



GRADUATE SCHOOL

GM1029 Topics in Finance, 7.5 higher education credits

Aktuella finansämnen, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by School of Business, Economics and Law on 2014-03-26 and was last revised on 2017-05-30 to be valid from 2017-08-28, autumn semester of 2017.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Graduate School

Position in the educational system

The course Topics in Finance is a course within the Master of Science programmes at the Graduate School, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg.

Main field of studies

Finance

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course Topics in Finance the participant must fulfil the entrance qualifications for the Master of Science programme in Economics or the Master of Science programme in Finance. For programme specific entrance requirements, see programme syllabus.

In addition, the student must have followed the courses Advanced Microeconomic Theory, Graduate Econometrics, Financial Econometrics and Investments or equivalent. Knowledge of an econometric software (such as Stata or SAS) is useful.

Learning outcomes

After completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

1. Understand and evaluate relevant theoretical and empirical concepts, frameworks and models related to Finance.
2. Apply and communicate this understanding in relation to existing research, available data, and real cases using appropriate tools.

Course content

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to current research topics with the aim of identifying suitable master thesis topics in finance. While introducing different potential topics of research, we will also cover empirical methodologies of common use in finance. The course will stress empirical contributions, but we will also discuss theoretical models where necessary. The course will also introduce available data sources and how to access them, assess data quality, and clean data.

Reading and discussing current research is an integral part of this course. During the course five different topics within finance will be presented and discussed by the lecturer. The students shall then read research papers related to each topic. Every student shall choose a research paper related to one of the five topics which shall be one of the main references for the research proposal. The first assignment is to hand in a critical assessment of this research paper. The assessment shall contain descriptions of the research questions, methods and data used, conclusions, and a discussion about the feasibility of replicating the analysis with other data and/ or studying a similar question. A list of research papers for each topic will be supplied by the lecturer.

Every student will also be asked to hand in four brief summaries; each related to one of four topics. By the end of the course the students shall hand in a research proposal, which shall also be presented at a seminar.

In the second part of the course we will introduce potential data sources for master thesis research. We will talk about how to assess data quality, identify outliers and problematic observations, and how to provide a concise summary of the data. Every student will be asked to hand in a report containing summary statistics of a collected data-set.

Form of teaching

The course will consist of lectures. Each student shall also participate in one seminar.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Learning outcome 1 is assessed through a written research proposal, a written critical assessment of a research paper, and four brief written summaries of research papers.

Learning outcome 2 is assessed through an oral presentation of the research proposal and a report containing summary statistics of a collected data-set.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Students who have made five unsuccessful attempts to pass an examination have lost the possibility of obtaining a Master of Science Degree from Graduate School.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

For Pass on the course, Pass is required on

- i) the written critical assessment of a research paper,
- ii) the data report,
- iii) the written research proposal
- iv) the oral presentation of the research proposal, and
- v) the four brief written critical summaries.

For Pass with Distinction on the course, in addition to the requirements for Pass above, Pass with Distinction is required on three out of i) – iv) above.

Course evaluation

The course will be evaluated upon completion.

The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.