

Risk Management and Insurance Course Syllabus

YEAR COURSE OFFERED: 2015

SEMESTER COURSE OFFERED: Spring

DEPARTMENT: Finance

COURSE NUMBER: 4355

NAME OF COURSE: International Risk Management

NAME OF INSTRUCTOR: Nick Kapatos

The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course or required by the University of Houston.

General Information:

In this course we explore risk management in the international arena. While many of the tools we use to respond to risk are the same, risk management and insurance in the global setting requires us to consider more factors than managing risk on a domestic level. Students who plan to work for a multinational company or a domestic company with international connections and international students who plan to return to their home country will find this course particularly useful.

Students will gain a keen understanding of international risk management and insurance. There will be a plethora of topics covered in the course with many real world examples. Students will learn how to do root cause analysis and loss scenario analysis and will work in small groups on class assignments. Online materials are used extensively in this course. The textbook is used mainly as a reference although it is required for the course.

Required Textbook:

Risk Management and Insurance: Perspectives in a Global Economy

Harold D. Skipper & W. Jean Kwon

ISBN 978-1-4051-2541-3

Available at the University Bookstore

Suggested Reading:

Against the Gods, The Remarkable Story of Risk, Bernstein, Peter L., New York, Wiley 1996
Business Insurance Magazine (access provided via course link to University Library)

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Attendance:

Attendance will be taken. If you accumulate more than four unexcused absences from class, your letter grade will be reduced by one letter.

Class Participation:

Active class participation will increase your learning experience and will benefit others. **Class participation & homework makes up 20% of your grade.** You are expected to come to class prepared to participate. This means that you have completed the assigned readings before class, are ready to contribute, and will share your ideas when appropriate. Do your best!

Style Guide:

Please prepare all writing assignment in a word processing program. All documents must be double spaced, 12 point font, and have one inch margins. All documents must comply with formatting in accordance with either MLA or APA guidelines presented in the respective style guide. It is good practice to stick to one guide throughout the semester.

Grading:	93.00-100.00 = A	80.00-82.99 = B-	67.00-69.99 = D+
	90.00-92.99 = A-	77.00-79.99 = C+	63.00-66.99 = D
	87.00-89.99 = B+	73.00-76.99 = C	60.00-62.99 = D-
	83.00-86.99 = B	70.00-72.99 = C-	

Exams & Assignments:

1. Test #1 – 25% of final grade
2. Test #2 – 25% of final grade
3. Final exam – 30% of final grade
4. Daily Work – 20% of final grade – Class participation and homework assignments

Homework will be assigned prior to lectures. These assignments must be completed and submitted using Blackboard Learn prior to the stated expiration date. Homework assignments will be accepted as “late” if they are turned in within one week following the originally required date. However, 10 points will be automatically deducted from homework assignments that are turned in late. **Homework assignments turned in more than one week beyond the due date will be given a grade of “0.”**

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Critical thinking and writing are an important part of any college program. Businesses want individuals who can think and write well. Your homework assignments will be written assignments related to our classes. Credit will be given only if the submission is:

- Clearly written (spelling, grammar, and logical organization);
- Links the class topic to one or more of the following: guest lecturer, case study, readings from the text or other sources, or the class discussion; and
- Reflective and explains what you learned or found most beneficial from the class.

5. Term paper is **optional** for extra credit that will be added to your final average. It must be 8 pages (double spaced) excluding cover and bibliography. A choice of topics will be provided. You must **select your topic by March 15, 2015** and notify me via email. A printed copy of the **term paper must be turned in by April 25, 2015**. No late papers will be accepted.

Points added to final average grade: A = +4 B = +3 C = +2 D = +1

Note: Requests to enter the designation for “Incomplete” after the drop course without grade deadline must be in writing and will only be honored in the presence of very unusual circumstances accompanied by a written recommendation from your curriculum advisor.

Make-up exams or homework:

To be entitled to make up examinations or homework, a written request must be submitted to the instructor prior to the test date. The request will state the reason for the absence and provide the name and contact information of at least one individual who can verify the circumstances. For absence due to medical reasons, a note from the attending physician is recommended. Permission to make up an examination will be granted only if the circumstances involved constitute an “excused absence” based on University of Houston policy. Excused absences involve serious illness, family emergencies, legal requirements and other circumstances clearly beyond the control of the student. Skipping class for reasons of personal convenience or to study for another exam are examples of circumstances that are not deemed to be “excused absences.” Makeup exams will be more difficult and more extensive than the regularly scheduled exams.

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Blackboard Learning:

The University of Houston's Blackboard system will be an important communication link for students in this class. Announcements are posted and reflect schedule changes, articles and other resources needed to fully understand the topics discussed.

Students should use the Discussion Board to post any class material questions. This process allows the entire class community to benefit from these information exchanges, and will limit repetitive questioning from individual sources. I will also post articles on occasion and start discussions about them. Participation in these discussions is a part of your participation grade discussed above.

Blackboard Learn will be used in this class as a course management tool to post announcements, the course syllabus and journal entries. All assignments for the course will be submitted through Assignments.

To access Blackboard for this class, you will need your Cougar Net ID to login. Make sure your Cougar Net account is active and that you are able to log in with it. To test, you can log in at <https://accessuh.uh.edu/login.php>. If you need to reset your password you can do so online at http://www.uh.edu/infotech/php/template.php?account_id=57.

If your account has become inactive due to non-use, you can activate it by calling 713-743-1411. If you have questions about Blackboard Learn or need technical assistance, you can click on the "get help" link on the Blackboard website, or call the helpline at 713-743-1411 (M-F 8am-8pm).

Academic Honesty:

The University of Houston Academic Honesty Policy is strictly enforced by the C. T. Bauer College of Business. No violations of this policy, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be tolerated in this course. A discussion of the policy is included in the University of Houston Student Handbook. Students are expected to be familiar with this policy. Students are expected to produce original work in the course. Previous course-work from other classes cannot be submitted for credit in this course for any class assignment or project. At the instructor's discretion, work will be submitted to "Turn It In."

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The C. T. Bauer College of Business would like to help students who have disabilities achieve their highest potential. To receive academic accommodations, students must register with the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), telephone 713-743-5400, and present approved accommodation documentation to their instructor.