



Lincoln University

BA 444 - International Securities and Foreign Exchange

COURSE SYLLABUS

Department of Business and Economics
Spring, 2013

Lectures:	Wednesday, 6:30 PM – 9:15 PM
Credit:	4 units (45 lecture hours + 45 hours of research project)
Instructor:	Prof. Sergey Aityan, PhD, DSc
Office Hours:	Monday 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Wednesday 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Students are advised to schedule appointments on the appointment list on the information board at the professor's office that will ensure exact appointment time without waiting. e-mail: aityan@lincolnuca.edu ■: (510) 628-8016
Text:	1. Main Textbook: “Foreign Exchange” by Tim Weithers, 2006 ISBN: 0-471-73203-6 2. Course lecture notes: Sergey Aityan, “International Securities and Foreign Exchange,” the online course notes on http://elearning.lincolnuca.edu .
Last Revision:	February 13, 2013

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The course includes an investigation of foreign securities, international equities markets, international debt securities, futures and options. Also a study of international stock exchanges including those of Europe, Asia, and Australia. A one-unit written research project and its oral presentation is a required part of the course. (4 units)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To introduce students to the basic concept of international securities and futures market, foreign exchanges including their specifics and time shifts, trading techniques, market analysis, investment strategies, and risk management to optimize investment and minimize risk.

PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

Lecture method is used in combination with a supervised exercises and business case study. The emphasis will be on learning by doing. Every student must participate in an intensive classroom activity, must complete home tasks and course projects, and take quizzes and exams.

COURSE PROJECT

Every student must complete and submit an assigned course project no later than two weeks before the end of semester. Also students have complete additional research assignments.

REQUIREMENTS

Continuous assessment is emphasized. Written or oral quizzes will be given every week. Reading, writing, home tasks, and “business case study” assignments will be made throughout the course. Students must complete all assignments and take all quizzes, mid-term exam and final exam on the **dates due**. Plagiarism or cheating will result in the grade “F” (with zero points for the activity) and a report to the administration.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend each class session. If you cannot attend a class due to a valid reason, please notify the instructor prior to the class.

EXAMS

Both, midterm and final exams are structured as written essay to answer to the given questions. The essay must be written structurally with clear logical presentation of the answers. Graphs, charts, tables, and other supporting illustrations are required if needed. Examples to illustrate the answers are required.

Exams will cover all assigned chapters, any additional readings or supplementary materials covered in class. The exams are neither “open book” nor “open notes.”

GRADING AND SCORING

The final grade for the course consists of the following components weighted as shown in the table below:

Activity	Time	Percent
Course project, quizzes, home tasks, classroom activities, and special assignments	Every week	30%
Mid-term exam	In the middle of semester	35%
Final exam	Last week of the course	35%

All results of written test will employ a numerical scoring system that is convertible as indicated below.

94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-

77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
66-69	D+
60-65	D
0-59	F

The final grade for the course will be given by the cumulative score calculated as weighted scores for each activity according to the percentage shown in the table above.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Lectures	Topic	Chapters
1	(a) About the Course (b) Money and Currency	Ch. 1
2	Trading Money	Ch. 2
3	Markets, Prices, and Marketmaking	Ch. 3
4	Interest Rates	Ch. 4
5	Brief History of Foreign Exchange	Ch. 5
6	Foreign Exchange Spot Market	Ch. 6
7	Foreign Exchange Arbitrage and Spot Market	Ch. 7
8	Foreign Exchange Forwards	Ch. 8
9	(a) Review (b) Midterm Exam	Ch. 1-8
10	Foreign Exchange Futures	Ch. 9
11	Foreign Exchange Swaps	Ch. 10
12	Foreign Exchange Options	Ch. 11
13	Exotic Options and Structured Products	Ch. 12
14	Fundamental and Technical Analyses	Ch. 13
15	(a) Review (b) Comprehensive Final Exam	Ch. 1-13

OTHER COMMENTS

- Please participate. What you put into the class will determine what you get out of it – and what others get out of it.
- Please come on time. Late arrivals disturb everyone else.
- If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes/slide printouts on the material covered from a classmate or the instructor.
- To avoid distracting noise in class, cellular phones must be turned off or the ringing mode silenced.
- Questions and comments during the class are welcome. Do not hesitate to ask questions – do not leave anything unclear for you.

MODIFICATION OF THE SYLLABUS

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time during the semester. Announcements of any changes will be made in a classroom.