

Course Student Evaluation On-Line Questionnaire

Prof. Timothy Falcon Crack

FINC302: Applied Investments

96 - Students
37 - Responses
39 - % Class

Q.ID: E17016366
Date of Survey: 2-16 Jun 2017

Note: For comments questions, numbers assigned to respondents, such as 1) or 3), will be missing if they have made no comment

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | I learned or accomplished a great deal in this course: | Strongly agree | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Strongly disagree | NIL | Median |
| | | Number | 27 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | | 0 | 1.2 |
| | | Distribution 1 | 75% | 17% | 6% | 0% | 3% | | 0% | |
| | | Distribution 2* | 92% | 6% | 6% | 3% | | | | |

Please explain:

- 3) This course covered material that was totally new. It built on earlier courses but didn't waste time revising. The content was also interesting and engaging which helped my learning
- 5) There is a lot of content covered in this course, but I feel like all of it will be useful in future employment
- 7) Even though this course covers a lot of complicated finance concepts in an in depth manner, how relative some of the concepts are in the real world made it more interesting.
- 11) This has been by far the most valuable paper I have taken so far at university. I have learnt an immense amount in this course about investing and financial concepts. I have also developed my excel skills, critical thinking skills and the bottom of the hour entertainment has been an excellent way to learn more about current events involving finance. My only comment would be to make this paper a full year subject as I wish it did not have to end.
- 14) I feel this course really expanded my knowledge of financial ideas and encouraged me to explore different ways of thinking about things.
- 15) Problem sets were long and difficult but when doing them you felt that there was practical application to them.
- 20) There were a broad range of topics to do with investing covered which I have learned that will be helpful in the future
- 24) I attended my classes and felt as though I learnt hardly anything in them. However I learned a lot from problem sets.
- 26) Prof. Crack covers a lot of content but presents it brilliantly so that we do actually learn and understand it
- 30) Learnt very practical skills
- 33) I've learnt more in 302 than any other paper at University, because the content here is REAL and APPLICABLE. Very well taught. Great textbook. Superb course.
- 34) The lecturer clearly explain each topic with full understanding and making sure that everyone is in the same page or is able to follow.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 2 | I found this course to be well organised: | Strongly agree | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Strongly disagree | NIL | Median |
| | | Number | 27 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | 1.2 |
| | | Distribution 1 | 75% | 19% | 3% | 3% | 0% | | 0% | |
| | | Distribution 2* | 94% | 3% | 3% | 3% | | | | |

Please explain:

- 3) Professor Crack is the most organised professor I have ever had. There is nothing I could fault.
- 5) Awesome structure. It made sense as we went along and I felt like the carder concepts were well explained in depth compared to more basic ideas which were explained briefly
- 6) I didn't understand what I was doing or why I was doing the assignments until the end of the course (excel side). A really basic coverage of each PS I'm simpleton terms would greatly increase the amount I understood from each problem set.
- 7) This course was very well organised. I didn't feel as though the lectures were inconsistent in terms of the differing amounts of content we went through each time which was good!
- 10) The textbook contributes hugely to this. Despite being a little unstructured/roundabout itself, the course was easy to follow, made easier by the problem sets that built perfectly on each other.
- 11) Using the FFSI textbook meant there was flexibility in timing and content covered throughout the semester. Every lecture was extremely well organised.
- 14) Generally very well organised. I would have liked a week-by-week breakdown of what would be studied in the course outline though.
- 26) The use of the textbook in class made following lectures very easy as everything was set out logically. Prof. Crack has evidently put a lot of effort into designing the course and it really pays off
- 33) Very well organised. Professor Crack is always suitably well prepared for lectures, he marks assignments/midterms quickly, and gets straight to the point with what is asked of you.
- 34) The lecturer comes prepared every lecture and able to cover each topic that is set for the week. However the down side is that the skip list for the first half of semester for preparation for midterm exam came out a little late.

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| 3 | I think the level of course content was: | Too advanced | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Too elementary | NIL | Median |
| | | Number | 7 | 12 | 16 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | 2.4 |
| | | Distribution 1 | 19% | 33% | 44% | 3% | 0% | | 0% | |
| | | Distribution 2* | | 53% | 44% | | 3% | | | |

Please explain:

