About this Class

This course provides students with the opportunity for an in-depth study of the fixed income markets and the derivatives most commonly used in those markets. Topics include a survey of the most important fixed income securities and derivatives, the structures of the fixed income markets, an overview of the roles of various participants in these markets, interest rate and term structure models, measures of risk and return for fixed income securities, techniques of fixed income portfolio management, and pricing methods for fixed income derivatives (including bond futures, bond futures options, interest rate options, interest rate swaps, and credit-default swaps).

Course Objectives

- To understand the role that fixed income markets play in the economy.
- To become aware of the variety of fixed income instruments in existence.
- To understand the commonly used term structure models, and, in particular, the differences in the use and interpretation of those models.
- To learn pricing techniques for fixed income derivatives.

Academic Integrity

I take academic dishonesty very seriously, and I expect you to do so as well. You are responsible for understanding the University’s policy regarding Academic Integrity. That policy can be found in the 2013-2014 Graduate Catalog.

Electronic Communications

All students at UNC-Charlotte are assigned a student email account, which is the official means of communication between the University and the student. Although I will certainly respond to you if you use another email system, you should be aware that any class-wide announcements that I send through email will be sent to your UNC-Charlotte ‘49er account.

Grading Policies

There will be one in-class midterm exam and one cumulative take-home final exam. The midterm will count for 30% of your final grade, and the final will count for 50% of your final grade. The format of the tests will be a mixture of discussion questions and problems. I will also assign weekly homework, which I will grade. Your average score on these problem sets will account for the remaining 20% of your grade.

Grading Scale

The lower bounds for final grades of A, B, C will be no higher than 90, 80, and 70 percent of the total available points, respectively. Grades will be curved if necessary.
Missed Tests

Make up exams will only be administered if your absence is unavoidable. You must make me aware of any such unavoidable absences as soon as possible after you learn of them so that an alternative exam time can be set.

Statement on Diversity

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.