

Course Outline

Course Code	RSM 430 H1 F
Course Name	Fixed Income Securities
Term, Year	Fall, 2023
Course Meets	L5101 – Tue (5:00 – 7:00 pm) in WO L5201 – Tue (7:00 – 9:00 pm) in WO L5301 / L2501 – Wed (5:00 – 7:00 pm) in WO
Web page URL	https://q.utoronto.ca

Instructor Details

Name	Email	Phone	Office Hours	Virtual Office Link
Ray Daroga	Ray.Daroga@Rotman.UToronto.ca	Please email me with RSM430 and section number in subject line	Office hours will be announced on Quercus	Zoom link will be posted on Quercus

Course Scope, Mission and Learning Outcomes

This is a capital markets course that describes important fixed income securities and markets. It will emphasize traditional bond and term structure concepts as well as current events and/or securities affecting the functioning of these markets.

Course Prerequisites

Rotman Commerce: RSM332H1
Actuarial Science: ACT349H1

Course Materials

Reference Textbook

Textbook: Fabozzi, Frank J., Bond Markets, Analysis, and Strategies, 10th Edition, (MIT), ISBN-10: 026204627X ISBN-13: 978-0262046275

Evaluation and Grades

Grades are a measure of the knowledge and skills developed by a student within individual courses. Each student will receive a grade on the basis of how well they have command of the course materials, skills and learning objectives of the course.

Work	Percentage of grade	Due Date
Assignment 1 (Group)	7%	October 8, 2023 (by 11:59 pm)
Midterm Test	35%	October 24, 2023 (5:00 – 7:00 pm)
Trading Results (Individual)	6%	November 26, 2023 (by 11:59 pm)
Assignment 2 (Group)	7%	December 3, 2023 (by 11:59 pm)
Final Test	45%	During Faculty of Arts & Science Final Exam Period

Course Format and Expectations

Writing Assignments

In your written Trading Results assignments, you should aim for clarity, strong organization, concision, professionalism, and correct grammar. Sources should always be correctly attributed.

Support is available through the RC Centre for Professional Skills (CPS) for students who would like help or feedback on their writing or speaking (presentations). CPS offers both individual and group appointments with trained writing instructors and presentation coaches who are familiar with the RC program and common types of business assignments. You can also access your college Writing Centres for help with written assignments.

You can book an appointment with a writing or presentation coach through the RC Centre for Professional Skills Writing Centre. For more information about writing centres, student supports, and study resources, see the [Writing and Presentation Coaching academic support page](#).

Team or Group Assignments

Assignments 1 & Assignment 2 require students to work in teams of 3-4. Learning to work together in teams is a crucial transferrable skill you will use not only in your coursework, but also in your future careers. Support is available if you encounter common teamwork challenges such as:

- Team members feeling left out of the team.
- Team members not responding in a timely manner to communication.
- Division or quality of work among team members being unequal or unfair.

Consult the [Centre for Professional Skills Teamwork Resources page](#) for tips, strategies, and best practices. You can also [book an appointment with a teamwork mentor](#) through the RC Centre for Professional Skills Writing Centre. Teamwork mentors can help you resolve or mitigate conflict, strategize on planning, or improve team communication.

If you are a student registered with Accessibility Services, and extensions are one of your academic accommodations, consult with your Accessibility Advisor about the teamwork in this course.

Missed Tests and Assignments (including mid-term and final-term assessments)

Students who miss a test or assignment for reasons entirely beyond their control (e.g. illness) may request special consideration **within 2 business days** of the missed midterm / test / assignment due date.

In such cases, students must:

1. Complete the Request for Special Consideration form: <https://uoft.me/RSMConsideration>
2. Provide documentation to support the request, eg. Absence Declaration from [ACORN](#), medical note etc.

Please note: As of September 2023, students may use the Absence Declaration on ACORN ***one time per term*** to report an absence and request consideration. **Any subsequent absence will require a [Verification of Illness form](#) or other similar relevant documentation.**

Students who do not submit their requests and documentation within 2 days may receive a grade of 0 (zero) on the missed course deliverable.

Mid Term Exam: There will be no make-up midterm exam. Students who miss the regular midterm exam for valid documented reasons will have their grades reallocated to their final exam. This means the final exam may be worth 80%.

Group & Individual Assignments: All assignments are due on the date and at the time specified in Quercus. Late submissions will normally be penalized by 10% if the assignment is not received on the specified date, at the specified time. A further penalty of 10% will be applied to each subsequent day.

Re-grade Requests: If you have concerns about the grading of the assignment, please bring these to the attention of the Lead Teaching Assistant: **TBD** within one week of the assignment being returned. Re-grade requests submitted after this time will not be considered. Please re-submit the assignment with a written explanation of your concerns.

Accommodation for Travel: Please note that NO accommodations will be made for discretionary travel plans. It is the student's responsibility to know the dates of participation exercises and tests and ensure there is no conflict with travel. It's recommended that you do not make any travel plans during the term until after the last day of the final assessment period to avoid potential conflicts. Otherwise, the result will be a zero (0) for that test.

Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Commitment to Accessibility

The University is committed to inclusivity and accessibility, and strives to provide support for, and facilitate the accommodation of, individuals with disabilities so that all may share the same level of access to opportunities and activities offered at the University.

If you require accommodations for a temporary or ongoing disability or health concern, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please [email Accessibility Services](#) or visit the [Accessibility Services website](#) for more information as soon as possible. Obtaining your accommodation letter may take up to several weeks, so get in touch with them as soon as possible. If you have general questions or concerns about the accessibility of this course, you are encouraged to reach out to your instructor, course coordinator, or Accessibility Services.

