UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Financial Portfolio Management (blended)

2425-3-E3301M204

Learning objectives

The main goal of the course is the understanding and application of investment strategies for portfolios of financial assets. In particular, the student will be able, using the correct disciplinary language, to: understand the functioning of the securities market (microstructure)

- know the economic-technical characteristics of the different asset classes (bonds, shares, mutual funds)
- define asset allocation approaches (portfolio optimization and pricing models)
- apply asset allocation principles in building a portfolio of ETFs
- clarify the differences between modern finance theory and behavioral finance
- understand the relationships between the theory of market efficiency and the assumptions of fundamental analysis (DCF and multiple analysis) and technical analysis
- apply the tools of portfolio performance evaluation

Contents

The course develops an understanding of the role and functioning of securities markets in its two main sectors: the bond market and the stock market.

Besides this basic understanding, participants will have an overview on more specific topics, such as portfolio management strategies, portfolio perfomance evaluation, market efficiency and behavioral finance. The aim of the course is to allow attending students to acquire the necessary grasp in the use of securities analysis tools

Detailed program

1. Financial markets structure

2. Equity valuation: return and risk measures

3. Bond evaluation: return and risk measures

4. Markowitz portfolio selection theory

5. *Capital Asset Pricing Model*

6. Portfolio perfomance evaluation

7. Financial markets efficiency and technical analysis

8. Behavioral finance

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of statistics and financial mathematics

Teaching methods

The course is delivered in Blended Learning mode and includes:

- 21 hours of lectures,
- 28 hours of independent activity to be carried out on the basis of the material provided online on the platform (Video lessons/ videos/ Ad hoc readings/websites, use of financial databases)
- 12 hours of exercises dedicated to technical analysis and the Asset Allocation Contest (optional)

During the course period, all students are offered to participate (to be carried out in groups) in one activity Asset Allocation Contest.

Assessment methods

two different exam formats are available.
Format 1: For students participating in the Asset Allocation Contest
The written exam covers the following materials:
• Financial Market Economics (Fundamentals of Investments), McGraw Hill Italia.
• Materials used for remote activities, in-person lessons, and those uploaded on the course's e-learning platform.
The final exam grade will consider two components:
a. A final test conducted in the computer lab (multiple-choice and open-ended questions).
b. The result of the Asset Allocation Contest.
Up to a maximum of 1.5 additional points will be awarded based on the contest performance and added to the final test score (see below).

Format 2: For students NOT participating in the Asset Allocation Contest

The written exam covers the following materials:
• Financial Market Economics (Fundamentals of Investments), McGraw Hill Italia.
• Materials used for remote activities, in-person lessons, and those uploaded on the course's e-learning platform.
The final grade will be determined as follows:
• Written exam = 100% of the overall grade

Structure of the Written Exam
In both formats, the written exam consists of closed-ended (multiple-choice/true or false) and open-ended questions.
The exam is divided into two parts and lasts 1 hour and 10 minutes:
• First part: 10 closed-ended (multiple-choice) questions.
• Second part: Two traditional open-ended questions.
Grading Criteria
• First part: Each correct answer is worth 3 points; incorrect or unanswered questions receive 0 points.
• Second part: Each question is graded on a scale from 12 (if left blank) to 30.
The final grade is calculated as the simple average of the scores from the first part and each of the two questions in the second part.
Example Calculation
• First part: 10 correct answers ? 30 points.
• Second part: Question 1 ? 25 points; Question 2 ? 26 points.
• Final grade: (30 + 25 + 26) / 3 = 27.
Additionally, upon request, students may take an oral exam covering the course materials, in addition to the written test.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Economia del mercato mobiliare (Fundamentals of Investments), McGraw Hill Italia. Textbook is a selection of Chapters of Jordan, Miller and Dolvin, in English

Semester

Second Semester

Teaching language

teaching in Italian; study material in English

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH