GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This is a lecture course that is intended to help you understand the role that financial markets play in the business environment that you will face in the future. It also provides an understanding of the underlying institutions that either help financial markets work well or that interfere with the efficient performance of these markets. This course develops a series of applications of principles from finance and economics that explore the connection between financial markets and the economy. In addition, it will focus on many public policy issues and examine how the most important players in financial markets, central banks, operate and how monetary policy is conducted. The course will have a strong international orientation by examining monetary policy in many countries and possible reforms of the international financial system. We will also focus on current events reported in the financial press by devoting one to one and a half class hours per day to an extensive class discussion of current economic events and will use the analytic frameworks developed in class help us to understand these developments.

REQUIRED TEXTS


(C) Casebook, which is electronic and can be accessed through Canvas by going to the tab *Library Reserves*, which is second from the bottom on the left-hand-side of the main screen for the course.
GRADING: PROBLEM SETS, CLASS PROJECT, ATTENDANCE, CLASS PARTICIPATION

The course will have six problem sets and a class project which are due on December 11, 2020 by 11:59pm. The problem sets and class project must be uploaded into Canvas. Canvas will not allow late submissions. Problem sets are in the Type B category: they are to be completed individually, but consultation with other students is allowed as long as the answers are written up separately by each student. The class project will be done by groups of students. Your grade will be based on your problem sets, the class project and attendance. Attendance is mandatory for all sessions, and is part of your grade. However, class participation will *not* be graded and is strictly voluntary but essential.

CLASS CONDUCT

Late arrival or leaving and coming back into the classroom will not be tolerated because it disrupts the class. Either arriving late or leaving and coming back into class will require that a student come see me after class to make sure it doesn’t happen again. There is a no laptop or any electronics policy in class. If a student needs to leave class early for any reason, they should send me an email and sit at the outside edge of the class, so they can leave quietly without disrupting the class.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

The teaching assistant for the course is xxxxxx. He is available for any help you may need during the term by appointment which can be made by email. His e-mail address is xxxxx@gsb.columbia.edu.
TOPICS AND SPECIFIC READINGS

I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

(M) Ch. 1 Why Study Money, Banking and Financial Markets
(M) Ch. 2 An Overview of the Financial System
(M) Ch. 3 What is Money?

II. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE, FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

(M) Ch. 8 An Economic Analysis of Financial Structure

Optional:

III. MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR REGULATION

(M)  Ch. 9  Banking and the Management of Financial Institutions, especially pp. 188-203.
(M)  Ch. 10  Economic Analysis of Financial Regulation

Optional:

(M)  Ch. 11  Banking Industry: Structure and Competition
(M)  Ch. 15  Conflicts of Interest in the Financial Industry

IV. THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET AND FX CRISES

(M)  Ch. 20  The Foreign Exchange Market
(M)  Ch. 21  International Financial System, pp. 502-517.

Optional:

(M)  Ch. 6  The Risk and Term Structure of Interest Rates
V. FINANCIAL CRISES

(M) Ch. 12 Financial Crises
(C) Web Chapter 1: Financial Crises in Emerging Market Economies.

Optional:


VI. CENTRAL BANKING AND THE TOOLS OF MONETARY POLICY

(M) Ch. 16 Central Banks and the Federal Reserve System
(M) Ch. 18 The Tools of Monetary Policy

Optional:

(M) Ch. 17 The Money Supply Process
VII. CENTRAL BANK STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATION: THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

(M) Ch. 19 The Conduct of Monetary Policy: Strategy and Tactics, pp. 444-460.
(M) Ch. 21 International Financial System, pp. 520-527.

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Optional:
