### FIN 4312 – Current Issues in Banking (Section 001 - CRN 19704)  
**Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Hours:</th>
<th>M/W 3:00-4:20pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom:</td>
<td>COBA Building Room 302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>Destan Kirimhan, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office:</td>
<td>COBA Building Room 220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>(915) 747-7953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dkirimhan@utep.edu">dkirimhan@utep.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**E-mail Policy**  
For faster replies, please use the prefix “FIN4312” in the subject line of all emails.  
It is the policy of the finance department that all e-mails sent to professors or teaching assistants be of a professional nature and format. A formal greeting and salutation are required. Proper grammar, spelling, and format are required. You must clearly state the problem or question that will be addressed. You must identify the class, section, time, and location where the class meets. We reserve the right to not reply to any e-mail that does not meet these requirements and is not of a professional nature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Hours:</th>
<th>Office hours will be held on Monday/Wednesday 2:00 - 3:00 pm, Mountain Time at the office of the instructor i.e., COBA Building Room 220.</th>
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</table>

**Required Text:**  
There is no required textbook. For each of the topics listed below, we will have required and optional additional readings list that is available publicly on the Internet.

**Prerequisites:**  
FIN 4311 or department approval.

**Class Communication:**  
Class Communication will be done via Blackboard, class e-mail, and office hours.

**Blackboard:**  
I will use Blackboard to post important announcements. I expect you to check Blackboard daily. Make sure you receive Blackboard announcement emails in your inbox. Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

**Class E-Mail:**  
Each student is required to have the e-mail account that is associated with the Blackboard system up to date. Any class requirements sent in the e-mail messages through the Blackboard are considered delivered. You should check that e-mail account regularly.

**Technology Requirements**  
Course content is delivered in class and some materials can be posted online through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.
You will need to have access to a computer/laptop to have access to the required and optional additional course materials. You will need to download or update the following software as some of the materials listed in the readings list can be multimedia resources like videos: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

### Course Description and Objectives:

The objective of this course is to equip students with the state-of-the-art essential decision-making tools and understanding of recently emerged topics and current problems in commercial banking. Ultimately, the tools developed in this course should help you understand, analyze, synthesize, and provide alternative solutions for the recent problems and topics emerged and going to emerge in commercial banking and financial services. Also, it will help you analyze them from the points of view of the banks, their regulators, and the public.

### Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this class, you will be able to:

- Understand, analyze, and synthesize the new technology that automates and improves the various financial services employed by banks, businesses, and other organizations.
- Understand, analyze, and provide solution concepts to the most recently emerging, already emerged, and yet to be emerged problems of consumers, businesses, and financial service providers.
- Understand, analyze, synthesize, and provide solution concepts to the above-mentioned items from a perspective of wide range of experts in banking, supervision, and regulations.

### Withdrawal Policy:

A student may officially withdraw from this class with an automatic W at any time BEFORE October 28. No withdrawals will be allowed after this date. **THIS IS UNIVERSITY POLICY.** Automatic withdrawals will NOT be made by the instructor. To be withdrawn from the class, students must take the appropriate actions on or before the university deadlines.
Attendance and Participation

Students are strongly encouraged to attend the lecture and especially the guest speaker sessions of this class. There are attendance points for the guest speaker sessions of this class and attendance will be taken during these sessions.

Final Course Grade Components:
Course grade will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance to Guest Speaker Sessions</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions to Guest Speakers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Group Presentations</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maximum available points in total: 105 points (5 extra points)

Attendance to Guest Speaker Sessions

For each of the guest speaker sessions you attended, you will get 1 point each. The maximum point you can collect for this component of the final course grade is **13 points**. Please do not forget to sign the attendance list in each session. See tentative course schedule for details and relevant dates.

Questions to Guest Speaker Sessions

Students are expected to deliver at least 1 question for each of the main 8 topics that will be covered in this class to the guest speakers. Please email your question(s) to dkirimhan@utep.edu. Then, the instructor will rearrange and deliver them to the guest speakers before the guest speaker sessions. For each topic, once you emailed your question(s), you will earn 1 point. The maximum point you can collect for this component of the final course grade is **8 points**. See tentative course schedule for details and relevant dates.

Homework Assignments

At the end of each topic, students are expected to summarize the key points from the required list of reading and the lecture from the guest speaker. How they relate these items to the big picture in banking/financial intermediation. The subtopics and facts that they found interesting and other things they would like to add. Please email your HWs to the instructor (dkirimhan@utep.edu). For each topic, once you emailed your HW, you will earn 4 points. The maximum point you can collect for this component of the final course
grade is **24 points**. Note that you are not expected to deliver any summary points for the last two topics of the class i.e., climate risk and careers in banking. See tentative course schedule for details and relevant dates.