Original

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the [University's Plagiarism Detection Tool FAQ](#) page from Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation.

Generative AI / ChatGPT

Students are encouraged to make use of technology, including generative artificial intelligence tools, to contribute to their understanding of course materials. Students may use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI, in this course as learning aids or to help produce assignments. However, students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit. Students must submit, as an appendix with their assignments, any content produced by an artificial intelligence tool, and the prompt used to generate the content.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is a fundamental value essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will continue to be valued and respected as a true signifier of a student's individual work and academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously.

[The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the process for addressing academic offences and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.

- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes collaborating with others on assignments that are supposed to be completed individually).

On test and exams

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) medical notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated by the procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in the course, please do not hesitate to contact the course instructor. If you have any questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information from the instructor or other U of T or RC resources such as the RC Centre for Professional Skills, the College Writing Centres or the Academic Success Centre.

Email

At times, the course instructor may decide to communicate important course information by email. As such, all U of T students are required to have a valid UTmail+ email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UTmail+ email address is set up and properly entered on ACORN. For more information visit the [Information Commons Help Desk](#).

Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Gmail or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Gmail accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that important messages from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Recording Lectures

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record a lecture or other course material in any way are required to ask the instructor's explicit permission and may not do so unless permission is granted. Students who have been previously granted permission to record lectures as an accommodation for a disability are excepted. This includes tape recording, filming, photographing PowerPoint slides, Quercus materials, etc.

If permission for recording is granted by the instructor (or via Accessibility Services), it is intended for the individual student's own study purposes and does not include permission to "publish" them in any way. It is forbidden for a student to publish an instructor's notes to a website or sell them in any other form without formal permission.

Weekly Schedule (*EXAMPLE*)

- The following schedule is subject to modification as the course progresses.
- Textbook chapters are provided for reference. Class notes and examples are key!

Session	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Sept. 12-13	Lecture 1: Overview of the fixed income market, participants, bond features & structures Lecture 1A: Bond Valuation	Chapters 1,2; Class Notes
2	Sept. 19-20	Lecture 2: The Nominal Yield Curve & Interpolation	Chapter 3, Class Notes
3	Sept. 26-27	Lecture 3: Building the Yield Curve: Government Bond Auctions & Repo Transactions	Chapters 1,2,5,6,7 Class Notes
4	Oct. 3-4	Lecture 3: Building the Yield Curve: Government Bond Auctions & Repo Transactions Lecture 3A: Embedded Calls & Puts	Chapters 1,2,5,6,7 Class Notes
	Oct. 8	Assignment #1 due by 11:59 pm	
5	Oct. 10-11	Lecture 4: Understanding the Yield Curve: Spot Rates, Forward Rates, Bootstrapping	Chapter 5,6 Class Notes
6	Oct. 17-18	Lecture 4: Understanding the Yield Curve: Spot Rates, Forward Rates, Bootstrapping	Chapter 5,6 Class Notes
7	Oct. 24	MIDTERM TEST (October 24 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm) No class this week	
8	Oct. 31 – Nov 1	Lecture 5: Measuring Interest Rate Risk: Duration, Convexity Lecture 5A: Yield Curve Trades	Chapter 4 Class notes
9	Nov. 14-15	Lecture 5: Measuring Interest Rate Risk: Duration, Convexity Lecture 5A: Yield Curve Trades	Chapter 4 Class Notes
10	Nov. 21-22	Rotman Fixed Income Trading Session will be held in the BMO Lab (105 St George Street, 2nd Floor) during regular class hours. No class this week	Class Notes
	Nov. 26	Trading Summary due by 11:59 pm	
11	Nov. 28-29	Lecture 6: Corporate Bond Market: Credit & Capital Structure Lecture 6A: Corporate Bond Market: Offering Methods & Distribution	Chapters 8,22 Class Notes
	Dec. 3	Assignment #2 due by 11:59 pm	
12	Dec. 5-6	Lecture 7: Securitization - Structuring Basics	Chapter 16 Class Notes

Please note that the last day you can drop this course without academic penalty is November 6, 2023.



Other Useful Links

- [Become a volunteer note taker](#)
- [Accessibility Services Note Taking Support](#)
- [Credit / No-Credit in RSM courses](#)
- [Rotman Commerce Academic Support](#)

URL links for print

- ACORN: <http://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/>
- Email Accessibility Services: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca
- Accessibility Services website: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>
- University's Plagiarism Detection Tool FAQ: <https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>
- The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>
- Information Commons Help Desk: <http://help.ic.utoronto.ca/category/3/utmail.html>
- Become a volunteer note taker: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/program/volunteer-note-taking/>
- Accessibility Services Note Taking Support: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/service/note-taking-support/>
- Credit / No-Credit in RSM courses: <https://rotmancommerce.utoronto.ca/current-students/degree-requirements/credit-no-credit-option/>
- Rotman Commerce Academic Support: <https://rotmancommerce.utoronto.ca/current-students/academic-support/>
- Book an appointment with a writing or presentation coach: <http://uoft.me/writingcentres>
- Writing and Presentation Coaching academic support page: <https://rotmancommerce.utoronto.ca/current-students/academic-support/writing-and-presentation-coaching/>
- Centre for Professional Skills Teamwork Resources page: <https://rotmancommerce.utoronto.ca/teamwork-resources>
- Book an appointment with a Teamwork Mentor: <http://uoft.me/writingcentres>