

COURSE OUTLINES (SYLLABI) FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

(To be posted no later than the first day of class in the term a course is given)

AS1021B Introduction to Financial Security Systems Course Outline

1. Course Information

Course Information

Course Name: Introduction to Financial Security Systems

Course Number: AS 1021B

Term: Winter

Location: PAB-148 (Online delivery for at least the month of January)

Lecture hour: Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

List of Prerequisites n/a

List of Antirequisites n/a

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Kyle Leistner	kleistne@uwo.ca	WSC272		Via zoom – book through email
Pouya Faroughi	pfarough@uwo.ca			

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

The nature and cause of financial security and insecurity; public, private and employer programs and products to reduce financial insecurity, including social security, individual insurance and annuities along with employee pensions and benefits.

Key question of this course:

How do we achieve economic security? And what does an actuarial science perspective have to offer in answering this question?

- Actuaries use math and statistics to create theoretical models of the world around them
- They apply these concrete skills to real life situations and to problems like analyzing future financial events; they create and price insurance products and help design and give advice on government social security programs and company employee benefit plans
- In AS1021 you'll learn about many social insurance programs & private insurance plans that require actuaries in their creation; such as retirement savings plans, employer pension plans, government social security programs, long-term care insurance, health insurance plans & disability insurance
- The work of actuaries is critical to understanding some of the key components available to Canadians that help them achieve financial security

This course is intended to give you some insight into what constitutes, and what are the causes of, financial insecurity. You will then gain knowledge of the various programs and products that are available to help reduce financial insecurity. You will gain an appreciation for the differences between social/governmental programs and private programs, both on the individual and employer level.

While this course will be of interest to students in any program, the course is also intended to give you some background on financial products and programs that actuaries have been and are currently involved with so as to give you a "picture" of what actuarial science is all about.

Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Jan 10 – 14	Financial Security and Insecurity	KL
2	Jan 17 – 21	Individual – Retirement Savings Plans	KL
3	Jan 24 – 28	Employer – Pension plans, Group RRSP's	KL
4	Jan 31 – Feb 4	Cont'd	KL
5	Feb 7 – 11	Government – CPP/QPP, OAS, GIS	KL
6	Feb 14 – 18	Long-Term Care	KL
7	Feb 21 – 25	Reading Week	NA
8	Feb 28 – Mar 4	Individual – Individual Health Insurance Employer – STD and LTD plans	KL
9	Mar 7 – Mar 11	Government – Workers' Comp, CPP	KL
10	Mar 14 – 18	Premature death	KL
11	Mar 21 – 25	Insurance Contracts, Employment	KL
12	Mar 28 – Apr 1	Insurance & Other Topics	KL
13	Apr 4	Exam review	KL
			KL

Classes begin: January 10, 2021

Reading Week: February 19–27, 2022

Classes end: April 8, 2022

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on

OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

4. Course Materials

Textbook

1. Morneau Shepell Handbook of Canadian Pension and Benefit Plans” (17th Edition)
 - Available through the bookstore in hardcopy and digital format
2. Various articles on course OWL web page

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Technical Requirements

Stable internet connection, computer with working microphone and/or webcam

5. Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Assignments	7.5%
Written report	10%
Midterm	32.5%
Final Exam	50%

Assignments

There will be three in-class assignments, the dates of which will be announced once the semester begins.

Report

There will be a short written project due by the end of the term. More information on the report will be given in class and posted on the course web page later in the term.

Midterm

There will be a closed-book, two-hour test on the following date (tentatively):

Wednesday, February 16, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Topics TBA)

Final Exam

The final exam will be a three-hour examination covering all material in the course, with emphasis on material covered since the midterm. The exam will consist of written answer questions. It will be scheduled by the Registrar's office.

Accommodated Evaluations

Late Submissions by Undergraduate Students

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty of 20% per day, and assessments that are submitted 5 or more days late will not be graded.
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report, after which they will be subject to a late penalty of 20% per day, and assessments that are submitted 5 or more days late will not be graded.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark “bumping” will be denied.

6. Student Absences

Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence (SRA) form provided that the conditions for submission are met. To be eligible for a Self-Reported Absence:
 - an absence must be no more than 48 hours
 - the assessments must be worth no more than 30% of the student's final grade
 - no more than two SRAs may be submitted during the Fall/Winter term
- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner to the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration.
- (iii) Submitting appropriate documentation for non-medical absences to the Academic Counselling office in their Faculty of Registration.

Note that in all cases, with the exception of an SRA, students are required to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period covered, unless otherwise instructed in the course outline.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For the policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

7. Accommodation and Accessibility

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf),

8. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Students may use any calculator on evaluations.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

In the event we return to online learning during the period in which assessments are taking place, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

9. Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at (519) 661-2147 if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.health.uwo.ca/mentalhealth>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <http://westernusc.ca/services>.