

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)



MBA 749 Incorporation of Exchange Rates in Strategic Decision-Making

Course Information

This course is offered collaboratively through the UW MBA Consortium. Campus specific course information is listed below:

UW-Eau Claire: MBA 749– Incorporation of Exchange Rates in Strategic Decision-Making

UW-Oshkosh: MBA 735

Credit Hours: 1.5

Course Term: Summer 2021

Delivery Mode: Online

Course Dates: June 14, 2021 - July 30, 2021

If you are considering dropping this course, having a conversation with your academic advisor is a good place to start. You should also let the instructor know what your plans are. Click the following links, based on your home campus, to learn more about dropping this course: [Consortium/UW-Eau Claire](#) (<https://help.wisconsinonlinemba.org/article/60-adding-dropping-classes>) | [UW Oshkosh](#) (<https://uwosh.edu/registrar/students/add-drop-calendar/>) | [UW-Parkside](#) (<https://www.uwp.edu/live/offices/registrarsoffice/adddrop.cfm>)

Instructor Information

Name : Dr. Fred Kolb

Home campus : UW-Eau Claire

Email : KOLBFR@uwec.edu (<mailto:KOLBFR@uwec.edu>)

Course Description

This course prepares students to formulate and carry out business policies with respect to the use of foreign exchange as needed in a global economic environment. Students will acquire competency with

the terminology, strategies, and practices needed to interact with confidence in business settings that require working within the currency market.

Learning Outcomes

1. Develop tools for working within currency markets and derivative markets for the control of currency risk.
2. Develop an interest in economic issues that impact currency markets.
3. Develop a methodology that you can apply for yourself or your firm in managing currency risk.
4. Develop a level of competence in the management of currency risk that will permit you to communicate your your insights, your objectives, and your strategies to others.

Required Course Materials

Textbook

Title: Foreign Exchange-A Practical Guide to the FX Markets

Author: Weithers

ISBN: 978-0-4-7173203-7

[Click here to learn more about ordering textbooks](#)

https://www.wisconsinonlinemba.org/order_textbooks.phtml). Contact mba@uwec.edu (<mailto:mba@uwec.edu>) with any textbook-related concerns.

Additional Readings

Articles from a variety of business magazines/newspapers and company websites may be used in conjunction with case studies or other assignments.

Technology Requirements

Access to a computer and high-speed Internet connection that is capable of accessing Canvas is a requirement of this course.

Please review the minimum technology requirements and recommendations in the **Online Course Resources** link in the left-hand Course Navigation menu. To set yourself up for success, pay special attention to the sections on *Your Responsibilities*, *Strategies for Success*, *Tech Tips*, and *Tech Support*.

Course Topical Outline

This course is organized in the following units:

- Week 1 Introduction to Oanda
- Week 2 FX Markets

- Week 3 Historical background and role of interest rates
- Week 4 The FX Spot Market
- Week 5 FX Forwards
- Week 6 FX Futures
- Week 7 Review and Exam

Assignments and Activities

In this online course, you will pace your work within the calendar provided for the course. You should be doing course work on a daily basis and should expect to visit the course site each day.

Early in the course, you will read about Oanda and take **quizzes** on **Understanding Oanda Supplementary Material**. That reading material is included in Week 1, the quizzes are in Week 2.

An important part of the course is the demo version of the **Oanda FXTrade platform**. The demo version is known as the FXTrade Practice. It is identical to the FXTrade platform (used for real trading), with the exception that the funds involved are not "real." The FXTrade Practice should provide a very productive approach to understanding currency markets and learning how to handle currency risk.

The **Understanding Oanda Supplementary Material** units are intended to make your use of FXTrade Practice much more productive and enjoyable. The FXTrade Practice account is used extensively in the course assignments.

I must tell you that while the FXTrade Practice will help you learn concepts, working with demo funds and working with real funds (that your boss or spouse might ask you to account for) are two different worlds. At some point, *but not as a requirement for the course*, you may decide to open a real account to sense the difference for yourself. In the FXTrade **Practice** environment I am exceptionally cool under pressure. In the FX **Trade** environment it is a different story. Hopefully you have a stronger nervous system than I do!. When my younger son would see me curled up in the fetal position in the corner of the room, he would soon be saying "Mom, looks like it was a bad day for the dollar."

