General Information

- **Instructor:** Michelle Larson, 221 SH, 335-0814, michelle-larson@uiowa.edu
  Student Drop-In Hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm - 2:30pm and by appointment (also available 2:30pm-4:00pm Mondays)

- **DEO:** Joseph Lang, 241 SH, 335-0712

- **Course Description:** This course is intended for students who are studying for the SOA Exam FM (Financial Mathematics) June 2019 or later. The course will cover SOA learning objectives A-F. Objectives G and H (0%-20% of FM Exam) are provided by SOA Study Notes and will be covered as time permits. The description of SOA Exam FM is at https://www.soa.org/education/exam-req/edu-exam-fm-detail.aspx.

- **Prerequisites:** Grade of B- or higher in STAT:3100 or graduate standing

- **Calculator (REQUIRED):** Students will need a CAS/SOA approved calculator. The TI BA II Plus calculator is highly recommended since it has the ability to solve for interest rates. Students are strongly encouraged to bring their calculator to every class and to use their calculator for all work done for this class. Only CAS/SOA approved calculators will be allowed during exams.

- **Study Manuals (highly recommended to purchase one):** ACTEX FM/2 Study Manual by Hassett et al.; ASM FM/2 Study Manual by Gorvett and Cherry


- **ICON/Web:** This course will use ICON powered by Canvas (http://icon.uiowa.edu) for announcements, notes, homework assignments, extra practice problems, etc.

Course Topics

- We will cover the following topics in roughly this order:
  * Interest rates and factors
  * Level annuities
  * Varying annuities
  * Non-annual interest rates and annuities
  * Project appraisal and loans
  * Financial instruments (Stocks and Bonds)
  * The term structure of interest rates
  * Duration, convexity and immunization

- Students are encouraged to use technology to perform calculations, however, explicit work (formulas, computations, etc.) is required to be shown.

Grading

- **Quizzes:** (10% total) Quizzes will be given roughly every two weeks and announced in the previous class; the lowest quiz will be dropped.
- **Exams:** There will be 2 midterm exams (25% each) and a final exam (30%). Midterms will be given in the evenings. Exam dates:
  * Midterm Exam 1: Thursday, February 21, 2019  6:30 - 8:30 pm, 140 SH
  * Midterm Exam 2: Thursday, April 4, 2019  6:30 - 8:30 pm, 140 SH
  * Final Exam: TBA

Students are expected to be present for the exams at the scheduled time. If you have a legitimate, unavoidable conflict, it is your responsibility to make the appropriate arrangements at least 24 hours in advance. If you miss an exam due to a sudden absence, email the instructor immediately. Note that during exams, students will be asked to place belongings, including electronic devices other than CAS/SOA approved calculators, at the front of the room.

- **Homework:** (10% total) Homework will be due each Wednesday at the beginning of lecture. Because the grader may not have enough time to grade each problem, a subset of the assigned problems will be graded. **Homework turned in late (including at the end of class) or illegible will be given a score of zero.** The lowest homework score will be dropped. Students are encouraged to work together on homework but work submitted must be your own. Homework must be stapled, defuzzed, be neatly written; solutions must appear in the order assigned. Be sure your name and the assignment number appear at the top of the first page.

- Your attendance, participation, preparedness, work ethic, etc. may affect your grade.
- Students may find that problems from the study manuals, textbooks, and the past SOA exams are useful in preparing for quizzes and exams in this course.
- This course uses the +/− grading system (i.e. grades such as A−, B+, and B will be assigned).
- Grade cutoffs will be no higher than the usual 90 (A-), 80 (B-), 70 (C-), 60 (D-) breakdown.
- Bonus points may be given at any time and may be applied to any part of your grade.

▷ **Extra Help**

- Students are encouraged to seek help from their professor, peers, and/or advisor.

▷ **Notes**

- Students are highly encouraged to form study groups. Study groups will aid in comprehension of the material and will be beneficial as you continue in the major.
- Do not miss class. You need to attend every day to succeed in this class.
- Please refrain from eating, using your phone, wearing earbuds, and using other electronic devices during class.
- During class time, all communication, including private conversations, is to be conducted in English only.
- Success in this class requires a large time commitment. A minimum of 15 to 20 hours per week is expected. Review/study numerous times throughout the week.
- If you are absent from discussion or lecture (without giving prior notice), we cannot provide handouts/notes.

▷ **Academic Misconduct**

- During exams, you may not talk, whisper, pass notes, view other students’ work, allow a fellow student to view your own work (cover your paper!), use class notes, share calculators, etc. All such actions are considered academic misconduct and will be reported to the UI.
- You may, however, work with a fellow student on your homework provided you both do all of the problems in their entirety (at which point you can compare methods, approaches, and answers). Simply copying another student’s homework will be considered academic misconduct.
The College of Liberal Arts, Teaching Policies & Resources

- **Administrative Home:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other policies. These policies vary by college (http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook).

- **Electronic Communication:** Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11, http://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/human-resources/professional-ethics-and-academic-responsibility#15.2).

- **Accommodations for Disabilities:** UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student should then discuss accommodations with the course instructor (http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/).

- **Nondiscrimination in the Classroom:** UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University’s Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at diversity@uiowa.edu or https://diversity.uiowa.edu/office/equal-opportunity-and-diversity.

- **Academic Integrity:** All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College’s Code of Academic Honesty (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code). Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address.

- **CLAS Final Examination Policies:** The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information. **No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals.** (https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-examination-policies)

- **Making a Complaint:** Students with a complaint should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the departmental executive officer (DEO), also known as the Chair. Students may then bring the concern to CLAS (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities).

- **Understanding Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, definitions, and the full University policy, see http://osmrc.uiowa.edu/.