

Course Outline

Course Code	RSM 435 H1S
Course Name	Futures and Options Markets
Term, Year	Summer 2025
Course Meets	L5101 – Tuesday/Thursday 1:10-3pm in WO 25
Web page URL	https://q.utoronto.ca

Instructor Details

Name	Alexandra MacKay, RT 453
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Office Hours	Tuesday & Thursday, 11am-12pm #453, 105 St George St Please check Quercus regularly: If it becomes necessary to reschedule office hours, notice will be posted there.

Course Description

RSM435 – Futures and Options Markets – as its name suggests, concerns itself with the analysis of financial derivative securities such as forwards, futures, swaps and options. You will become well informed regarding how these contracts work, how they are used and how they are priced.

You will develop skills to communicate your knowledge of financial derivatives. This will include contributing to discussion in class, producing video answers to questions and writing clearly. Arguably, the ability to communicate knowledge may be as essential as the knowledge itself.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Explain and Apply Pricing Principles:** Explain the fundamental principles underlying the pricing of financial derivative securities, and use that knowledge to calculate prices, identify mispricing and consider strategies that leverage any mispricing.
- **Evaluate Market Variables:** Analyze the impact of market variables (e.g. interest rates, volatility) on the pricing of financial derivative securities.
- **Utilize Financial Derivative Securities:** Illustrate how financial derivative securities may be used to achieve specific financial objectives, differentiating among the various securities with a critical eye to the limitations and/or advantages of different possible approaches.
- **Develop and Assess Hedging Strategies:** Analyze hedging strategies that use financial derivatives and explain their effectiveness.

- **Integrate Generative AI in Decision Making:** Use generative AI tools to assist with financial decision making while maintaining critical oversight to ensure comprehension of the concepts.

Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite: ECO204Y1/ECO206Y1 and RSM332H1

Exclusion: ACT370H1

Course Materials

Required Readings

Hull, John C., Options, Futures, and Other Derivatives, 11th Edition, Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2022.

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
Survey	1%	July 9
Video Introduction	2%	July 9
Personal Framework of AI Use & Its Revision	3%	July 9, August 11
In-Class Quizzes – start of class	15%	Every class except July 3 and 22
Futures Hedge and Marking-to-Market	4%	July 9, July 17
Video Quizzes	10%	July 11, July 30, August 8
Midterm Examination	15% or 25%	July 22
Final Examination	40% or 50%	TBD

Course Format and Expectations

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence / ChatGPT

You are actively encouraged to learn more about the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence, particularly in the context of you as a student at the University of Toronto. See [here](#) for further information.

Microsoft Copilot is available to all U of T students. This is an enterprise version of an AI-powered chatbot and search engine that better protects the privacy and security of end users (when users are signed into their U of T account). Copilot, like other generative AI tools, may provide information that is not correct ('hallucinations') and it is up to each individual user to determine if the results are acceptable. For information and instructions on accessing the enterprise edition, please read and adhere to the [Microsoft Copilot guidelines for use](#).

In this course:

- You may use generative AI for your Personal Code of AI Use (and its revision). If you do so, you must indicate that you did so and how you did, and you must provide the transcript (prompts etc.) of that interaction as an appendix to your submission of that deliverable.
- You may choose to use generative AI as a 'study buddy'. If you do so, always be mindful of the possibility of 'hallucinations', other sorts of failures, and of issues related to material that has a copyright.

- You may not use generative AI for any other deliverables in the course. This includes the in-class quizzes, the video quizzes, and the futures hedging exercise and its marking-to-market.
- You may not use generative AI for the midterm examination or the final examination at all in any way.

Video Quizzes

The video quizzes are intended to help you develop your oral communication skills. How clearly and how compellingly you communicate your ideas will be considered in the evaluation of your submission. 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](#).

The video quizzes, unlike the video introduction, will be done on a platform called Comunicado which is outside of Quercus. Instructions on how to register on the Comunicado platform will be posted.

Midterm Examination

The midterm examination will be held on Tuesday July 22nd, 2025 during class time. The location for the midterm examination will be announced on the course webpage.