The course textbook, ***Foreign Exchange: A Practical Guide to the FX Markets*** (ISBN: 0-471-73203-6) is a very fine little text. You will cover about 40-50 pages a week, which means reading about 8-10 pages per day (on a 5-day week). The text was written by Dr. Tim Weithers who holds a Ph.D. in mathematical economics from the University of Chicago. Student response to this book has been very favorable. However, some students have found some of the later chapters to be less useful. As a result I am limiting coverage to the earlier chapters and leaving it to you to decide if you will have use for the material we do not cover. The more finance you have studied the more likely you would enjoy the last chapters in the book. I do not want to try to squeeze in material just because it is there. There is plenty of material here for a seven week course!!!

There are three **discussions** that are designed to connect you to your classmates. I hope you will take part enthusiastically.

There will be a **group project**. The project will be an ongoing forecasting of the EUR/USD (Euro--US dollar) exchange rate for market close on the Friday preceding the final week of class.

Not only is the subject of managing currency risk of growing importance, but the subject matter is incredibly interesting. All the global news and data come together in the currency markets. If you don't end up enjoying this course, it can only be my fault or your fault because the subject matter is the best!

There will be **one open-book examination**. You will be given the exam two weeks before it is due. The exam questions are based on examples and problems (with solutions) found in the textbook.

See the calendar for all due dates.

There are **1000** points possible:

- Exam (1 open-book at 300 points) **300**
- Quizzes (6 at 20 points each) **120**
- Weekly discussion participation (3 times 25 points each) **75**
- Group project (1 at 200 points) **200**
- Oanda FX game assignments (10 at 30 points each) **300**
- Practice Assignment **5**

Final Letter Grade Scale

Percentage	Consortium/UW-Parkside	UW-Oshkosh
93-100%	A	A
90-92.9%	A-	A-
87-89.9%	B+	B+
83-86.9%	B	B
80-82.9%	B-	B-
77-79.9%	C+	C+
73-76.9%	C	C

70-72.9%	C-	C
67-69.9%	D+	F
63-66.9%	D	F
60-62.9%	D-	F
0-59.9%	F	F

Consortium's Excused Absence Policy

An absence will be considered excused or authorized according to the following institutional policies:

1. The student's home campus policy on excused absences will apply.
 - o [UW Oshkosh](https://www.uwosh.edu/registrar/policies/attendance-policy) [_\(https://www.uwosh.edu/registrar/policies/attendance-policy\)](https://www.uwosh.edu/registrar/policies/attendance-policy)
 - o [UW-Parkside](https://www.uwp.edu/learn/academiccatalog/2019-2021/upload/201921-ACADEMIC-CATALOG-082619.pdf) [_\(https://www.uwp.edu/learn/academiccatalog/2019-2021/upload/201921-ACADEMIC-CATALOG-082619.pdf\)](https://www.uwp.edu/learn/academiccatalog/2019-2021/upload/201921-ACADEMIC-CATALOG-082619.pdf) (see page 31)
2. UW MBA Consortium students will follow the [UW-Eau Claire Authorized Absence Policy](https://www.uwec.edu/kb/article/class-attendance-and-authorized-absence-policies/#authorized-absences). [_\(https://www.uwec.edu/kb/article/class-attendance-and-authorized-absence-policies/#authorized-absences\)](https://www.uwec.edu/kb/article/class-attendance-and-authorized-absence-policies/#authorized-absences)

If your absence falls into the excused absence category, please contact me as soon as possible. I may request that you provide documentation, and I may need time to make alternative assessments available to you.

Late Work Policy

Please do your very best to meet all deadlines. For the ten FX Trade Practice assignments I can be flexible and will not take off points if you need extra time. For the discussions, the deadlines hold because it really isn't a discussion contribution if your classmates do not get to read and consider your post(s). For the quizzes there should not be any need for an extension as I have built in considerable time, but I would make an extension if given a good reason. For the project (rate forecast) I can be a flexible up to an extra day for the submissions, but as it is group work, staying with the deadline is the best strategy. For the exam the deadline is firm because I need to make the key available to your classmates and get the grades turned in promptly so that students getting reimbursements from employers can have the grades right away.

My Goals

My goals are to:

1. Assist you in developing tools for working within currency markets and derivative markets for the control of currency risk.
2. Assist you in developing an interest in economic issues that impact currency markets.
3. Assist you in developing a methodology that you can apply for yourself or your firm in managing currency risk.
4. Assist you in developing a level of competence in the management of currency risk that will permit you to communicate your your insights, your objectives, and your strategies to others.
5. Provide you with the support that will make this online course a positive learning experience for you.

If you have any special needs, please let me know so that I can do my very best to make your experience in this course a positive one. Please pass along any comments that you have about the course.

Academic Conduct

To foster a productive learning environment, all students are required to accept and adhere to the Student Code of Conduct agreement in order to participate in this course.

