

423 - Investments

Prerequisite: Business 320. Study of the organization and function of securities markets. Emphasis will be on equity markets and the management of equity portfolios, though bond, options and futures markets will also be covered. The course is constructed to be an introduction to professional portfolio management. The concepts of modern portfolio theory, capital asset pricing, efficient markets and security analysis are introduced.

420 - Advanced Corporate Finance

Prerequisite: Business 320. Introduces advanced topics in corporate finance in addition to reviewing and extending some topics covered in Business 320. In addition, the theories presented in Business 320 and 420 will be applied in the analysis of case studies. Through case studies the course explores strategies for increasing firm value in the context of commonly faced financial management problems.

421 - Corporate Governance & Restructuring

Prerequisite: Business 320. The market for corporate control is the market in which alternative management teams compete to control corporate resources. This course will examine the forces which can potentially explain corporate phenomena, which affect corporate resources under the command of a management team, like takeovers, leveraged buyouts, stock buybacks, leveraged acquisitions, divisional sales, etc. This course will also examine internal and external control mechanisms, as well as any interactions between them, which serve to discipline management and align management goals with shareholder wealth maximization.

424 - Derivative Asset Analysis

Prerequisites: Business 320 and 350. This course deals with the valuation and use of options and futures contracts. The course presents relative pricing requirements for these contracts that are enforced by arbitrage trading strategies. Extension of this analytic technique will lead to the derivation of exact valuation models. The class gives students the skills to value derivative assets and to develop strategies based on the students' analysis.

426 - Financial Services/Institutional Markets

Prerequisite: Business 320. Major emphasis is on the concepts underlying the intermediation process, and managerial policies and decision making within deposit-taking and nonbank financial institutions. The regulatory climate in which these firms operate is discussed and public policy issues are analyzed.

428 - Investment Banking

Prerequisite: Business 320. This course will examine major investment banking activities. First, we examine trends in the investment banking business, which include consolidation and globalization. Second, we examine trading and principal investments, which includes fixed income, interest rate derivatives, commodities, currencies, convergence trading, and M&A risk arbitrage. After sales and trading, we move to raising capital, both fixed income and equity capital (IPOs). We conclude with a segment on transactional finance and advisory services, which includes valuation and mergers & acquisitions. For certain topics, guest lecturers from major investment banks will discuss their day-to-day experience dealing with a particular activity.

428B - Venture Capital & Private Equity

Prerequisite: Business 320. This course surveys the private equity industry, with an emphasis on the financial and economic tools useful for leveraged buyout and venture capital investing. The course is divided into four modules. We begin with an introductory module on the organization and strategies of private equity funds. The second module covers examples of the basic types of private equity transactions, and the third module expands on these types by studying transactions with options and hybrid financing structures. The final module covers some “special topics”: the IPO market, incubators, and corporate venture capital. The primary audience for this course is finance majors interested in careers at private equity funds. The secondary audience is students planning careers that have significant interaction with private equity funds, either as providers of these funds (pension fund managers, institutional investors, investment advisors) or as consumers of them (managers/owners of startups or buyout candidates). The course will be primarily case-based, with written assignments by student-formed teams required for about half of the class meetings.

429 - Fixed Income

Prerequisite: Business 320. Fixed income finance has become known as “rocket science” finance because of its quantitative nature. This course presents an introduction into fixed income. Studies primary fixed income securities such as bonds and mortgages as well as derivative fixed income securities such as Treasury bond futures and CMOs. Specifically designed for students with no prior background in fixed income.

483 - Applied Investment Management

Prerequisite: Business 320 and 423. This course uses academic studies, practitioner-oriented readings, case studies, and projects to cover both conventional wisdom and state-of-the-art methods used in managing a portfolio of equity securities. Topics include: asset allocation, active stock selection, market timing, quantitative selection methods, technical analysis, passive management, performance measurement, trading (retail and institutional), mutual funds, and hedge funds.