

FINM 35000: TOPICS IN ECONOMICS

Autumn 2022

Instructor:	Joanna Harris	Time:	Wed. 6:00PM-9:00PM
TA:	Lisheng Su	Place:	5727 S. University Ave. #112

Office Hours: Lisheng will hold office hours on Sundays from 5pm-6pm on Zoom. Please email Lisheng at least 24 hours in advance of each week's office hour to let him know what questions you would like to discuss. Joanna will hold office hours by appointment.

Course Summary: This course will provide an overview of a variety of topics related to macroeconomics and finance, with a focus on real-world applications. The course requirements are four problem sets and a final project. The problem sets will be mostly computational (i.e. using real data to explore questions related to the topics being taught). The final project will require students to construct a trading strategy related to one of the topics on the syllabus. Students will present their projects in week 10.

Grading: Grades will be based on homework (50%), a final project (40%), and class participation (10%). Homework and the final project can be completed in groups of up to three students. In addition to the group submission, each assignment will have a short set of bonus questions to be completed individually.

Group Work Policy: To prevent free-riding within groups, assignment responses must be color coded to reflect which group member completed each section. For example, Member 1 uses a green font and Member 2 uses purple font. Each group member must contribute to each assignment. In addition, students are welcome to change groups throughout the quarter if they find that their group is not collaborating effectively. Students are encouraged to let us know about any issues they are having with their groups and we will assist with finding a solution.

Assignment Deadlines:

Problem Set #1	October 11
Problem Set #2	October 25
Project Proposal	November 1
Problem Set #3	November 8
Problem Set #4	November 15
Final Project	November 30

Course Outline:

- Week 1 (9/27): ESG and Climate Risk: Sustainable Investing.
- Week 2 (10/2): ESG and Climate Risk: Regulation and Disclosure.
- Week 3: (10/11): ESG and Climate Risk: Economic and Financial Impacts of Physical Climate Risk.
- Week 4 (10/18): Monetary Policy and Inflation.
- Week 5 (10/25): Monetary Policy and Inflation (continued).
- Week 6 (11/1): International Finance and Emerging Markets.
- Week 7 (11/8): Business Cycles, Financial Crises and Inequality.
- Week 8 (11/15): Equity Premium Puzzle, Heterogeneity and Retail Investors.
- Week 9 (11/22): Thanksgiving, no class.
- Week 10 (11/29): Final project due. Student presentations.