

**School of Administrative Studies
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies**

AP/ADMS 4509 Financial Risk Management

Winter 2026 – Course Outline

PLEASE READ THE OUTLINE CAREFULLY!

Instructor: Hamid Arian, PhD, CFA, FRM

eClass: Access to the website is granted automatically to enrolled students.

Email: harian@yorku.ca (Note: You *must use your my.yorku.ca email* account. Include ADMS4509 in the subject line and your **full name** and **student number** in the body of the message.)

Class hours and office hours:

Our class hours are **Tuesdays, 11:30 – 14:30 p.m.**, in **VC 107**.

Office hours:

1. may occur after class,
2. on Wednesdays 10:00 – 12:00 pm,
3. over Zoom by appointment.

Important: If health restrictions change and we are asked to switch to online meetings, I will provide details for Zoom meetings.

Course Description

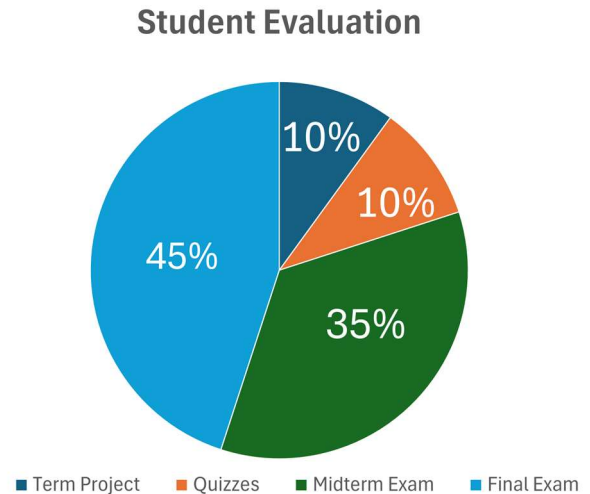
Financial risk management is an area of financial services that is growing across the globe. Identifying and managing financial risks is critical for financial success, and ignoring these risks will very likely cause financial failure. This course introduces risk management theory and provides a practical approach to understanding how risks are quantified and managed. The first part of the course will present students with the tools used to assess financial risk. Students will understand how risk is measured, how derivatives and fixed-income securities work, and how these securities are used in risk management. The second part of the course will introduce students to risk management concepts such as value at risk (VaR) and stress testing. Students will then learn how to apply these concepts and the tools acquired in the first part of the course to market credit, operational, liquidity, and enterprise risk management. By the end of this class, students will be able to master key concepts and issues of financial risk management and evaluate risk management practices in an industry setting. This course will be particularly useful for those students studying for Financial Risk Manager (FRM[®]) and Professional Risk Manager (PRM[®]) designations. *However, please note that this course is not an FRM and PRM prep course.*

Prerequisites

ADMS 3531 (Personal Investment Management) is the **prerequisite**. It is highly recommended that you take both AP/ADMS 4503 (Derivative Securities) and AP/ADMS 4504 (Fixed Income Securities and Risk Management) at your convenience.

Student Evaluation

Term Project	10%
Quizzes (5)	10% (2% each)
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	45%



High-level Exam Structure

- **Part I: Multiple-choice Concept-Based Questions**
 - **Q1 [3 marks]:** This part is from the conceptual material within the slides
 - A) ... B)... C)
 - **Q2 [3 marks]:** There will be three choices similar to the CFA exam
 - A) ... B)... C)
 - **Q3 [3 marks]:** This part is easy, but do not underestimate
 - A) ... B)... C)
 - **Q4 [3 marks]:** You only need to read the slides and the prep plans for a perfect score in this section
 - A) ... B)... C)
- **Part II: Multiple-choice Calculation-Based Questions**
 - **Q1 [3 marks]:** This part is also similar to the CFA exam
 - A) ... B)... C)
 - **Q2 [3 marks]:** There will be three choices, but the questions require calculations
 - A) ... B)... C)
 - **Q3 [3 marks]:** Like part I, this part is easy, but do not underestimate
 - A) ... B)... C)
 - **Q4 [3 marks]:** You only need to read the slides and the prep plans for a perfect score in this section
 - A) ... B)... C)
- **Part III: Multi-step Problems**
 - **Q1 [16 marks]:** This consists of questions that come in multiple parts to help you, as it is easier to calculate a final answer in multiple steps
 - **Q2 [20 marks]:** Do this part after Parts I & II when you have some self-confidence and momentum.
 - **Q3 [20 marks]:** You have seen the first three problems in Part III in the prep plan or mock exams, but not the last problem below [~]
 - **Q4 [20 marks]:** To do this question, you should have practiced all the end-of-chapter problems in your textbook. If you want an A+, you should try all the problems in your textbook.

Required Textbook: [*Risk Management and Financial Institutions*](#), fifth edition, John C. Hull, Wiley, 2018, ISBN: 978-1-119-44811-2 (hereafter, *Hull*). **Supplementary Readings:** [*Value at Risk: The New Benchmark for Managing Financial Risk*](#), third edition, Philippe Jorion, McGraw-Hill, 2007, ISBN-13: 978-0-07-146495-6. [*Financial Risk Manager Handbook*](#), sixth edition, Philippe Jorion, GARP, Wiley, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-470-90401-5.

Method of Instruction

We will review the week's main topics and work through the practice problems. To fully benefit from this course, you must complete the assigned readings and solve the practice problems for each class. The course is organized so that you have some graded work almost two weeks.

Calculator

You need a handheld, non-programmable calculator that includes basic math functions (e.g. logarithm, exponential, square root, and power functions). It is also helpful if the calculator includes essential financial functions (e.g. PV, FV, PMT). If you will pursue the CFA designation in the future, note that only two **financial calculators** are currently allowed for the CFA exams: the Texas Instruments BAII Plus (and BAII Plus Pro), and the Hewlett-Packard 12C (HP-12C).

