FINM8100
Applied Project in Finance

Course Description
This course provides an opportunity for students to work on an applied project in finance. Students will work on one of a range of possible topics, each of which is motivated by recent innovations in financial markets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Delivery</th>
<th>On campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>As listed in Programs and Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incompatible Courses</td>
<td>As listed in Programs and Courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Course Convener: | Dr. Lin Hu  
|                  | Dr. Xin Liu |
| Email:           | Lin.hu@anu.edu.au;  
|                  | Xin.liu@anu.edu.au |
| Office hours for student consultation: | By appointment |
| Research Interests | Dr. Lin Hu: Political Economy, Corporate Governance  
|                  | Dr. Xin Liu: Banking, Information Economics, Empirical Finance, and Chinese Economy |
| Relevant administrator if any (optional) | Maria Lander |
| Email:           | maria.lander@anu.edu.au |

SEMESTER 1
2018
COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description (optional)

This is a self-directed research course. The first half of the course comprises formal lectures and tutorials where students are guided in the development of applied research topics. In the second half of the course students complete a research and an industry report in groups with the support of regular meetings with the lecturer(s).

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the requirements for this course, students will be able to:

- L01: Write an academically rigorous research report
- L02: Communicate arguments, principles and findings using the language and conventions of the finance discipline

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Date for Return of Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research brief (individual)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>March 9th, 4pm</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Research proposal (group)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>March 30th, 4pm</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Project presentation (group)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 10 in class</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Research report (group)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>May 25th, 4pm</td>
<td>Within 2 weeks</td>
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Research-Led Teaching

Studies show that, when you explicitly link research and teaching, students become more aware of their learning, which can motivate them to learn more deeply. In this course you will become aware of faculty research and its importance; develop your ability to ask questions and answer them in a rigorous way; and engage in your own research project. Students will be provided with some of the basic tools necessary to undertake research in both university- and industry-based settings.

Feedback

Staff Feedback

We use feedback from students, professional bodies and staff to make regular improvements to the course. Students are therefore encouraged to provide feedback in ways described in the “Student Feedback” section of this course outline.
Student Feedback
ANU is committed to the demonstration of educational excellence and regularly seeks feedback from students. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through Student Experience of Learning Support (SELS) surveys. The feedback given in these surveys is anonymous and provides the Colleges, University Education Committee and Academic Board with opportunities to recognise excellent teaching, and opportunities for improvement.

For more information on student surveys at ANU and reports on the feedback provided on ANU courses, go to
http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/students/
and
http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/results/learning/

Policies
ANU has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University’s academic standards, and implement them. You can find the University’s education policies and an explanatory glossary at:
http://policies.anu.edu.au/

Students are expected to have read the Academic Misconduct Rule before the commencement of their course.

Other key policies include:
- Student Assessment (Coursework)
- Student Surveys and Evaluations

Required Resources
None

Additional course costs
None

Examination material or equipment
There is no examination in this course
## COURSE SCHEDULE

Lecture: Wed 10:00-12:00 China in the World LT

Workshop: Thu 14:00-15:00 PSYC G6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Session</th>
<th>Summary of Activities</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Initiate research question</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Developing a literature review</td>
<td>Research brief due – Friday 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Data and methodology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Project report overview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Group meeting</td>
<td>Research proposal due- Friday 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mid-semester break</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Group meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Group meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Group meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Group presentation</td>
<td>Group presentation due</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Group meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Group meeting</td>
<td>Project report due- Friday 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Examination period</strong></td>
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## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The ANU is using Turnitin to enhance student citation and referencing techniques, and to assess assignment submissions as a component of the University’s approach to managing academic Integrity. For additional information regarding Turnitin please visit the [ANU Online](https://online.anu.edu.au) website.

Students may choose not to submit assessment items through Turnitin. In this instance you will be required to submit, alongside the assessment item itself, copies of all references included in the assessment item.

As a further academic integrity control, students may be selected for a 15 minute individual oral examination of their written assessment submissions.

Any student identified, either during the current semester or in retrospect, as having used ghost writing services will be investigated under the University’s Academic Misconduct Rule.
**Assessment Tasks**

**Assessment Task 1: Research brief (individual)**

Details of task: This assessment is designed to enable students to develop viable and appealing research ideas. Each student needs to submit a research brief which clearly outlines the proposed research question and its links to the existing research articles and/or economic phenomenon in practice. Students are also encouraged to provide predictions on the potential outcome and discuss intuitions behind each conjecture. Students will be graded on their ability to justify a valid research question.

