QUANTITATIVE FINANCE (QFGB)

QFGB 8900. Greenpoint/Finastra Project. (0 Credits)
The goal of this program is conceptual learning and hands-on research with real-life portfolios and enterprise systems, including the Finastra Capital Markets Fusion Platform. At the end of the program students are expected to have enriched their learning—and their CVs—with projects that have direct industry applicability and through achievements that will enhance their employment prospects and career growth. The research will include FRFB QIS on a portfolio, model sensitivity of PLA tests, impact of specific portfolio features, and risk parameters on FRFB SA and IMA charges.

QFGB 8901. Accounting I. (1 to 3 Credits)
Provides a basic understanding of the preparation and analysis of corporate financial statements. Introduces generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and the standard-setting process. Discusses current issues in the reporting process, such as the benefits and problems of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

QFGB 8902. Basics of Economics. (1 to 3 Credits)
Covers both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics topics include theory of demand and the nature of profit and utility-maximizing market equilibrium that constitute the economic basis of finance theory and applications. The macroeconomics segment defines the major components of the economy, outlines a simple model of long-run, real economic behavior with competitive, market clearing prices, then establishes a companion model of short-run adjustments without flexible pricing.

QFGB 8903. Basics of Finance. (1 to 3 Credits)
Provides a conceptual framework for decision-making processes in many diverse areas of finance. Concepts including time value of money, stock and bond valuation, project and firm valuations, risk and return measures, portfolio management, basic CAPM and APT, diversification and hedging are reviewed. Basic theoretical aspects of corporate finance, such as dividend policy and capital structure, are also introduced.

QFGB 8905. Math for Quantitative Finance. (1.5 Credits)
Reviews the basics of mathematics in preparation for advanced courses in the MSQF program. Topics include: Special functions, Multivariate calculus, Optimization, Integration, Differential equations (ODE and PDEs), and Linear algebra.

QFGB 8906. Probability and Statistics. (1.5 Credits)
Reviews the basics of probability and statistics in preparation for advanced courses in the MSQF program. Topics include special distributions like binomial, poisson, normal, lognormal, gamma, beta, and fat-tailed distributions.

QFGB 8907. Introduction to Web Technology: Blockchain. (0 Credits)
Blockchain technology is affecting the financial services industry and considered to be the biggest disruption in payments, financial contracts, and almost all other aspects of the financial services industry. The goal of this course is to give students a basic understanding of and hands-on experience with the web technology tools necessary for blockchain technology. This 0-credit course will be offered in the fall and must be taken prior to Blockchain Application Development course offered in the spring, which will involve development of a real blockchain application via various hands-on projects. Second-year M.S. in quantitative finance students are encouraged to take this introductory course in the second half of the fall term. The instructor will be a top industry expert in blockchain technology and its applications in the financial services industry.

QFGB 8911. Adv Financial Modeling. (2 Credits)
Provides the foundation for developing skills in the quantitative analysis of financial decisions, primarily using Microsoft Excel. Topics include business planning, forecasting, sensitivity and scenario analyses, risk and return measures, portfolio analysis, binomial option pricing and Value-at-Risk (VAR) analysis. Emphasizes practical skills to produce computer models that are useful for a variety of decision-making purposes.

QFGB 8914. Basic of Derivatives. (2 Credits)
Introduces deferred delivery (i.e. exchange-traded futures and OTC - traded forward) markets and option markets. The course covers the following: (1) briefly examines the institutional features of these markets; (2) discusses hedger, arbitrageur and speculator strategies; (3) provides an analytical foundation for the pricing of these contracts; (4) reviews some of the available empirical evidence concerning these markets; and (6) uses the data to perform small-scale suggestive tests of the theories and strategies.

QFGB 8915. Introduction to Stochastic Calculus. (2 Credits)
Foci on the practical applications of stochastic differential equations subject to appropriate boundary conditions, estimating valuation problems, and using measure-transformations as required in advanced financial engineering practice to value assets within a risk-neutral framework. Builds a theoretical foundation for continuous-time models that are essential for the pricing and hedging of financial derivatives.

QFGB 8923. Machine Learn & Econometrics. (2 Credits)
Covers estimation of parametric and non-parametric techniques commonly used in finance, applying high-frequency financial databases. Discusses properties of financial data, linear time series data analysis, basic theory of statistical inference with linear models, general linear models, conditional Heteroskedasticity models, nonlinear models and Bayesian inference and estimation.