Term Projects

There is one **term project**. Groups of **4-7** students must **be formed by the 3rd class** and shouldn't be changed. Each group will do a rehearsal presentation on week 11 and their final presentation on week 12. The details of the projects are posted on eclass.

Quizzes

The **quizzes will all be conducted in person**. We will have two before the midterm and three before the final. Details of the quizzes will be announced on eclass.

Midterm and Final Exams

If you **miss the midterm exam** for a legitimate reason, you will write a **cumulative final exam in coverage and weight**. There is **NO make-up midterm exam**. Students with a **conflict due to religious reasons** will be accommodated. Please inform the course director in writing by the **third class**. All students who need a passing grade for the course must take the final exam.

The final exam will be scheduled by the RO. All students who need a passing grade for the course must take the final exam.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing [SPARK's Academic Integrity](#) module at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, representing another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this

course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

Finance Area policy on DSA (Deferred Standing Agreement)

It is the policy of the School of Administrative Studies Finance Area that instructors **will not automatically approve a DSA form if you miss both the midterm and final exams. If the DSA is denied**, students in this situation must petition for a deferred exam, late withdrawal, or a remedy appropriate to their circumstances.

Relevant University/LA&PS/School Regulations

The regulations on many aspects of coursework that apply to you are:

<http://sas.laps.yorku.ca/students/>

You are responsible for understanding and following these regulations.

Forms and Policies

Attending Physician's Statement form for missed midterm or missed final exam:

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attend_physician_statement.pdf

DSA Form for missed final exam:

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf

DSA Process and Petitions for ADMS classes: <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/sas/links.html>

Tentative Course Schedule

The topic order will be as stated below. However, if we cannot finish the material listed in a lecture, the remainder will be carried forward to the following one. Dates and topics are *tentative and subject to change with notice*. **All times are in the Eastern Time Zone.** Note that the dates for the assignments and quizzes will be posted on the course website. Please check the announcement section of your course on a regular basis.

Course Timeline

Lecture	Date	Topics and Chapters Readings
1	January 6	Introduction
2	January 13	Bonds, and Interest Rate Risk, Futures and Options, and How Traders Manage Their Risks Term project is posted Groups will be announced
3	January 20	Volatility Solution to Prep Plan Parts 1 & 2 Posted
4	January 27	Correlations and Copulas Quiz 1 Solution to Prep Plan Part 3 Posted
5	February 3	Value at Risk and Expected Shortfall Quiz 2 Solution to Prep Plan Part 4 Posted
6	February 10	Historical Simulations, EVT, Model Building Approach Solution to Prep Plan Part 5 Posted
Midterm Q&A Session the day before the exam @ 9 pm Zoom Link: https://yorku.zoom.us/my/harian		
Midterm	TBA	Midterm Exam: Lectures covered are 1-5 Time: TBD Location: TBD
February 15-21: Reading Week		
7	February 24	Historical Simulations, EVT, Model Building Approach (continued)
8	March 3	Estimating Probabilities of Default
9	March 10	Credit Value at Risk Solution to Prep Plan Part 6 Posted
10	March 17	Scenario Analysis and Stress Testing Operational Risk Quiz 3 Solution to Prep Plan Part 7 Posted
11	March 24	Scenario Analysis and Stress Testing Operational Risk (continued) Quiz 4 Presentation Rehearsals Solution to Prep Plan Part 8 Posted
12	March 31	Financial Innovation Quiz 5 Term Project Presentations Solution to Prep Plan Part 9 Posted
Final Q&A Session the day before the exam @ 9 pm Zoom Link: https://yorku.zoom.us/my/harian		
Final	TBA	Final exam: Lectures covered are from 6-12 Time: TBA Location: TBA

Appendix A: Quiz Timeline

Quiz	Date	Coverage	Percentage
1	September 26	Interest Rate Risk, Derivatives Risk	2%
2	October 3	Volatility, Correlation & Copulas	2%
3	November 14	HS, EVT, Model Building Approach	2%
4	November 21	Estimating Probability of Default, Credit Value at Risk	2%
5	November 28	Scenario Analysis and Stress Testing, Operational Risk	2%

Appendix B: Project Timeline

	Date	Percentage
Rehearsal	November 21*	10%
Presentation	November 28	

* Your presentation slides should be ready by this date

Appendix C: Feedback and Review Sessions

	Date
Q&A Session for Midterm*	Wednesday, Oct 9 th from 2pm-3pm and from 9pm-10pm
Q&A Session for Final**	Thursday, Dec 5 th from 2pm-3pm and from 9pm-10pm

* Midterm Exam is scheduled for Oct 10 - Location: TBA.

** Final Exam is scheduled for Dec 6 – Location: TBA.

Appendix D: Midterm Prep Timeline

Topic	Practice Posted	Solution Posted	Office Hours
Interest Rate Risk	Week 1	Week 3	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm
Derivatives Risk	Week 1	Week 3	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm
Volatility	Week 1	Week 4	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm
Correlation & Copulas	Week 1	Week 5	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm
Value at Risk and ES	Week 1	Week 5	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm

Appendix E: Final Prep Timeline

Topic	Practice Posted	Solution Posted	Office Hours
HS, EVT, Model	Week 7	Week 9	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm
Estimating Probability of Default	Week 7	Week 10	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm
Credit Value at Risk	Week 7	Week 11	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm
Scenario and Stress Testing, Operational Risk	Week 7	Week 12	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm
Financial Innovation	Week 7	Week 12	Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 pm

*Online office hours are held in Zoom: <https://yorku.zoom.us/my/harian>