You will be permitted one single-sided letter-sized (8.5" x 11") page of notes to support you in the midterm examination. You may use a hand-held calculator that does not connect to the internet.

If you are unable to write the midterm examination due to illness or emergency, please contact Rotman Commerce Academic Services to submit the required documentation and to gain approval to write an alternative midterm. (Please see below for Missed Tests and Assignments.)

Final Examination

The final examination will be held during the formal Arts & Science examination period from 16 August to 25 August 2025. The precise date and time of the examination will be announced by the Faculty of Arts & Science later in the term.

The final examination is cumulative – it covers the entire course content. The examination will be two hours in duration. You will be allowed one double-sided letter-size (8.5" x 11") page of notes in the examination. You may use a hand-held calculator that does not connect to the internet.

Grade Weight for the Midterm and Final Examination

If your grade on the final examination is higher than your grade on the midterm examination, then the midterm grade will contribute 15% to your final grade in the course and the final exam grade will contribute 50% to your final grade in the course. If your midterm grade exceeds your grade on the final exam, then the midterm grade will contribute 25% to your final grade and the final exam will contribute 40% to your final grade.

Missed Tests and Assignments

Students who miss a term 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.

In-Class Start-of-Class Quizzes: There will be no opportunities to 'make up' for missed in-class quizzes. There will be 10 quizzes during the course. The best 6 will count toward your final grade, i.e. 2.5% each. If you miss 4 or fewer quizzes, you will still have completed at least 6 quizzes and the top 6 grades will count. If you miss more than 4 quizzes and have demonstrated acceptable rationale (as per Request for Special Consideration above), I will either re-weight the quizzes that you have completed or shift the weight of the missed quiz(zes) to the midterm or final examination.

Video Quizzes: There will be no opportunities to 'make up' for missed video quizzes. There are 3 video quizzes. The best 2 will count toward your final grade, i.e. 5% each. If you miss one, you will still have completed 2. If you miss more than one and have demonstrated acceptable rationale (as per Request for Special Consideration above), I will either re-weight the video quiz you did complete or shift the weight of the missed quiz to the midterm or final examination.

Final Examination: If you miss the final examination in this course for a legitimate reason (illness, etc.) you will need to contact your College Registrar to file a petition for a deferred exam. This deferred exam will be written at a later date as established by the Faculty of Arts & Science. Instructions can be found here: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/faculty-registrar/petitions-appeals/preparing-petition>

Late Assignments

Late assignments are not accepted and will be awarded a grade of 0.

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.

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

Session	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Jul 3	Introduction Futures Markets and Central Counterparties Hedging Strategies Using Futures	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3
2	Jul 8	Interest Rates Determination of Forward and Futures Prices	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
Due Date Alert: Survey – July 9			
Due Date Alert: Personal Framework of AI Use – July 9			
Due Date Alert: Your Futures Hedge – Jul 9			
Due Date Alert: Your Video Introduction – Jul 9			
3	Jul 10	Determination of Forward and Futures Prices	Chapter 5 (continued)
Due Date Alert: Video Quiz #1 – July 11			
4	Jul 15	Interest Rate Futures	Chapter 6
5	Jul 17	Interest Rate Futures Swaps	Chapter 6 (continued) Chapter 7
Due Date Alert: Marking-to-Market of Your Futures Hedge – July 17			
Midterm Examination: July 22			
6	Jul 24	Swaps	Chapter 7 (continued)
7	Jul 29	Mechanics of Options Markets Properties of Stock Options Trading Strategies Involving Options	Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Chapter 12
Due Date Alert: Video Quiz #2 – July 30			
8	Jul 31	Binomial Trees	Chapter 13
9	Aug 5	Binomial Trees Black-Scholes-Merton Model	Chapter 13, Section 18.6 of Chapter 18; Chapter 15 (omit Section 15.6)
10	Aug 7	The Greek Letters	Chapter 19
Due Date Alert: Video Quiz #3 – August 8			
Due Date Alert: Revision(s) to Personal Code of AI Use – August 11			
11	Aug 12	Options on Stock Indices, Currencies and Futures Review and Wrap Up	Chapters 17 and 18

Please note that the last day you can drop this course without academic penalty is July 29, 2025.



Other Useful Links

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

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>