QFGB 8924. Equity Style Derivatives. (2 Credits)
Designed to complement and extend the topics discussed in Basics of Derivatives (QF 8914), this course includes all types of derivatives where a commodity, equity, or currency is the underlying asset. Hull's software and a Bloomberg/Reuters terminal are used for pricing options and gathering data. The data to perform small-scale suggestive tests of theories and strategies is used.
QFGB 8925. Simulation Applications. (2 Credits)
Introduces state-of-the-art computational techniques essential for implementing financial models, pricing derivatives, obtaining numerical solutions to estimation problems, and simulating stochastic systems in risk management. Provides conceptual framework for gaining experience on simulation design and implementation using MATLAB. This course builds a skill set that combines financial modeling, data analysis, and computation.
Attribute: ASDM.

QFGB 8926. Finance Theory. (2 Credits)
Introduces financial theory with a particular emphasis on portfolio choice and the fundamentals of asset pricing. Focuses on both the partial equilibrium theory (CAPM), and the general equilibrium theory (Arrow-Debreu Pricing Theory) with brief introductions on the arbitrage-based theories. Introduces the basics of asymmetric information and how the problems it imposes can be mitigated via security design. It also emphasizes and understanding of the theories of Discrete-Time Asset Pricing; studies the application of the theory of stock options to real options and complex corporate liabilities; and explores the basic foundation of the GMM tests of asset-pricing theories.

QFGB 8927. Introduction to C++. (2 Credits)
This course will introduce quantitative finance students to programming in C++.

QFGB 8928. Auto Trading Systems - Intro. (3 Credits)
This course discusses key issues involved in the design of an Auto (Algorithmic) Trading Systems, and provides hands-on experience. The end product is a prototype Auto Trading System designed by students that successfully trades in the real market (stock, futures, option) using live data feeds from exchanges. Issues covered include: typical structures of trading systems; efficient processing of live information; minimizing trade slippages; handling large number of securities; asynchronous information processing; GUI interfaces; etc. Industry experts are invited to discuss new developments. Key programming techniques will be reviewed at the beginning, very briefly. The course is suitable for students in MSQF, and other master level students with programming skills equivalent to one formal course (e.g, R, Matlab, VBA, etc). Students with less programming skill may take the course if approved by instructor.

QFGB 8931. Fixed Income Securities. (2 Credits)
Introduces fixed-income securities, basic fixed-income concepts, the different sectors of the fixed-income market, and basic ond mathematics. Studies quantitative fixed-income analysis and its use in valuing bonds and quantifying risk-return characteristics. Involves extensive training in the mathematical formulation of bond valuation problems and in the use of the existing models and software to solve these problems.

QFGB 8933. Financial Econometrics II. (2 Credits)
Introduces modern financial econometric techniques wth a special focus on applications to finance. Both the theoretical framework for making statistical inference and exemplary applications using data in modern finance are emphasized. The course involves extensive use of commercial software packages as well as implementing new financial econometric techniques using high-level programming language, such as MATLAB.

QFGB 8934. Interest Rate Derivatives. (2 Credits)
Studies continuous time no-arbitrage models of yield curves and pricing of fixed-income securities and derivatives. In particular, treasury bonds as well as more complicated instruments, such as options on bonds, interest rate swaps, option on interest rate swaps, caps, floors, and Mortgage Backed Securities are priced and analyzed.

QFGB 8935. Risk Management. (2 Credits)
Builds strong understanding of the risks of individual products and methods of hedging and/or replication those products. Also examines firm-wide risk issues from a financial perspective which requires aggregation of multiple postions and consideration of interrealationships among asset price fluctuations. Regulatory and other non-market risk issues are considered and simulation techniques for modeling risk are practiced.
Attribute: ASDM.

QFGB 8942. Advanced Finance Theory. (2 Credits)
This course builds upon Financial Theory I (QF 8922) and examines cross-sectoral and time series properties of asset returns. Offers and in-depth statistical review of several theoretical models of inter-temporal asset pricing. Microstructure effects on short-term asset returns as well as test of returns predictability are covered.

QFGB 8943. Large-Scale Data Modeling. (2 Credits)
Explores financial modeling topics using large data sets and various econometric techniques applied in a variety of financial problems. Topics include modeling the yield curve in the US and other countries, application of pattern recognition techniques in developing stock-rating systems, factor models in portfolio construction, and portfolio performance evaluation. Emphasis on project analysis using SAS to process large data sets and develop appropriate models for solving real problems in equity and fixed-income research.