- 3) The course is challenging but it is taught extremely well so it is manageable.
- 5) I felt like this paper was a set up from FINC202 and FINC203. After experiencing the jump from 100-Level to 200-Level finance courses, I felt like the jump from 200-Level to FINC302 was disproportionate, however it wasn't unmanageable.
- 7) Some of this courses material was a little hard to grasp the idea of but with the incorporation of real world examples was very well done.
- 10) It was challenging but in a great way. Kept us on our toes but not too exhaustive that we fell behind.
- 11) FINC302 was a very challenging course, however this has only motivated me to try harder to achieve the results I was striving for. I think the difficulty is necessary in this course in order to push people to develop their critical thinking skills.
- 14) Content was difficult, but that is not a bad thing. It is refreshing to be challenged and forced to think for yourself, with help from the lecturer if needed.
- 23) Problem sets were extremely advanced
- 24) Content was extremely hard to understand, more or less the notation isn't well enough explained. Often questions are really easy but they appear in a foreign language.
- 26) While the content was sometimes difficult, Prof. Crack broke it down and explained it very well, making sure that everyone understood
- 33) It's tough - don't get me wrong, but it's meant to be. This is a rewarding 300 level paper that should absolutely remain compulsory for every Finance major.
- 34) Some content are too advanced for me especially when working with excel.
- 35) There was intense maths at the start, but thankfully this was mainly incorporated into the problem sets which gave good practical application.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|----------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 4 | The amount of work this course required was: | Much too much | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Much too little | NIL | Median |
| | | Number | 2 | 10 | 22 | 1 | 1 | | 0 | 2.8 |
| | | Distribution 1 | 6% | 28% | 61% | 3% | 3% | | 0% | |
| | | Distribution 2* | | 33% | 61% | | 6% | | | |

Please explain:

- 3) The amount of work this course requires is heavily dependent on lecture attendance. If lectures are missed a large amount of work is required to catch-up.
- 5) This paper had a huge amount of out-of-class work required, much of which dug into time I had set aside for other papers. It was a challenging workload and I felt that some of the problem sets, while not too difficult, absorbed a lot of time. This was mainly due to Excel, which become a little pedantic with parentheses and commas trying to draw a Markowitz Frontier
- 6) Had to/was able to complete 80% of all problem sets alone. Smaller groups for problem sets would be better.
- 7) Again, the organisation of this course is well thought out, 4 problems sets was perfect in terms of workload and timing.
- 10) Spot on. More importantly than quantity was timing; it was consistent so we never had too much nor too little.
- 11) Good amount of content covered from the textbook. Overall there was a lot of examinable content.
- 14) The problem sets were time consuming, but when the workload was evenly spread through the team it was manageable.
- 24) Problem sets were a lot of work but I found them the only way I really learned. Perhaps another form of learning ie- tutorials or labs are suitable
- 26) Prof. Crack has designed the course so as to be difficult but it was never overwhelming
- 33) The paper is structured to make you THINK, not to be spoon-fed. Yes, it is tough, but if it were to be structured any other way, you wouldn't learn nearly as much.
- 35) I think the problem sets could be worth a bit more than 7.5% each? Either that or my other finance assignments are worth too much (spent double the time on these than I did on equivalent weightings in other papers).

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| | | Extremely | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Not at all | NIL | Median |
|---|--|------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| 5 | Overall, are you satisfied with this course? | Number | 27 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | 1.2 |
| | | Distribution 1 | 75% | 22% | 0% | 3% | 0% | | 0% | |
| | | Distribution 2* | 97% | 0% | 0% | 3% | | | | |

Please explain:

