

ARCADIA ABROAD

Course Title:	Alternative Investments
Course Code:	FIN 470
Subject:	Finance, Investment
Credits:	4
Contact Hours:	50
Semester/Term:	Semester
Course Description:	<p>Alternative Investments introduces students to investment opportunities beyond traditional stocks and bonds, focusing on hedge funds, private equity, venture capital, real estate, commodities, and sustainable/impact investing. The course examines the structures, strategies, and risk-return profiles of these asset classes, with an emphasis on their role in modern portfolios. Students analyze current market practices, case studies, and global investment trends, while gaining practical insight into portfolio diversification and performance evaluation.</p> <p>Key features: Comparative analysis of alternative vs. traditional investments Real-world case studies and industry examples Assignments that build investment evaluation skills This course provides both a theoretical framework and practical exposure, preparing students to critically assess alternative asset classes and understand their growing importance in global finance.</p>

Course Requirements:	<p>Required Text</p> <p><i>CFA Institute. (2021). Alternative investments. Wiley. ISBN 978-1-119-85060-1.</i></p> <p>Slides and exercises will be provided to students, this is just to further your understanding of the subject matters.</p> <p>Additional Readings and Resources</p> <p><i>Anson, M. J. P., Fabozzi, F. J., & Jones, F. J. (2010). The Handbook of Alternative Assets. Wiley.</i></p> <p><i>Stowell, D. P. (2022). Alternative Assets: Investments for a Post-Crisis World (2nd ed.). Routledge.</i></p> <p><i>Lhabitant, F.-S. (2017). Hedge Funds: Quantitative Insights. Wiley.</i></p>
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Assignments

Course Requirements	Percentages
Participation	10 %
Problem Sets	15 %
Midterm Exam	35 %
Final Exam	40 %
Total	100%

Participation:

This class will cover a number of concepts that **build** on each other and will also be helpful for you in more advanced classes. As such, it is important that you attend classes regularly, and engage in class discussions. I encourage you to promptly clarify any doubts you have about the material, either in class or during office hours. Please do not wait till just before the exam!

Your behavior in class should respect your classmates' desire to learn. Classes will start and end on time. Please try not to arrive late or leave early. Disturbing the class by chatting with your classmates or using audible electronic devices will not be appreciated. Repeated transgressions will hurt your participation grade.

Problem Sets:

We will have a total of four problem sets. The problem sets are intended to help you understand the lectures and prepare yourself for the type of questions asked in the exam.

The exercises will be posted on an ongoing basis.

Exams:

There will be no make-up exams, so please mark the dates in your calendar.

Both exams are closed book. You can bring one-page (A4, one-sided) cheat-sheet and your calculator. No other materials and electronic devices.

All exams are graded according to a grading schedule, which awards points for completing specific steps of a question and deducts points for mistakes. The grading schedule is used to ensure that all students are treated fairly.

<p>Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies and Assessment Measures:</p>	<p>On completion of the course, students should be able to:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="462 331 1464 877"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="462 331 963 443">Learning Outcomes</th> <th data-bbox="963 331 1464 443">Course Requirement that will be used to assess the student's achievement of this outcome</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 443 963 659">Identify and explain the characteristics, structures, and strategies of major alternative asset classes (hedge funds, private equity, real estate, commodities, infrastructure, and sustainable/impact investments).</td> <td data-bbox="963 443 1464 659">HW Assignments, Midterm Exam and Final Exam</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 659 963 770">Analyze and evaluate the risk–return profiles of alternative investments compared to traditional assets.</td> <td data-bbox="963 659 1464 770">HW Assignments, Midterm Exam and Final Exam</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 770 963 877">Critically assess current industry practices, trends, and challenges in alternative investments.</td> <td data-bbox="963 770 1464 877">HW Assignments</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Learning Outcomes	Course Requirement that will be used to assess the student's achievement of this outcome	Identify and explain the characteristics, structures, and strategies of major alternative asset classes (hedge funds, private equity, real estate, commodities, infrastructure, and sustainable/impact investments).	HW Assignments, Midterm Exam and Final Exam	Analyze and evaluate the risk–return profiles of alternative investments compared to traditional assets.	HW Assignments, Midterm Exam and Final Exam	Critically assess current industry practices, trends, and challenges in alternative investments.	HW Assignments																		
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<p>Other Policies:</p>	<p>Expectations</p> <p>Professional behaviour is expected of all students. This includes preparation for classes, on-time attendance at classes, attendance at all group sessions and appropriate participation in the form of attentiveness and contributions to the course. Respect for the academic process is the major guiding principle for professional behaviour and extends to all communications, including email.</p> <p>Attendance/Participation</p> <p>Prompt attendance, full preparation, and active participation in class discussions are expected from every student in every class session. This includes participation in any required online discussion boards as well as during class sessions. The full London Center Attendance Policy is published in the Academic Toolkit.</p> <p>Course Policies</p> <p>For email communications, students must use their Arcadia University email account. Students are responsible for any information provided by e-mail or through postings in the learning management system. This syllabus is subject to change, and any changes will be communicated to you via email or the learning management system.</p> <p>Plagiarism</p> <p>Representation of another's work or ideas (including authors, journalists, websites, AI, etc) as one's own in academic submissions is plagiarism, and is cause for disciplinary action. All ideas and text used in assignments should be properly cited. If plagiarism is discovered and confirmed through appropriate means, the student will receive a failing grade on the assessment.</p> <p>You are expected to subscribe to the principles of academic integrity, and you must be willing to bear individual responsibility for your work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfil an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action. AI -Use of artificial intelligence or machine learning tools to produce or assist with content production without proper authorisation and attribution is plagiarism and will be treated as a violation of Arcadia University's Code of Academic Responsibility and Integrity.</p> <p>Late or Missed Assignments</p> <p>Will not be accepted for grading unless an extension has been discussed and approved by the faculty prior to the due date. Late work may receive penalties determined by the instructor (for example, point deductions per day or a grade of zero). Failure to submit an assignment may result in an automatic failing grade for the assignment, and by extension, the class. If a student must miss an assignment because of a medical emergency, documentation of the emergency should be presented to the faculty or Center staff.</p>
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	<p>Students with Disabilities/Requiring Academic Accommodations</p> <p>Students with documented disabilities requiring accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should disclose this information while enrolling into the program, and before leaving the United States so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please direct any support queries regarding disability or learning differences to the Associate Director of Academic Affairs (London Center).</p> <p>Incident Reporting and Compliance with Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policies</p> <p>Arcadia University is committed to supporting students abroad who are affected by any incident which impacts their safety or well-being, including but not limited to: reports of possible crime, behavioral issues, discrimination or harassment, sexual misconduct, hospitalization, other health concerns, or issues prompting early program departure ("Incidents"). This may include assisting affected individuals with accessing the criminal justice system, academic and classroom supportive measures, or internal processes, as available. Title IX does not extend to classes off of U.S. soil, but where possible, Arcadia does comply with the University's Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment and any relevant laws for all programs that operate under its auspices. Arcadia generally defers to the wishes of the individual affected, though there may be circumstances where an individual's autonomy may be limited. Information about Arcadia's policies and procedures, including the Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment, can be found in the Student Handbook.</p> <p>Classroom Etiquette</p> <p>Eating is not permitted in any classroom. Kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided. Please keep your mobile phones on silent/off in class. Electronic devices must be put away during class unless you are asked to use them for class purposes.</p>
<p>Prerequisites:</p>	<p>All students are assumed to have completed "Managerial Finance I" & "Investments" both at 300-level, prior to joining this class.</p>