**Assessment Rubrics**

Individual Assessment  
Value: 15%  
Word limit: 1,000 words  
Due date: week 3  
Estimated return date: week 4

**Assignment submission**

**Online Submission:** Assignments are submitted using Turnitin in the course Wattle site. You will be required to electronically sign a declaration as part of the submission of your assignment. Please keep a copy of the assignment for your records.

**Assessment Task 2: Research proposal (group)**

Details of task: The purpose of this assessment is to ensure that students (i) have positioned their research question in the existing literature; (ii) are aware of the data required to complete the project; and (iii) are familiar with the estimation method(s) required in the course of the project. Students should clearly outline the research question and provide justification for the research using relevant literature. Students should discuss the dataset(s) available for the proposed project. Also, students should design an appropriate statistical method for investigation. Students will be graded on their ability to synthesise themes in the literature and demonstrate a credible argument to justify their research project. Students should also clearly outline the work plan for the project (including proposed completion dates for each sections).

**Assessment Rubrics**

Group assessment  
Value: 20%  
Word limit: maximum 5,000 words  
Due date: week 6  
Estimated return date: week 7

**Assignment submission**

**Online Submission:** Assignments are submitted using Turnitin in the course Wattle site. You will be required to electronically sign a declaration as part of the submission of your assignment. Please keep a copy of the assignment for your records.
Assessment Task 3: Project presentation (group)

Details of task: This assessment will ensure that each student is fully aware of the elements of the group research project. Each group will present their research in a maximum of 10 minutes in class. Each element of the pitch template needs to be covered in this presentation. The presentation should cover the main research question, previous research, methodology used and main findings.

Assessment Rubrics

Group Assessment  
Value: 15%  
Time limit: 10 mins  
Due date: week 10

Assignment submission

In-class presentation

Assessment Task 4: Project report (group)

Details of task: The purpose of this assessment is to produce an original, relevant and rigorous piece of research. Groups will submit their report with a clear outline of the research question, literature, method and data, results and conclusions. The writing style should be polished and fluid, and present a clear picture of the research question and findings. Students will be graded on their ability to frame their paper with the relevant literature, justify a valid research question, design an appropriate method for investigation, present preliminary analysis and discuss results and conclusions.

Assessment Rubrics

Group Assessment  
Value: 50%  
Word limit: maximum 8,000 words excluding tables and reference  
Due date: week 12  
Estimated return date: within 2 weeks from the submission

Assignment submission

Online Submission: Assignments are submitted using Turnitin in the course Wattle site. You will be required to electronically sign a declaration as part of the submission of your assignment. Please keep a copy of the assignment for your records.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions and late submission of assessment pieces are covered by the Student Assessment (Coursework) Policy and Procedure.

The Course Convener may grant extensions for assessment pieces that are not examinations or take-home examinations. If you need an extension, you must request it in writing on or before the due date. If you have documented and appropriate medical evidence that demonstrates you were not able to request an extension on or before the due date, you may be able to request it after the due date.

No submission of assessment tasks without an extension after the due date will be permitted.
If an assessment task is not submitted by the due date, a mark of 0 will be awarded.  
**Returning assignments**  
Feedback on assessments will be posted on Wattle via Turnitin.

**Resubmission of assignments**  
Students may resubmit at any time prior to the due date.

**Referencing requirements**  
Students should use the Harvard referencing system

**Scaling**  
Your final mark for the course will be based on the raw marks allocated for each of your assessment items. However, your final mark may not be the same number as produced by that formula, as marks may be scaled. Any scaling applied will preserve the rank order of raw marks (i.e. if your raw mark exceeds that of another student, then your scaled mark will exceed the scaled mark of that student), and may be either up or down.

**Privacy Notice**  
The ANU has made a number of third party, online, databases available for students to use. Use of each online database is conditional on student end users first agreeing to the database licensor’s terms of service and/or privacy policy. Students should read these carefully.

In some cases student end users will be required to register an account with the database licensor and submit personal information, including their: first name; last name; ANU email address; and other information.

In cases where student end users are asked to submit ‘content’ to a database, such as an assignment or short answers, the database licensor may only use the student’s ‘content’ in accordance with the terms of service – including any (copyright) licence the student grants to the database licensor.

Any personal information or content a student submits may be stored by the licensor, potentially offshore, and will be used to process the database service in accordance with the licensors terms of service and/or privacy policy.

If any student chooses not to agree to the database licensor’s terms of service or privacy policy, the student will not be able to access and use the database. In these circumstances students should contact their lecturer to enquire about alternative arrangements that are available.

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS**  
The University offers a number of support services for students. Information on these is available online from [http://students.anu.edu.au/studentlife/](http://students.anu.edu.au/studentlife/)