 **Date:** Oct. 2017

Course Name and Number:

Introduction to Financial Economics-Semester One

66-251-80

**Type of course:** Lecture

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**Year of Studies:** 2017-2018 **Semester:** Fall  **Hours/credits**: 3

**Course Objectives**

This course is intended to help the student learn to think carefully and productively about financial markets and financial aspects of entrepreneurship. It will provide a survey of questions faced, and techniques used, by financial practitioners.

**Course Plan**

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| Meetings | Topic |
| 1 | What is this course about? What is finance?  What were the origins of the 2008 Financial markets crash? Where is volatility today? |
| 2-3 | What is Quantitative Easing? |
| 3-5 | The Fight of the Century: Keynes vs Hayek |
| 6-8 | Bubbles and emergent complex systems |
| 9-10 | The stock market: Program trading and contagion |
| 11-12 | The stock market: Liquidity and the (micro) structure of trading |

Grading and administration

* Attendance at all meetings is mandatory. Attendance will be taken.
* Grades will be assigned on the basis of a final project.
* You will be requested to place cell phones on my desk at the start of each class meeting.
* Class meetings will be conducted according to the Socratic Method, meaning that students need to be prepared to work actively within class, as well as outside of it. In addition to a supporting, recommended text, frequent readings (either available on the internet or supplied by me) will be assigned.