

Course Description

Topics in Financial Economics

Department of Economics
Bachelor of Science Program

Module number and title: Topics in Financial Economics

Form and usability of the module: Intensive Seminar for B.Sc. Economics

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. von Thadden / Dr. André Stenzel

Cycle of offer: Once per Academic year, typically in the Spring Term

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2SWS) + Tutorial (1SWS)

Workload: 21 hours in the seminar; 147 hours for writing the report, preparing the presentation, and guided independent study

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A+B (prerequisite), Introduction to Econometrics (recommended for empirical papers), Financial Economics (helpful)

Grading and ECTS credits: Presentation (40%) and Report (60%)

Goals and contents of the module:

Students are required to pick a paper in selected topics relating to Financial Economics and give a presentation to discuss the paper's strengths and weaknesses. Based on their work, and the comments that they receive in the presentation, students are required to write a report summarizing and critically discussing the paper, and synthesizing the findings in related papers presented by other students. Topics can include asset pricing, corporate governance, securitization practices and their relation to the Financial Crisis 2007-2009.

A detailed list of topics and associated papers will be circulated once the seminar spots have been allocated.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module:

Students learn to analyze, summarize, and critically discuss original articles at the frontier of current research in financial economics. They improve the skills to communicate complex topics both orally and in writing, and further their presentation skills.

The seminar also serves as a bridge towards the Bachelor Thesis. Students learn to engage with current research papers, to critically assess those, and to develop their own ideas based on their findings – all skills that are essential for the successful completion of the thesis.

Further information:

Having attended the course in Financial Economics is helpful but not required. Please carefully read the following information regarding the timing of the seminar!

Timing: Please note that this block seminar aims to finish in early-to-mid March. This means that a substantial part of the guided independent work will need to be conducted in January and February. An introductory meeting (for students currently in Mannheim) will take place in mid-December. Paper selection and allocation will take place by early January. Presentations will be held mid-February, and the seminar reports are due in early March. The instructor will be available for individual meetings throughout this time.

Registration: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week. Please provide your name, student ID, current semester, and the number of already successfully completed seminars and register via E-Mail.

Expected number of students in class: 16 (Max)

Contact Information:

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