

Syllabus  
Introduction to Financial Economics-Semester One  
Fall 2020  
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**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**

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 is mandatory whether in face-to-face or Zoom sessions.
- Grades will be assigned according to the results of a midterm and final exam, each worth 45%. Attendance will be worth 10%.
- For in-person meetings, you will be requested to place cell phones on my desk at the start of each class meeting.