Course Syllabus

ECON 423: Topics in Financial Economics

Course Instructor

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Purpose and Goals

The study of economics provides students with a very valuable analytical “tool kit” and the ability to apply the economic way of thinking to various issues. Students interested in finance will find that there are many useful applications of economic principles within various career paths in finance. The objective of this course is to help students identify these career paths and to work with “real-world” applications that combine economics and finance. To assist students, we will discuss various topics throughout the quarter: 1) wealth management and sustainable investing (ESG); 2) insurance; 3) fintech (financial technology); 4) fundamentals of transfer pricing; and 5) private company valuation and transactions. Throughout the quarter, we will hear from individuals who will share real-world expertise and practical information to assist students as they plan for post-graduate career paths.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify career paths in finance which utilize their education and training in economics.
2. Students will be able to apply principles from their economics courses to specific analytical problems in fields of finance covered during the quarter.
3. Students will be able to articulate how an understanding of economic principles would strengthen an individual’s ability to successfully work in the fields of finance covered during the quarter.

Course Structure

Modules and Readings

This course includes five (5) two-week Modules, one for each of the topics or fields in financial economics that we will explore during the quarter. See further below for the Course Schedule. Each "Module" page on Canvas will provide the associated readings and materials.

Assessments

Each of the five modules will include an in-class exam. Grading is discussed further below. The module exam will be scheduled after the final lecture for each topic. Details regarding each module exam (including due date) will be posted on Canvas.

Course Communication

In addition to our time in the classroom, this course offers several ways that you will be able to communicate and connect with others in this course.

- If you have a question about the course, please **start** by reading this **syllabus** carefully, along with any Canvas announcements and any relevant course assignment instructions.
- If you can't find an answer to your question after rereading the syllabus and any relevant instructions, of course you are always welcome to ask during class or via email (**ctapia@uw.edu (mailto:ctapia@uw.edu)**). Please use your

UW email address. I will do my best to respond within 24 hrs. Office hours can also be arranged via email to set up by appointment.
- If you need tech support, contact Tech Support for the UW Seattle campus: **help@uw.edu (mailto:help@uw.edu)** or (206) 221-5000.

Grading

As noted above, each module will include an exam. Your grade for the course will be calculated as the average of your five module grades. Grades will be determined using the following **scale (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1633518/files/104183497?wrap=1)**.

Course Schedule Outline

***NOTE*: *The schedule outlined below may be adjusted. Please check Canvas often for any updates or announcements*.**

Additional information (including lecture slides and/or notes) will be posted on Canvas. In addition, class announcements will be sent through Canvas. *It is your responsibility to check class announcements on Canvas to have the latest information regarding readings, exams, and scheduling. Please be sure to set your Canvas notifications accordingly to hear about the latest announcements and files posted.*

Week One

- Welcome and Introduction to course (3/28)
- Module 1: Wealth Management (3/28)
  - Elements of financial planning
  - Investment techniques and tools
  - Career paths and credentials
  - Client case study
- Module 1 (cont'd): ESG and Sustainable Investing (3/30)

Week Two

- Module 1 (cont’d): ESG and Sustainable Investing (4/4)
- Module 2: Insurance (4/6)

Week Three

- Module 1 Exam on 4/11 (in class, includes lectures on 3/28, 3/30, and 4/4)
- Module 2: Insurance (cont'd) (4/13)

Week Four

- Module 2 Insurance (cont’d) (4/18)
  - Insurance Exam (4/20)

Week Five

- Module 3: Fintech (Financial Technology) (4/25, 4/27)

Week Six

- Module 3 (cont’d): Fintech (5/2)
  - Fintech Exam (5/4)

Week Seven

- Module 4: Transfer Pricing (5/9, 5/11)

Week Eight

- Module 4 (cont'd): Transfer Pricing (5/15)
  - Transfer Pricing Exam (5/18)

Week Nine

- Module 5: Private Company Valuation and Transactions (5/23, 5/25)

Week Ten

- Module 5 (cont'd): Private Company Valuation and Transactions (5/30)
  - Exam (6/1)

Over the quarter, we will be hearing from the following speakers:

- Peter Gross, Ph.D.; Director of Analytics, Remitly
- Chip Holland, C.L.U.; President, Life & Health Underwriters, Inc.
- Kris Tomasovic Nelson, CFA, Sr. Director, Head of ESG Investment Management, Russell Investments
- Patrick Ringland; Principal & Managing Director; Meridian Capital Investment Bankers
- Julie Parisio Roy, C.F.A., C.F.P., C.I.C.; Director of Financial Planning and Wealth Manager; Badgley Phelps Wealth Managers
- David Unger; Managing Director, Economic and Valuation Services; KPMG, L.L.P.
- Olga Yang, CPCU, ARM, AIM, ARe, APA, ASLI; Executive Underwriter, The Hartford