

Course Title	Topics in Finance			
Course Code	ACF 460			
Course Type	Compulsory			
Level	Undergraduate			
Year / Semester	Year 4 / Semester 8			
Teacher's Name	Polina Ellina/Member(s) of the Department			
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	3	Laboratories / week
Course Purpose and Objectives	This course presents and analyses several contemporary issues in Finance. Students will learn the research aspect in these disciplines such as earning management, stock price crash risk, climate change, Fintech, Financial reporting and Textual Analysis, COVID-19 pandemic, financial crisis, ESG, and others. The main objective of the course is to provide students all the knowledge required to understand the importance of research in explaining different topics in Finance.			
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the course, students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the importance of research to explain several topics in Finance. ▪ Realize the contemporary issues in Finance. ▪ Develop led critical thinking skills, which are necessary for life-long learning. ▪ Present an understanding of the current issues in Accounting and/or Finance to audiences. ▪ Discuss with academic peers and industry experts the contemporary issues in the Financial Industry. 			
Prerequisites	ACF 420	Required	NONE	
Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current research trends in Finance such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Earnings management, ○ Stock Price Crash Risk, ○ Corporate Disclosure, ○ Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain ○ CEO characteristics, ○ Textual Analysis and Financial Constraint ○ Etc. ▪ China Financial Crisis: case study of the real estate company Evergrande, impact in the Economy of China 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COVID-19 pandemic and Economy ▪ Corporate Finance and Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting (ESG)
<p>Teaching Methodology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lectures coupled with case study teaching and discussion ▪ Reading and resolving problems ▪ Working on problem-solving and case studies ▪ Solving unstructured questions and case studies ▪ Brief oral presentation before starting a new chapter and reply to queries from students ▪ Homework for revision purposes ▪ Interaction and collaborative learning ▪ Guest speakers
<p>Bibliography</p>	<p><u>Selected Articles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loughran, T., & McDonald, B. (2014). Measuring readability in financial disclosures. <i>the Journal of Finance</i>, 69(4), 1643-1671. ▪ Loughran, T., & McDonald, B. (2016). Textual analysis in accounting and finance: A survey. <i>Journal of Accounting Research</i>, 54(4), 1187-1230. ▪ Huang, S., & Liu, H. (2021). Impact of COVID-19 on stock price crash risk: Evidence from Chinese energy firms. <i>Energy economics</i>, 101, 105431. ▪ Kim, J. B., Wang, Z., & Zhang, L. (2016). CEO overconfidence and stock price crash risk. <i>Contemporary Accounting Research</i>, 33(4), 1720-1749. ▪ Huang, Y., Duan, K., & Mishra, T. (2021). Is Bitcoin really more than a diversifier? A pre-and post-COVID-19 analysis. <i>Finance Research Letters</i>, 43, 102016. ▪ Nguyen, K. Q. (2021). The correlation between the stock market and Bitcoin during COVID-19 and other uncertainty periods. <i>Finance Research Letters</i>, 102284. ▪ Gillan, S. L., Koch, A., & Starks, L. T. (2021). Firms and social responsibility: A review of ESG and CSR research in corporate finance. <i>Journal of Corporate Finance</i>, 66, 101889. <p>The above articles can be amended based on the current research trends in Accounting and Finance.</p> <p><u>Other Resources</u></p> <p>The Financial Times: https://www.ft.com/</p> <p>The Wall Street Journal: https://www.wsj.com/</p> <p>Current Issues in Economics and Finance: https://econpapers.repec.org/article/fipfednci/</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Class Participation: 10%</p> <p>Presentation and Assignment: 25%</p>

	Midterm Exam: 25% Final Exam: 40%
Language	English