

Economics of Financial Markets, ECON 40153

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 am, 125 Tandy Hall.

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11 am, or by appointment.

Course Objectives:

- Students will become familiar with the financial press.
- Students will learn the institutional features of financial markets and integrate them into an economic framework.
- Students will investigate topics involving financial markets and produce lucid economic summaries.
- Students will formulate their own monetary policy prescriptions based on economic theory and economic data.

Assignments:

1. **Quizzes:** Students will be quizzed at the start of each class about the *Wall Street Journal*. Each day's quiz will be worth 2 points, and a maximum of 50 points can be earned. The quiz question will focus on the day's topic. At first, the course calendar will give a hint regarding what part of the WSJ a day's quiz will ask about.
2. **Paper:** Students will submit a paper that demonstrates command of the course material, command of the economics of financial markets, and the ability to integrate both evidence and theory into an original thesis. The paper is worth 100 points. Papers will be graded on thesis, economic analysis, and evidence used. Egregious spelling or grammar will also be taken into account. Papers will run about 1,500 to 2,000 words. Papers will be submitted by email attachment in Word format to s.quinn@tcu.edu by class time (8 am) on the due date.

3. **Report:** Students will investigate assigned topics and report their findings to the class. The goal is to learn how to summarize the institutional and theoretical aspects of an assigned topic. The report will be worth 50 points. Reports will be graded on thesis, economic analysis, and evidence used. Particular attention will be paid to effective use of visual information. Egregious spelling or grammar will also be taken into account. Each investigative report will be about 750 words. Investigative reports will be submitted by email attachment in Word format to s.quinn@tcu.edu by class time (8 am) on the due date. The reports will be shared with the rest of the class by Professor Quinn.
4. **Presentation:** Students will also orally present the results of their investigative reports with the class. Each report will be worth 50 points. Presentations will be graded on thesis, economic analysis, and evidence used. Particular attention will be paid to effective use of visual information. Each presentation will be 15 minutes. Presentations will be on the same day the report is due.
5. **FOMC:** At the end of the semester, the class will conduct a Federal Open Markets Committee meeting.

Presentation: Students will present their opinion regarding what the FED policy should be. Each presentation will be worth 50 points. Presentations will be graded on thesis, economic analysis, and evidence used.

Formal Analysis: Students will submit a paper explaining their position in the moot FOMC. The FOMC paper is worth 100 points. Papers will be graded on thesis, economic analysis, and evidence used. Egregious spelling or grammar will also be taken into account. Analysis will be about 1,500 to 2,000 words. Papers will be submitted by email attachment in Word format to s.quinn@tcu.edu.

Grades

Grades will be assigned based on the percentage of potential points earned: 90% A, 80% B, 70% C, 60% D. A total of 400 points are possible as summarized below:

	Points
Wall Street Journal Quizzes	50
Report	50
Presentation	50
Paper	100
Moot FOMC Presentation	50
Moot FOMC Paper	100

Disabilities Statement:

Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Eligible students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Academic Services located in Sadler Hall, 11. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at (817) 257-7486.

Written Work

Assignments will be typed in 12 point Times New Roman, double spaced, and single sided.

Assignments will have a bibliography, and all non-original material will be cited.

All submitted written assignments will be original. Plagiarism will result in receiving an F for the course. Lifting material from the internet without citing it is a form of plagiarism.

Quizzes, presentations, and final FOMC reports will not be accepted late. Papers and reports during the semester submitted late but before the next class will have their highest possible grade lowered to 85. **No papers will be accepted after the following class period.**