The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

This version produced 20 Dec 2007.
The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.

Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: The Planning Environment

<table>
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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
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Academic group: FOBUS
Academic org: FOB009
Student contribution band: 2
ASCED code: 081105

STAFFING

Examiner: Martin Hovey
Moderator: Lujer Santacruz

OTHER REQUISITES

Students are required to have access to a personal computer, e-mail capabilities and Internet access to USQConnect. Current details of computer requirements can be found at http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/busgeninfo.html

RATIONALE

Personal financial planning (PFP) is becoming increasingly important, both to individuals and to professionals, in their offering of services to the public. Governments have made it very clear that the public sector will support retirees and the unemployed to a 'safety-net' standard only. In addition, people increasingly will be asked to oversee their superannuation savings. Individuals will have more comfortable lives if they plan and manage their finances skilfully.

SYNOPSIS

In this course students will be exposed to the economic environment in which financial planning takes place. Financial markets and products are introduced and the legal framework in which planners operate is examined. As an introductory course to financial planning education, the financial planning process is analysed as are ethical issues and codes of practice for planners.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item/s that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective is/are shown in parentheses after each objective. On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. discuss the roles of money and of the Reserve Bank of Australia and the execution in monetary policy in recent times (Assignment, Examination)
2. understand theories of interest rate determination and the structure of interest rates (Assignment, Examination)
3. appreciate recent fiscal policy initiatives and the management of economic cycles (Assignment, Examination)
4. understand the implications of an open economy in a globalised economic world (Assignment, Examination)
5. understand the role of, and participants in, the Australian financial system (Assignment, Examination)
6. appreciate the implications of regulation and deregulation (Assignment, Examination)
7. appreciate the scope and roles of financial institutions and markets (Assignment, Examination)
8. understand the range of financial products and the taxation implications of related cash flows (Assignment, Examination)
9. understand the process of financial planning for clients (Assignment, Examination)
10. understand the Australian legal framework within which planners operate and their legal responsibilities (Assignment, Examination)
11. understand the role of planners, codes of practice and ethics (Assignment, Examination)
12. understand the complaints resolution process (Assignment, Examination).

TOPICS

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<td>1. Money and the Reserve Bank of Australia</td>
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<td>2. Government intervention in the economy</td>
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<td>3. Introduction to financial markets</td>
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<td>4. Financial products</td>
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<td>5. Legal framework and responsibilities of planners</td>
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<td>6. Codes of practice and the planning process</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

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<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>ASSIGNMENT</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAM PART A (MULTI-CHOICE)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>END S1 (see note 1)</td>
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<td>EXAM PART B (QUESTIONS)</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>END S1</td>
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NOTES

1. The examination is scheduled to be held in the end-of-semester examination period. Students will be advised of the official examination date for Exam (Parts A and B) after the timetable has been finalised. The total working time for Exam (Parts A and B) is 3 hours.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   If you are an international student in Australia, you are advised to attend all classes at your campus. For all other students, there are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the assessment items, achieve at least 50% for the examination and at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
This is a restricted examination. Candidates are allowed access to specific materials during the examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the restricted examination for this course are: writing and drawing instruments; calculators which cannot hold textual information (students must indicate on their examination paper the make and model of any calculator(s) they use during the examination); English translation dictionaries (but not technical dictionaries).

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.

8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm. Students should also read the Faculty of Business Guide to Policies and Procedures of the Faculty which can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current/buspolproc.html.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 Assignments: (i) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the examiner. (ii) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours if required by the examiner. (iii) In accordance with university policy, the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. (iv) Assignments are to be submitted in the appropriate assignment folders. (v) The examiner will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media. (vi) The examiner will not accept submission of assignments by facsimile. (vii) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner to negotiate such special arrangements. (viii) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience.

2 Course weightings: Course weightings of topics should not be interpreted as applying to the number of marks allocated to questions testing those topics in an examination paper. The examination may test material already tested in assignments.

3 Deferred work: Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

4 Dishonest actions: (i) Any student who is alleged to have performed a dishonest action relating to any assessment in the course will have a course of action taken against him/her as outlined in the academic regulations. (ii) Pieces of assessment should be the work of individual students. Joint pieces of assessment are not permitted unless written approval
has been obtained from the examiner. (iii) Dishonest action in relation to assessment includes: copying or attempting to copy the work of others; use of or attempting to use information prohibited from use in that form of assessment; submitting the work of another as your own; consciously committing acts of plagiarism, that is, taking and using another’s thoughts or writings as one’s own with intent to deceive, which occurs when paragraphs, sentences, a single sentence or significant parts of a sentence which are copied directly, are not enclosed in quotation marks and appropriately footnoted or referenced in the text; direct quotations are not used, but text is paraphrased or summarised, and the source of the material is not acknowledged by footnoting or other reference in the text.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Learning resources: Prescribed texts (see above); recommended reference materials (see above); printed Introductory Book, Book of Selected Readings, and Study Book; and course Website accessible via USQConnect.