QFGB 8944. Credit Risk Mgmt. (2 to 3 Credits)
Introduces modern credit risk models with particular focus on credit derivative instruments. Focuses on derivative market methods, rather than accounting analyses of business risks. Exposes students to institutional practices and commonly used data. Students will be expected to thoroughly understand professional software output, along with the risks and rewards of credit product strategies.

QFGB 8946. C++ for Finance. (3 Credits)
This course uses C++ to solve Finance problems. Two types of students will take this course. One type is the student with a strong computer programming background (perhaps an engineering undergraduate), but who has not taken C++ or applied it to finance problems. The other type may have been a finance undergraduate student who has little computer programming experience before entering the MSQF program. The latter student must take the spring introduction to C++ course offered by the computer science department as a prerequisite to taking this course in their second fall term.

QFGB 8947. Advanced Derivative Pricing. (2 Credits)
This course covers advanced option pricing.

QFGB 8948. Quantitative Methods for Portfolio Management. (2 Credits)
Introduces the scope of the quantitative concepts used in asset management, with focus on practical application, challenges and limitations in constructing optimal portfolios, evaluating performance and portfolio risk. Involves extensive discussions of case studies and group project.* +Subject to NY Approval.

QFGB 8949. Advanced Financial Econometric. (2 Credits)
This course takes up Bayesian estimation of small-scale financial sector and macro-econometric models. Counter-factual simulations will also be used, as well as monte-carlo methods for evaluating confidence intervals. In addition to Bayesian estimation, the course will make use of extensive data sets to investigate topics such as contagion effects across countries in financial markets, and neural networks for predictive accuracy. + *Subject to NY Approval.
QFGB 8950. Alternative Investments. (2 Credits)
The course is an introduction to the rapidly evolving universe of alternative investments. Delivered in modules, the course covers a broad array of alternative strategy classes (Quantitative/Systematic, Fundamental Long/Short, Global Macro, Private Equity) ranging across all major asset classes (Equities, Fixed Income, Currencies, Commodities, Derivatives).* *Subject to NY Approval.

QFGB 8951. Internship and Project Report. (2 to 4 Credits)
A professional project report and presentation are the final outputs of this course. Students complete these projects under the supervision of a faculty member. Both individual and group-projects are possible.

QFGB 8952. Business Comm for Quants A. (1 Credit)
Covers the basics of professional speaking and writing. Develops oral and written presentation skills essential for successful careers. Coordinated with summer term internship to give students the opportunity to apply their new communication skills in a business setting.

QFGB 8953. Research Seminar 1. (1.5 Credits)
This fall course features a series of lecturers from the finance industry. They discuss research projects that their companies are working on.

QFGB 8954. Research Seminar 2. (1.5 to 3 Credits)
This spring course features a series of lecturers from the finance industry. They discuss research projects that their companies are working on.

QFGB 8955. Computational Finance. (2 Credits)

QFGB 8957. Applied Capital Markets and Financial Regulations. (3 Credits)
This course will explore how the market structure has fundamentally changed after the 2008 liquidity and credit crisis, and how this crisis has impacted on liquidity, balance sheets, risk taking, and returns across the entire financial services industry. The new reality is that regulation has changed the landscape of Wall Street and the dynamic of how the sell-side and buy-side will interact in the foreseeable future.

QFGB 8958. Lectures in Applied Port Mgt. (3 Credits)
This advanced Portfolio Management course quickly reviews Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT) conceptual underpinnings and builds on MPT 1.0. It delves into contemporary liability driven asset allocation, MPT 2.0 and portfolio management industry practices, issues and concerns. Lectures, problem solving, and self-study along with extensive hands-on tools using Microsoft Excel based models will be used to provide a practitioner’s perspective. We will review and demo contemporary asset allocation optimization and forecasting techniques, new asset class pricing and valuation, performance and risk attribution, tail risk measurement and management tools etc. using real time vendor based (third party) solutions. As prerequisites - the student should have class exposure to investment and portfolio analysis, Excel, stats, and basic regressions.

QFGB 8959. Machine Learning for Finance. (2 Credits)
This course explores the world of Machine Learning and financial applications. We will investigate how it uses large amounts of structured or unstructured data to discover patterns and hidden topics, transforming raw data into knowledge for decision making. We will investigate real and practical examples from finance, tracing parallels between data science, statistics, and data analytics.

QFGB 8960. Advanced C++ for Finance. (2 Credits)
Advanced C++ for finance.

QFGB 8961. Business Comm for Quants B. (1 Credit)
Covers the basics of professional speaking and writing. Develops oral and written presentation skills essential for successful careers.

