your weighted final grade is greater than 50, you will still fail the course).

Re-grading

- The final grades for the course cannot be changed. If the student believes that there exist objective reasons for the change of the final grade, they must provide the instructor with details on an email sent to jxu938@uwo.ca, explaining the reason(s) for requesting a reappraisal of their graded work. In this case the instructor will revise and re-grade student's work. Re-grading will apply to the entire assignment/exam, not just the contentious question. As a result, the revised grade maybe higher than, lower than or the same as the original grade. Exams or assignments completed in pencil or erasable ink will not be regraded.
- The instructor reserves the right to reallocate the distribution of marks as special circumstances may demand, in the interest of academic fairness. This redistribution would never negatively affect the grades of any student.

Online behaviour and intellectual property statement:

- All students are expected to engage online in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all interactions with peers, as well as communication between TAs or your Professor. Failure to do so will result in academic discipline.
- Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the Professor or TA is grounds for academic discipline.
- Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.

Policy on AI use

- Within this course, generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are permitted exclusively for information-gathering and preliminary research purposes. However, **the use of Chat GPT or other AI services, is prohibited in all assessments.** Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

MEM Course Policies

Email and communication Policy:

For verification and security purposes, I will only respond to emails originating from @uwo.ca e-mail accounts, and which are signed with a student's name and student number. Please make sure that you include course and section number in the subject line to help me track your question(s) appropriately.

All course changes and updates will be communicated via the OWL Brightspace course website, so please check that frequently.

King's University College General Course Policies 2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [here](#).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course. Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course. For further information, please see:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/exams/index.html.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/personal-counselling>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/gender-and-sexual-violence>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/student-code-of-conduct>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [here](#).

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/OriginalityReports-TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member.

Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.