Details of approval
The syllabus was approved by Study programmes board, Faculty of Science on 2007-06-14 to be valid from 2007-07-01, autumn semester 2007.

General Information
The course is an elective course for second-cycle studies for a Master of Science in Mathematical statistics.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

Main field of studies Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
Mathematics A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Mathematical Statistics A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes
The aim of the course is that students on completion of the course should have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding
On completion of the course, the students are expected to:

• handle variance models such as the GARCH family, stochastic volatility, and models used for high-frequency data,
• use basic tools from stochastic calculus: Itô’s formula, Girsanov transformation, martingales, Markov processes, filtering,
• use tools for filtering of latent processes, such as Kalman filters and particle filters,
• statistically validate models from some of the above model families.

Skills and abilities
On completion of the course, the students are expected to:
• be able to find suitable stochastic models for financial data,
• work with stochastic calculus for pricing of financial contracts and for transforming models so that data becomes suitable for stochastic modelling,
• understand when and how filtering methods should be applied,
• validate a chosen model in relative and absolute terms,
• solve all parts of a modelling problem using financial and statistical theory (from this course and from other courses) where the solution includes model specification, inference, and model choice,
• present the solution in a written technical report, as well as orally,
• utilise scientific articles within the field and related fields.

Course design
The course deals with model building and estimation in non-linear dynamic stochastic models for financial systems. The models can have continuous or discrete time and the model building concerns determining the model structure as well as estimating possible parameters. Common model classes are, e.g., GARCH models with discrete time or models based on stochastic differential equations in continuous time. The course participants will also meet statistical methods, such as Maximum-likelihood and (generalised) moment methods for parameter estimation, kernel estimation techniques, non-linear filters for filtering and prediction, and particle filter methods.

The course also discusses prediction, optimization, and risk evaluation for systems based on such descriptions.

Course implementation
Teaching consists of lectures, exercises, computer exercises and projects. Participation in computer exercises, projects and thereby integrated teaching is compulsory.

Assessment
The examination is done by written and oral presentation of the the project.

Subcourses
0701 Project, 7,5 hp Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
0702 Computer Exercises, 0,0 hp Grading scale: Fail, Pass

Grades
For passing grade on the entire course passing grade on the project presentation (written and oral), and participation in compulsory parts are required. The final grade is grade on the project.

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

Entry requirements
For admission to the course knowledge equivalent to the course MASC04, Stationary Stochastic processes, 7.5 credits is required together with English B. The course MASM17 Time series analysis, 7.5 credits, is recommended, as well as basic knowledge in financial economy.