DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
Department of Economics

Economics 46
Topics in Monetary Economics and Finance

Professor Samwick
Winter 2001

Office Hours:

My office is 322 Rockefeller, and my office telephone number is 646-2893. My regular office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., and by appointment. All appointments must be confirmed through Blitzmail.

Course Description:

Economics 46 is a seminar course that provides an overview of major developments in monetary economics and finance over the last two decades and offers an in-depth look at selected aspects of financial markets and institutions. The objective of the course is to enable the student to understand the academic literature in finance and to produce original research using financial data.

Prerequisites: Economics 20, 22, 26, and 36

Readings:

Some of the readings for this class are on reserve at Baker Library. The rest are available directly on the Internet. Most class periods will consist of critical discussions of the economic theory and evidence in the assigned papers. Some class discussions will be led by me, but most will be led by students on a rotating basis. Other classes will be sessions on econometrics, using the Internet to obtain financial data, and locating financial data in Feldberg library.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Research Paper, 60%
Class Participation, 40%

The research paper is on a topic of the student’s choice and has a maximum length of 15 pages. The first draft of the paper must be handed in by Friday, March 2 and presented to the class during the week of Monday, March 5. The order for presentations will be determined through a lottery. The final draft of the paper is due by Saturday, March 10. A three-page research proposal for the paper must be handed in by Friday, February 2. Further details on the requirements for the paper, presentation, and proposal will be discussed as the class progresses.

The remainder of the course grade is based on presentations and participation in classroom discussions. Each day that a paper is being presented, students must submit critiques of the assigned readings according to a template posted on the web page. Handwritten critiques, or critiques submitted after the relevant class, will not be accepted. Each student will also give one class presentation of the assigned papers. The critiques and paper presentation, plus general contributions to class discussions, comprise the class participation part of the grade. Students should meet with me several days prior to their presentations to review the assigned paper.
Additional Information:

Class Meetings: Silsby 310, MWF 8:45 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. X-period meetings are denoted by * on the Course Outline.

Class Materials: Course handouts are accessible via the WWW at: www.dartmouth.edu/~econ46.

Honor Principle: Students are expected to follow the College’s guidelines for the proper attribution of sources in the conduct of their own research.

Equal Access: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the professor by January 17. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Academic Skills Center may be consulted to verify the documentation for the disability.

Course Outline:

For articles that are available on the Internet at sites to which Dartmouth has a subscription or to which no subscription is needed, students are responsible for obtaining the articles at least 5 days before the article is to be discussed in class. Articles that are not freely available to Dartmouth students are on reserve, in triplicate.

I) Introductory Topics

[M 01/08]


[W 01/10]


[Th 01/11*]


[F 01/12]


[M 01/15 (MLK Holiday)]

Class does not meet.
[W 01/17]

[Th 01/18*]

[F 01/19]

II) Data and Econometrics

[M 01/22] Data Meeting at Feldberg Library

[W 01/24] Data Meeting at Starr Instructional Center

[Th 01/25*] Data Meeting at Starr Instructional Center and Review of Economics 20

III) Noise Trading and Sentiment

[F 01/26]

[M 01/29]

[W 01/31]

[Th 02/01*]

[F 02/02] RESEARCH PROPOSALS DUE IN CLASS
IV) Initial Public Offerings

[F 02/02]


[M 02/05]


[Th 02/08*]


V) Financial Constraints and Investment

[M 02/12]


[W 02/14]


[Th 02/15*]


[F 02/16]

VI) Corporate Governance

[M 02/19]


[W 02/21]


VII) Empirical Tests of Herd Behavior

[F 02/23]


[M 02/26]


[W 02/28]


VIII) Class Wrap-Up

[F 03/02] FIRST DRAFTS OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE IN MY OFFICE BY THE END OF THE CLASS PERIOD.

[Tu 03/06] [W 03/07] Each section will meet on one of these evenings during which all presentations will be made.

[Sa 03/10] FINAL DRAFTS OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 10 a.m.