Econ 353: Money, Banking, and Financial Markets

Summer 2008

Class meetings: MTWRF 12:10pm-1:10pm, Heady Hall 272


Instructor:
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Course Objective

Econ 353 is an undergraduate course focusing on the study of financial markets, financial instruments and financial institutions. We would look at commercial banks, the central bank and monetary policies, the role of money, bonds and stocks, as well as a variety of financial markets. We would get to know basic concepts in finance, the real-world events in the U.S. and simple analytical tools that will make sense of most finance issues you may read in newspapers and on internet or hear about on TV.

Required Textbook


Course Webpage

Course materials (including lecture notes, schedules, problem sets and solutions, policies and announcements) will be posted online at: http://www.econ.iastate.edu/classes/econ353/yu/

Lectures

In our normal class meetings, I would give lectures outlined in slides of lecture notes. They would be available on-line everyday after class. I hope you could take some time to study them after lectures. A tentative plan for the course is to cover most materials from chapter 1 to chapter 16 in the textbook. A detailed schedule of which chapters in the book we would talk about in class would be posted online on a weekly basis.
Homework and Exam

Problem set assignments would be **handed out on Mondays but are not graded**. These problem sets are to help you better understand the lectures and to better prepare you for the exams. There will be **exams every other Friday** in the usual classroom, so four exams in total. Exam grades are of equal weights.

Presentation and In-Class Discussion

On those Fridays when we do not have exams, we would either have students take turns to present to the class on topics relevant to this course or we would discuss questions in problem sets, exams or financial issues in the real-world.

Reading Assignments

It is a good idea to **review lecture notes, handouts, and relevant chapters in the textbook** right after class. You are also encouraged to read **some articles** in leading economic/finance journals that would be handed out and posted on the webpage in the future. You could earn extra **bonus credits** by reading those articles and writing comments/essays about them.

Grading

Your final grade in the course will be determined by the weighted-average of:

- Average of exam grades (80%)
- Presentation and in-class discussion (20 %)
- Bonus reading questions (20 %)

A letter grade would be assigned according to your final grade, taking into account your overall performance throughout the course. If you attend all classes, do assignments and obtain above average exam grades, I would say that the possibility of getting a grade of A- or better is very high.

Disability Statement:

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Resources (DR) office, located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076, 515-294-6624.