QFGB 8962. Dynamics of Banking & Fin Mkts. (3 Credits)
This course is designed to provide students a well-rounded and hands-on perspective on the practical functioning and decisions in financial markets and banking.

QFGB 8963. Stress Tests and Cap Adequacy. (3 Credits)
The financial crisis of 2007-08 taught us all a lesson: that preparedness is everything. How resilient and prepared will we be, and how fast will we be able to recover? This is the key focus of this course: how to plan for moments of distress so that firms such as yours have capital of a sufficient quality to survive potential storms. We will demonstrate how to create a robust capital plan and test it for moments of hypothetical stress. We will investigate exactly how a bank holding company and an insurance company should conduct their capital plan, highlighting the significant differences between the two industries. By the end of the course, you will be able to create a capital plan for your business on your own.

QFGB 8964. Arpm Bootcamp-Intensive Quant. (3 Credits)
Consolidates portfolio and risk manager’s expertise into a structured and rigorous quantitative framework. Empowers avid learners with background in hard sciences to gain the deep technical knowledge necessary to operate across the complex world of quantitative trading, asset management, and risk management. Topics include data science and machine learning; classical / Bayesian multivariate statistics, and econometrics; financial analytics; market, credit & liquidity risk management; estimation error and model risk; and much more. ARPM Lab online (theory, case studies, Python & MATLAB code, slides, exercises). Obtain ARPM Certificate of Attendance & 40 GARP CPD.

QFGB 8965. Trading - Market Making and Algorithms. (3 Credits)
This course will introduce students to basic market microstructure, algorithmic trading, and quantitative investment strategies. Mathematical and statistical techniques along with their computational implementation in R or Python will be used throughout the course.

Prerequisites: QFGB 8911 and QFGB 8923 and QFGB 8926.

QFGB 8966. Behavioral Finance. (2 Credits)
Over the past several decades, the field of finance has developed a successful paradigm based on the notions that investors and managers are generally rational and that the prices of securities are generally efficient. In recent years, however, anecdotal evidence as well as theoretical and empirical research has shown this paradigm to be insufficient to describe various features of actual financial markets. In this course we will use psychology and more realistic settings to guide and develop alternative theories of financial markets. We will examine how the insights of behavioral finance complement the traditional paradigm and shed light on investors’ trading patterns, the behavior of asset prices, corporate finance, and various financial market practices through lectures, case studies, and our own discussions.

QFGB 8967. Bank Capital Adequacy. (2 Credits)
An overview of the range of risks that banking institutions undertake to perform their role as credit intermediaries. This course will delve into the choices that bank managers have to measure the risks they undertake and the approaches that a bank can take to translate risk measurement into stress tests of a bank’s capital position. Students will have an opportunity to apply methodologies discussed to developing a model to stress test a bank’s exposure to market, credit, or operational risk for the purpose of testing the adequacy of a bank’s capital position.
QFGB 8968. Blockchain Technology and Application Development. (3 Credits)
The main objective of this course is to familiarize you with the ecosystem, technologies, and development skills surrounding Blockchain. The course starts with foundational concepts such as distributed state machine, hash tree, P2P network, GPU processing, cryptocurrency, and cryptography. Using both simulated sandbox and locally installed environments, the course then guides you through the development, front-end integration, and deployment of Blockchain-based smart contracts. Other topics covered include rapid prototyping, design patterns, and agile process to maximize the success likelihood for Blockchain projects. The lab portion of this course involves weekly submissions of programming exercises, assignments, and project deliverables. Prior knowledge required: Proficiency in computer programming; basic knowledge in analysis and linear algebra.

QFGB 8969. Systematic Investment Strategies. (0 Credits)
This lecture series will cover a variety of topics on quantitative investment management. We start with an overview of the evolution of the current state of affairs, both with respect to individual strategies as well as topics related to their management within the context of a portfolio. We will first cover the basic set of thematic strategies (e.g., value/reversion, momentum/trend, carry, volatility, etc.) across different asset classes with some representative specific strategies covered in detail. We will then consider extensions and refinements. We will also cover various portfolio construction approaches for baskets of systematic strategies and their consequences. The lecture series will feature readings from “Wall Street” practitioner research series at the major asset managers and investment banks, with guest lecturers from industry on specific topics. Students will be expected to participate via data collection, strategy construction, and back-testing analysis, etc.

QFGB 8999. Independent Study. (1.5 to 3 Credits)
Independent study.