Academic Integrity Policy

All class materials are the intellectual property of the instructor and may not be shared outside of this course (e.g., to commercial "study sites") without my permission.

Unless I specify otherwise, all work that you turn in to me should be an individual effort. The sentence structure, wording, and content for your assignments and discussions must be your original work.

Academically dishonest behaviors include (but may not be limited to) the following:

- Intentionally or unintentionally presenting someone else's ideas or words as your own, either as a direct quote or paraphrased or summarized material, without the proper citation. You can cite your sources in APA format.
- Submitting work that is identical to or so similar to that of another's in its wording, sentence structure, and content that it cannot be considered original.
- Plagiarizing yourself by submitting work for evaluation in this course that was previously graded or otherwise evaluated in another course. You can cite your previous work. If you want to use your previous work, contact me first.
- Making up data or citations.
- Helping someone else engage in academically dishonest behavior, including posting course materials online.
- Violating copyright laws. In some cases, citing a source is not sufficient; you also have to obtain permission from the original source for the materials you use. Likewise, if you use any materials from this course outside this course, you may need permission to use them (e.g., in your company's training manuals, publications, or style guides).

- Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F" for the assignment and will follow the student academic disciplinary procedures as established by the UW System Board of Regents ([UWS Chapter 14](#)). (http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/14.pdf)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

In order to ensure that all of our students have equitable access to our online course materials, we strive to meet the guidelines set by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires the public to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities when posting web-based materials. Canvas is [compliant with W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative](#) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2061-accessibility-within-canvas>) and with [Section 508](#) (<https://www.section508.gov/>) guidelines.

Additionally, Canvas was certified as a [substantially conformant LMS](#) (<https://webaim.org/services/certification/canvas>) by WebAIM, a third party authority in web accessibility.

If you find that course materials are not posted in a format that meets your needs, or you need testing accommodations, please contact Online Course Support at 1-715-836-6020 or email [BIZHelp@uwec.edu](mailto:bizhelp@uwec.edu) (<mailto:bizhelp@uwec.edu>) and we will work with you to find a reasonable accommodation.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jun 14, 2021	 Complete the Student Code of Conduct https://uws.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=618759&include_contexts=course_395043	12am
	 Week 1 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
Tue Jun 15, 2021	 Practice Assignment https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282318	due by 11:59pm
	 Introduce Yourself!! https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3468133	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 16, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 1 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282306	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 18, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 2 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282308	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 21, 2021	 Week 2 Overview	to do: 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Jun 23, 2021	 Discussion Topic 1 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282299	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 24, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 3 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282309	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 25, 2021	 Start Oanda Assignment 5 https://uws.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=618760&include_contexts=course_395043	12am
	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 4 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282310	due by 11:59pm
	 Unit 1 Quiz https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282296	due by 11:59pm
	 Unit 2 Quiz https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282292	due by 11:59pm
	 Unit 3 Quiz https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282297	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 27, 2021	 Unit 4 Quiz https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282298	due by 11:59pm
	 Unit 5 Quiz https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282294	due by 11:59pm
	 Unit 6 Quiz https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282295	due by 11:59pm
	 Discussion Topic 1 second post due	to do: 11:59pm
Mon Jun 28, 2021	 Week 3 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
Wed Jun 30, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 5 UPDATED https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282311	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Jul 2, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 6 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282312	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 4, 2021	 Original Group Report https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282317	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jul 5, 2021	 Week 4 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
Wed Jul 7, 2021	 Discussion Topic 2 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282300	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 7, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 7 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282313	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 9, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 8 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282315	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 9, 2021	 Midterm Course Evaluation	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jul 11, 2021	 First Updated Report https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282305	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 11, 2021	 Discussion Topic 2 second post due	to do: 11:59pm
Mon Jul 12, 2021	 Week 5 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Jul 18, 2021	 Second Updated Report https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282319	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jul 19, 2021	 Week 6 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
Wed Jul 21, 2021	 Discussion Topic 3 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282301	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jul 21, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 9 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282316	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 23, 2021	 Oanda FXTrade Assignment 10 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282307	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jul 25, 2021	 Discussion Topic 3 second post due	to do: 11:59pm
Mon Jul 26, 2021	 Week 7 Overview	to do: 11:59pm
Fri Jul 30, 2021	 Final Report (https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282304)	due by 11:59pm
	 Final Course Evaluation	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Aug 1, 2021	 Exam (https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282302)	due by 11:59pm
	 Final Grade (https://uws.instructure.com/courses/395043/assignments/3282303)	