JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY
Jönköping International Business School

COURSE SYLLABUS

Portfolio Management, 5 credits

Portfolio Management, 5 högskolepoäng

Course Code:	J2PMGS	Education Cycle:	Second-cycle level
Confirmed:	Mar 25, 2026	Disciplinary domain:	Social sciences (75%) and Natural sciences (25%)
Valid From:	Aug 31, 2026	Subject group:	Business Administration
		Specialised in:	A1N Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
		Main field of study:	Economics, Business Administration

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course you will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

1.1 Demonstrate current, advanced, and specialised knowledge (concepts, theories, frameworks) in the course content, applying and integrating this expertise to solve complex problems.

1.2 Critically apply disciplinary knowledge to address complex issues in international contexts, while reflecting on its transferability and limitations across different settings.

Skills and Abilities

3.1 Produce well-structured, professional materials that demonstrate academic proficiency and adapt style and terminology to the target audience.

Judgement and Approach

4.1 Integrate ethical and sustainability considerations into the critical evaluation of organisational, market, and/or policy issues.

5.2 Appraise relevant emerging trends and technologies to formulate strategies and decisions for applying innovations in practice or in advanced problem solving.

Content

Financial actors and corporations increasingly seek professionals who can translate investment theory into actionable portfolio decisions. This course prepares you for a career as a portfolio and investment professional by teaching you how to integrate quantitative methods with market judgment. This builds your analytical and practical skills needed for portfolio construction and performance evaluation in real-world investment settings. Further, the course equips you with tools and techniques for portfolio management, linking theory to real-market data and implementation.

Throughout the course, you will progress from mean–variance portfolio choice to active–passive integration and view-based asset allocation. Core building blocks include asset and capital allocation. In labs, you will plot efficient investment frontiers, identify the global minimum-variance and tangency portfolios, and implement constraints. You will use spreadsheet software and Python for estimation, optimisation, and back testing. The course places particular emphasis on how investor risk preferences shape asset allocation, how environmental preferences are considered, how to evaluate and attribute portfolio performance, how to manage uncertainty in estimated inputs, and how to account for real-world frictions such as rebalancing. The course introduces you to essential portfolio management concepts and further cultivates your analytical insight and hands-on portfolio design skills.

Connection to Research

The course content builds on decades of academic research on portfolio management and investment analysis. You will dive deep into the foundational models of modern portfolio theory and connect them to contemporary research. In addition, you will critically assess the underlying assumptions in the context of recent insights from behavioral and sustainable finance.

Connection to Practice

The course lays the groundwork for a career in investment analysis and portfolio management. You will study portfolio management theory and reflect on real-world investment decisions. You will gain state-of-the-art command of the topic and recognise the practical limits involved in implementing theoretical first-best solutions.

Connection to Ethics, Responsibility, Sustainability (ERS)

You will familiarise yourself with ERS perspectives through in-class discussions of how ethical principles and sustainability mandates affect different facets of portfolio management. You will learn about the challenges and consequences of integrating ERS perspectives and, in the exercises, get hands-on experience in incorporating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into standard models.

Type of Instruction

The course is taught on campus through lectures and (computer-) exercises. It includes individual and team elements. You will receive problem sets for self-study in preparation of the exercises.

Attendance is expected for scheduled on-campus sessions and may be compulsory for some sessions.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

The applicant must hold a minimum of a Bachelor's degree (equivalent to 180 ECTS credits from an accredited university), including at least 30 ECTS credits in Business Administration, of which at least 15 ECTS must be finance and/or accounting. Also, the applicant must have passed at least 10 ECTS in statistics, mathematics, econometrics, or the equivalent. Proof of English proficiency is required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The ILOs are assessed through the following examination forms:

Individual written exam (ILOs: 1.1, 1.2, 4.1), representing 4 credits. The exam assesses your understanding of core portfolio management theories, empirical methods, and ability to analyse financial market data and interpret results using appropriate theoretical frameworks.

Group assignment (ILOs: 3.1, 5.2), representing 1 credit. You will work in groups to analyse a financial market question related to portfolio management and deliver a well-structures oral presentation with a structured evaluation, emerging trends, and sustainability considerations in financial markets.

All parts of the compulsory examination in the course must receive a passing grade before a final grade can be set. Grades are set in accordance with JIBS grading policy.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written exam [1]	4 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Group assignment	1 credit	G/U

[1]Determines the final grade of the course, which is issued only when all course units have been passed.

Course Evaluation

The course evaluation is important for the continuous improvement of JIBS' courses and degree programmes. The examiner is responsible for ensuring that each course is evaluated, but as a student you are essential in this process. We rely on your input to understand how we can improve. At the outset of a course the student representatives are identified. In the middle of the course there should be an opportunity for the student representatives (or a larger group of students) to share reflections on how the course is progressing. At the end of the course, you will get a course evaluation survey to fill in. The examiner will then host a debrief meeting with the student representatives to discuss improvement opportunities, based on the course evaluation data and comments.

Other Information

As a JIBS student, you are expected to maintain strong academic integrity. You must act within the boundaries of academic rules and expectations relating to all types of teaching and examination.

Copying someone else's work is a particularly serious offence and can lead to disciplinary action. When you use someone else's work without proper citation or transparency about where it came from, you are committing plagiarism. Cutting and pasting without clearly acknowledging the original source is a textbook example of plagiarism.

You must also act responsibly when using Generative AI tools. Acting responsibly includes staying informed about the school's AI-policy, understanding what rules apply in each course, and properly declaring or disclaiming any use of generative AI. You are accountable for all content you submit, including AI-assisted material. Using AI without disclosure or beyond what is allowed in a course is a violation of academic integrity and will be subject to the same academic consequences as other forms of misconduct, which may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or further disciplinary action according to school policy.

The Jönköping University library offers online and in-person support for assisting you in identifying relevant sources, using and referencing literature, and creating texts that meet academic standards and integrity.

Other forms of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) adding your name to a project you did not contribute to (or allowing someone to add their name), cheating during an examination, helping other students to cheat or submitting other students' work as your own, and using non-allowed electronic equipment during an examination. All such actions may result in disciplinary measures.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

Bodie, Z., Kane, A., and Marcus, A.J. (2024). Investments (13th ed.). McGraw Hill.

Additional academic articles and reference materials will be provided by the instructors.