NEW YORK UNIVERSITY STERN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Debt Instruments and Markets
Syllabus for FINC-UB 26 Fall 2017
Tuesday-Thursday 3:30-4:45 KMC 4-80

Professor Jennifer N. Carpenter
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Course Description
This course describes important debt instruments and markets in the US and China and develops analytical methods for pricing and hedging bonds and fixed income derivatives, and for bond portfolio management and performance evaluation.

Tentative Schedule of Lectures
Sep 5  Overview of Debt Markets in the US and China
Sep 7  Coupon Bonds and Zeroes
Sep 12 Yield to Maturity
Sep 14 Duration
Sep 19 Immunization
Sep 21 Convexity
Sep 26 Rate of Return vs. Yield
Sep 28 Government Bond Risks and Returns: Evidence from the US and China
Oct 3  Level and Slope Factors in Bond Returns: Evidence from the US and China
Oct 5  Bond Portfolio Performance Evaluation: Evidence from US ETFs
Oct 10 Review Session
Oct 12 Midterm
Oct 17 Forward Contracts
Oct 19 Forward Rates
Oct 24 Repos and Floating Rate Notes
Oct 26 Interest Rate Swaps
Oct 31 Bonds with Embedded Options
Nov 2  Option Pricing by Replication
Nov 7  Pricing Multi-Period Options with Dynamic Trading Strategies
Nov 9  Fixed Income Option Models
Nov 14 American Options and Callable Bonds
Nov 16 Swaptions
Nov 21 The US Mortgage Market
Nov 28 Mortgage-Backed Securities: Passthroughs
Nov 30 Mortgage-Backed Securities: CMOs
Dec 5  Caps, Floors, and Collars
Dec 7  Distinguished Industry Expert Speaker
Dec 14 Review Session
Dec 21 Final Exam 4:00-5:50 PM
Course Materials
Required
Lecture notes and problem sets
Recommended

Course Requirements
Grades will be based on the following.
- Class Participation (5%)
- Problem Sets (5%)
- Midterm (40%)
- Final (50%)

Exams

You must take each of your exams as scheduled. Otherwise, with the following two exceptions, your grade for the exam will be zero.
1) In case of a legitimate, foreseeable conflict, in order to take the exam at a different time, you must make a request in writing or by email at least one week prior to the exam, and obtain my written or email permission prior to the exam.
2) In case of an emergency, you must provide formal, written verification, such as a letter from a doctor.

Bi-Weekly Problem Sets
Because the material is technical and new concepts build on old ones, it will be essential to do the problem sets in order to follow the lectures and succeed on the exams. To facilitate learning, I encourage students to work together on these problem sets. Groups of students working together should submit just one assignment. All students in the same group will get the same grade. I cannot accept late assignments.

TA Office Hours
My TA, Stanley Wu, will hold bi-weekly office hours on Mondays at 5-5:50 PM. I encourage students to make the most of this opportunity to work together and get regular help and feedback.

Warning
The study of fixed income securities is quantitative by nature and this course will be taught very rigorously.

Grading
At NYU Stern, we strive to create courses that challenge students intellectually and that meet the Stern standards of academic excellence. To ensure fairness and clarity of grading, the Stern faculty have agreed that for elective courses the individual instructor or department is responsible for determining reasonable grading guidelines.
The Finance Department has elected to use the following grading guidelines for this course and all other elective courses. Instructors should award grades of “A” or “A-” to approximately 35% of students in elective courses with enrollments of more than 25 students. In elective classes of less than 25 students, the instructor is at liberty to give whatever grades they think the students deserve, while maintaining rigorous academic standards.

Academic Integrity
Integrity is critical to the learning process and to all that we do here at NYU Stern. As members of our community, all students agree to abide by the NYU Stern Student Code of Conduct, which includes a commitment to:

- Exercise integrity in all aspects of one's academic work including, but not limited to, the preparation and completion of exams, papers and all other course requirements by not engaging in any method or means that provides an unfair advantage.

- Clearly acknowledge the work and efforts of others when submitting written work as one’s own. Ideas, data, direct quotations (which should be designated with quotation marks), paraphrasing, creative expression, or any other incorporation of the work of others should be fully referenced.

- Refrain from behaving in ways that knowingly support, assist, or in any way attempt to enable another person to engage in any violation of the Code of Conduct. Our support also includes reporting any observed violations of this Code of Conduct or other School and University policies that are deemed to adversely affect the NYU Stern community.

The entire Stern Student Code of Conduct applies to all students enrolled in Stern courses and can be found here: www.stern.nyu.edu/uc/codeofconduct

General Conduct & Behavior
Students are also expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards of professional conduct and behavior. Please familiarize yourself with Stern's Policy in Regard to In-Class Behavior & Expectations (http://www.stern.nyu.edu/portal-partners/current-students/undergraduate/resources-policies/academic-policies/index.htm) and the NYU Disruptive Behavior Policy (http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines/compliance/policies-and-guidelines/bullying--threatening--and-other-disruptive-behavior-guidelines.html).

Students with Disabilities
If you have a qualified disability and will require academic accommodation of any kind during this course, you must notify me at the beginning of the course and provide a letter from the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD, 998-4980, www.nyu.edu/csd) verifying your registration and outlining the accommodations they recommend. If you will need to take an exam at the CSD, you must submit a completed Exam Accommodations Form to them at least one week prior to the scheduled exam time to be guaranteed accommodation.