Economics 26:  
The Economics of  
Financial Intermediaries and Markets  

SYLLABUS

PREREQUISITE: Econ 1. That’s it, nothing else recommended or required.


IF YOU WANT TO DO FURTHER READING, FINANCIAL MEDIA  

GRADING:  
Class discussion: 40%  
Midterm: 20%  
Final: 40%.

Exams are generally multiple choice and short-answer format. The only aids allowed during exams are one page of formulas (double-sided is OK), and a calculator.

If you would like your final exam returned and will not be on campus to pick it up, you must provide me with a self-addressed (regular or Hinman mail) envelope, no postage necessary.

I grade participation based on both quantity and quality of cold-called and voluntary responses in class. See also COURSE FORMAT AND ATTENDANCE below.

SCHEDULING, NOT SCHEMDULING: Note the exam dates and times in the schedule I hand out on the first day of class (also on Canvas). By enrolling in Ec 26 you are committing to take the exams on those dates and at those times. I do not reschedule exams or offer alternative dates/times to accommodate student conflicts.

COURSE FORMAT AND ATTENDANCE: Each class covers one assignment. An assignment includes reading(s) and homework questions to prepare for discussion (not handing in). The assignment schedule, including the questions and readings for each assignment, is posted on Canvas.

At the beginning of each class, I will address any questions you may have on the assignment. I will then orchestrate discussion of the discussion by calling on students to present their answers. I do a combination of cold-calling from a list of random selections made BEFORE each class, and asking for volunteers.
The quality of your answers and your general contribution to class discussion will contribute significantly to your grade. If you are called upon and not in attendance or pre-excused you will receive a zero for the day.

You may excuse yourself from participating on a particular day by emailing me no more than 48 hours in advance of the class (you must put ec26 absence and your class time in the subject line; e.g., “ec26 absence 12 section”). You are free to use up to 5 such excuses during the term. Please be a “social planner” and internalize the negative externality of any contagious illness.

If I am teaching more than one section of Ec26, you may choose to attend the other section on a particular day by emailing me no more than 48 hours in advance of that day.

You must make regular, positive contributions to get a good class participation grade! There are many opportunities to volunteer. Not getting cold-called is not an excuse for not participating, you need to show me what you know.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ALL RELATED MATERIALS except for the textbook are on Canvas.

PREPARING YOURSELF: I strongly encourage you to work in an informal (self-organized) study group to prepare the assignments.

Also, the Academic Skills Center organizes formal study groups, led by former Ec 26 students, for this course, and provides one-on-one tutors upon request.

Do NOT use the work of former students when preparing for assignments or exams! This is a violation of the Honor Principle and more broadly self-defeating.

OFFICE HOURS, in 314 Rockefeller: Tuesdays 2:15-3:15, or by appointment.

EMAIL PROTOCOL: I do not correspond directly with any of the dozens of students enrolled in Ec 26 in a given term (except for scheduling meetings). If you email me in advance of class to excuse yourself you can presume you are excused from class unless you hear from me otherwise. If you email me with a correction, point of clarification, or question that makes a useful point, I will email the Ec 26 mailing list through Canvas or address it in class (without attributing you). If you email me with a question that could be answered through careful perusal of the textbook, the syllabus, the Internet, or some other readily available source, I will not address your question.