- 3) Totally satisfied. Prof Crack is an excellent lecturer. He answers questions well and ensures students are following along. The content was engaging and well targeted.
 - 5) Yeah, this course was awesome.
 - 7) Overall, I thought this course was excellent. Nothing to fault about it, the material was very interesting, the assessments were well organised, and the lecturer was outstanding in explaining some very difficult theories and concepts. One of the best finance papers I have completed!
 - 10) One of my two favourite papers at Otago in my 4 years.
 - 11) Learnt so much in one semester which makes it highly rewarding.
 - 13) FINC302 has been one of my most enjoyed papers that I have taken at university, if not the most. The course is structured in a logical, considered way, and you build upon your knowledge and skills throughout the semester. It is difficult in that it does test your ability, but more so in that forces you to apply a strong, consistent work ethic.
When Prof. Crack says that he aims to teach 'intuition and critical thinking skills', he succeeds tremendously, and the focus not just the basic recall of information but the underlying thought processes that are necessary in this field are what stand out to me. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable course, developing practical skills and knowledge for post undergraduate study, and if you are interested in finance then it will grow your passion for the subject.
The value I have gained from the lectures and material in this course and almost unrivalled, and the accuracy and attention to detail Prof. Crack applies are a testament to not only his own proficiency, but also his enthusiasm, professionalism, and dedication towards helping students learn.
A great example of how a course should be run.
 - 14) The is course has taught me a lot about the actual workings of capital markets, moving away from the purely theoretical stuff we had previously done in lower level finance.
 - 24) Although very difficult and a lot of work, the course was really interesting and the content we studied was actually applicable with the real world which made it easier. However a lot of the numerical analysis was extremely foreign and to me felt like you needed to be a genius to actually implement.
 - 26) I am extremely satisfied with the course. Prof. Crack is an absolute genius and is by far the best lecturer I have ever had. The course is very well set out, and Prof. Crack really pushes us to succeed
 - 29) Great challenge, Excel was difficult but, rewarding. Learnt a great deal, hopefully, now I will be able to live a healthy wealthy
 - 33) Extremely - disappointed it isn't a full-year paper. It'd give us a chance to learn even more.
 - 35) Professor Crack is hands down the best lecturer I have had in Finance, he is genius without being patronising. I have especially enjoyed how he set up his lectures with topical stories at half time.
 - 37) feels a little difficult for me
- 6 What has helped your learning in this course?
- 1) Answer booklet helped a lot, having all the excel documents on blackboard also helped.
 - 2) Practice using q and a book
 - 3) Attending every lecture. Missing lectures could be very problematic as the content was delivered in the lectures and there were no supplementary materials aside from the text book. The text book was good but can be difficult to understand if you have not had the material first introduced in the lecture.
 - 5) Excel tutorials
 - 7) The use of real world examples was very helpful along with solutions being placed on blackboard of the problems sets and mid term exam. Also the fact the textbook is heavily used, allowed me to have something I can refer back with confidence as it's is heavily used during the lectures.
 - 9) The help sessions that Professor Crack runs leading up to exams.
 - 10) The textbook being cheap. I like many others don't buy expensive textbooks but having this one, and using it in class so often made a big impact!
 - 11) The FFSI textbook, the problem sets, the FFSI Q&A book, Prof. Crack's additional tutorials, PROFESSOR CRACK
 - 14) The text-book is excellent.
 - 19) Professor Crack was excellent.
 - 20) The textbook and groups formed as we study together

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-
- 21) The teaching staff have helped a lot.
- 27) Text book
- 29) f
- 33) Professor Crack's awesome teaching, knowledge, and approachability.
- 34) The assignments and quizzes that we do before starting the proper lecture.
- 35) An amazing lecturer.
- 36) Professor Crack is an excellent, enthusiastic lecturer and conveys the complex information in an understandable and interesting way.
- 37) textbook
lecture
- 7 What has hindered your learning in this course?
- 1) Nothing at all, this course was great, I loved it
- 2) Having not revised statistics notes having done finc203 two years ago
- 3) Nothing.
- 5) The extreme volume of work required for the problem sets. Especially leading up to the Mid-Term. Taking FINC302 and FINC305 at the same time was a real challenge because of the group projects and the amount of work required for both.
- 10) Some struggles with getting groups to pull their weight. This will be detrimental to their final grade but that is not much consolation when you are neck deep with other stuff and you have to do most of the problems sets alone.
- 14) My poor statistics back-ground has made the statistics parts of the course difficult.
- 20) Missing one or two lectures as I understand the material far better when explained by Professor Crack
- 25) Well every group is going to be different but I struggled to learn much at all from the group problem sets because not everyone is going to sit around an excel spreadsheet for hours and hours, especially when your smartest group member works better by playing around with it and figuring it out for themselves. This left a huge gap in my understanding of the course even though I tried to involve myself with the excel questions as best I could. No fault of theirs, but for other members it is exceptionally harder to understand what is going on if you are not the one behind the computer screen, even after explanation by them.
- 27) No
- 33) Nothing.
- 34) The assignments so much time.
- 35) The textbook is great for referencing areas I was confused with but is quite dense.
- 36) Not paying attention as much as I shouldve
- 8 Any other comments:
- 2) Excellent course. Thanks
- 3) Nil.
- 7) Excellent paper!
- 9) Tutorials during the semester (even every second week) would be very helpful.
- 10) Brilliant class and teaching. I wish all lecturers at this uni had at least a quarter of the teaching ability Professor Crack does.
- 11) Thoroughly enjoyed the bottom of the hour entertainment as very interesting and helped me broaden my knowledge on current events happening in the financial world- something that is often overlooked in some other FINC papers.
- 14) Excellent course. I feel I have come to understand more about financial markets in the 13 weeks of this course than I have in my preceding 3 years of finance and accountancy study.
- 23) I think its a bit pointless having such a difficult mid term that is also plussage. So many past students said "Don't worry about the mid term everyone fails" which was somewhat comforting but also not very motivating.
- 24) Perhaps more walkthroughs are needed for the numerical analysis. More than just telling us to do it.
- 26) Massive thank you to Prof. Crack, an absolutely exceptional lecturer!
- 27) Lecturer is good
- 29) gf
- 34) Tutorial is highly recommended as lecture only covers the context, not on how to apply them in a situation like in the midterm.
- 36) Not enough Q and A books :(

Processed by: *AG (Allen Goodchild)*