

University of Washington, Department of Economics
ECON 423: Topics in Financial Economics

Spring 2020 Overall Course Schedule & Outline

Tuesday / Thursday; 3:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.
Classroom: Zoom Meetings (see Canvas)

Visiting Lecturer: Christina P. Tapia, Ph.D.

Email: ctapia@uw.edu

Office: Savery 341 (arranged office hours will be held via Zoom)

Office Hours: Please email (ctapia@uw.edu) to coordinate office hours by appointment.

Description:

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) analysis and valuation of stock; 2) insurance; 3) fundamentals of transfer pricing; 4) private equity and venture capital; 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.

Zoom Video Conferencing:

We will be using the Zoom app for our virtual classroom. **For the first week, the meeting link will be posted on Canvas. Subsequent meeting links can be found on the class calendar.**

Students are strongly encouraged to attend each class session “live” during the scheduled class time as this will be your best opportunity to interact with the instructor and ask questions. Recordings of class lectures will be posted on Canvas.

For our first class in Zoom (on March 31st), you are encouraged to go to the meeting link (available on Canvas) a few minutes early to be sure you can access Zoom and to set up your profile so that your name appears with your video image.

Readings:

Most readings will consist of articles and lecture notes/slides prepared for each topic. These **materials will be posted on Canvas**. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas and review the available materials, in addition to taking notes during lecture.

For two segments, we will reference EXCERPTS from two textbooks:

- *Fundamentals of Corporate Finance*, 9th Edition by R. Brealey, S. Myers and A. Marcus, McGraw Hill Irwin.
 - Students may purchase a **custom electronic text** containing only the chapters referenced during the class by visiting this website: <https://create.mheducation.com/shop/#> and entering this ISBN number: 9781309099223
- *Investment Valuation: Tools and Techniques for Determining the Value of Any Asset*, Aswath Damodaran (3rd ed.).
 - Students may purchase a **custom electronic text** containing only the chapters referenced during the class by visiting this website: <https://www.vitalsource.com/custom/9781119423607>
Or go to www.vitalsource.com and search for the custom ISBN: 9781119423607

Please contact me right away via email (ctapia@uw.edu) or during class if you have any trouble accessing the readings.

COURSE SEGMENTS

Additional information (including lecture slides and/or notes) for each segment will be posted on Canvas. Be sure to check Canvas for materials and announcements throughout the quarter.

Class announcements will be sent through Canvas. *It is the student's responsibility to attend class and 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.*

I. Fundamentals of Transfer Pricing:

March 31; April 2, April 7; Exam April 9 (Thurs.)

Speakers:

David Unger
Economic and Valuation Services
KPMG, L.L.P.

⇒ **Exam 1: Thursday, April 9**

II. Analysis & Valuation of Stocks:

April 14, April 16, April 21; Exam April 23 (Th)

Speaker:

Steve Phelps, C.F.A., C.I.C.
President, Chief Investment Officer and Wealth Manager
Badgley Phelps Wealth Managers

⇒ **Exam 2: Thursday, April 23**

III. Private Equity & Venture Capital:

April 28, April 30, May 5; Exam May 7 (Th)

Speaker:

Adley Bowden
VP of Market Analysis
PitchBook Data

⇒ **Exam 3: Thursday, May 7**

IV. Private Company Valuation and Transactions:

May 12, May 14; May 19; Exam May 21 (Th)

Speaker:

Patrick Ringland
Principal & Managing Director
Meridian Capital Investment Bankers

⇒ **Exam 4: Thursday, May 21**

V. Insurance:

May 26, May 28, June 2; Exam June 4 (Th)

Speakers:

Olga Yang, CPCU, ARM, AIM, ARe, APA, ASLI
Senior Underwriter

Philadelphia Insurance Companies

Chip Holland, C.L.U.

President

Life & Health Underwriters, Inc.

⇒ **Exam 5: Thursday, June 4**

Grading:

As listed above, there will be five exams, one for each course segment. *It is your responsibility to check Canvas often for announcements, dues dates, assignments, and exams.* Additional details regarding each assessment will be announced during each segment. Your grade for the overall course will be the average of your segment exam grades (there is no separate final exam). The class grading scale is available on Canvas and grades are not curved.

Additional Resources for Students:

U.W. Economics Resources for Students: <https://econ.washington.edu/resources-students>

U.W. Career and Internship Center: <https://careers.uw.edu/>

U.W. Undergraduate Advising: <https://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/>

U.W. Disability Resources for Students: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>

U.W. International and English Language Programs: <https://www.ielp.uw.edu/>

U.W. Health and Wellness: <http://depts.washington.edu/livewell/>

U.W. Libraries: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/>

U.W. Undergraduate Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards: <http://expd.uw.edu/scholarships/>

U.W. Student Coaching and Care: <http://depts.washington.edu/livewell/student-care/>

U.W. Student Legal Services: <http://depts.washington.edu/slsuw/>