**Exams**

You have to take all three exams. Exams will be held in class during the class time. **All exams will be closed book and notes.** There will be **no need for a formula sheet for exams.**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you can take the exams at the scheduled week. Students who miss an exam without a valid reason will receive a zero on that exam. Make-up exams will be allowed only with pre-approval of the instructor or with an acceptable, documented reason. Acceptable reasons for makeup exams include severe illness, family emergencies or other unavoidable events including dangerous weather conditions and car accidents. Exam format for makeup exams may be different than the original exam.

Exam questions will be directly from the required readings and guest speaker sessions that are covered in the lectures. The questions will be investigating the highlighted key points, definitions etc. Relevant information will be provided by the instructor before each exam in the class.

There will be **3 exams** where each of them is **15 points** maximum. The total maximum point you can collect for this component of the final course grade is 45 points. See tentative course schedule for details and relevant dates.

**Student Group Presentations**

Students are expected to form groups of 3 to 6 students and deliver a presentation with slides. Each presentation is expected to be 15 minutes followed by 2-3 minutes of Q&A session. A written report is **NOT** required. Only presentation in class during the class time is required.

The total maximum point you can collect for this component of the final course grade is **15 points**. 50% of the points will be coming from peer group evaluations. Rubrics will be provided and remaining 50% will come from the points instructor assigned. See tentative course schedule for details and relevant dates.

**Grade Scale**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>80-89.99</td>
<td>70-79.99</td>
<td>60-69.99</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Copyright Statement for Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Scholastic Integrity

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty members insist on adherence to these standards.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP), and available in the Office of the Dean of Students, and the homepage of The Dean of Students (DOS) at www.utep.edu, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.

COVID-19 Precautions

Please stay home if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.
The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- **Help Desk**: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- **UTEP Library**: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **University Writing Center (UWC)**: Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- **Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS)**: Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- **History Tutoring Center (HTC)**: Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- **RefWorks**: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- **Military Student Success Center**: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- **Center for Accommodations and Support Services**: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services**: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
Main Topics and Class Materials:

1. Crises and Finance Landscape
   - Financial sector crises
   - 2008 financial crisis & post crisis reform
   - COVID-19 crisis & FinTech
   - Financial market reactions
   - Risks & scenarios
   - CAMELS ratings and Stress testing

Required Readings
- Summary of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, National Credit Union Administration, April 2020.
- COVID-19 and the banking and capital markets industry, PWC Report.
- CAMELS rating system, Corporate Finance Institute, May 6, 2022.

2. Overview of Key Technological Trends in Finance Landscape and Regulations
   - What is FinTech?
   - How new technologies are disrupting financial services industry
   - Payment systems and trends
   - Disruptive tech across credit value chain
   - FinTech credit competitive landscape
   - Marketplace (peer-to-peer) lending
   - TechFin & Embedded Finance
   - RegTech
   - Credit scoring & alternative data
   - Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in financial services

Required Readings
- ‘The Basics of Fintech’ On the Economy Blog of Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (February 18, 2019)
- 'The Future of Banking' FDIC Chair Jelena McWilliams (October 1, 2019)
- 'The banking tech trends that will dominate 2020' American Banker (January 7, 2020)
- “Embedded Finance: From Fintech to Techfin” Medium (2020)
- “How US customers’ attitudes to fintech are shifting during the pandemic” (December, 2020) McKinsey

**Regulation of FinTech and Financial Innovation:**
- Regulating Fintech: One Size Does Not Fit All, St. Louis FED, February 24, 2021, Carl White.
- Technology Service Providers for Banks, Congressional Research Service, June 20, 2019.

3. **Future of Money and Banking and Debate around Regulations**
   - Cryptoassets
   - Blockchain and its use cases in financial markets
   - Decentralized Finance (DeFi) and smart contracts
   - Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) and stablecoins
   - Digitalization and new business models of financial services
   - Web3 and Metaverse use cases in financial services

**Required Readings and Multimedia Resources**
- What are cryptoassets (cryptocurrencies)? Bank of England.
- 10 Use Cases of Blockchain in Banking, February 5, 2020.
- The ultimate guide to banking in the metaverse, Accenture, April 20, 2022.
• **Regulation of digital assets:**
  - *Are Crypto Lending, DeFi and Stablecoins the New "Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!"? A Review of Recent Crypto Legal and Regulatory Developments*, Katten, September 14, 2021.

4. **Cybersecurity risks and Regulations**
   - Privacy and transparency in the digital era
   - Cyber incidents and cybercrime ecosystem
   - Financial services institutions as guardians
   - Dark web and illicit supply chain
   - Cybersecurity in the new era of finance
   - Vendor and third-party cybersecurity risk management
   - Regulations (BSA, AML, KYC, CFT)

*Required Readings*

- *What is a cyber attack?*, IBM.

• **Regulation of cybersecurity risks, BSA, AML, KYC, and CFT:**

5. Regulatory Framework and Diversity and Inclusivity in Financial Services
   - Finance public policy framework
   - Regulatory framework for different types of financial institutions
   - Diversity, and inclusivity in financial services
   - Consumer regulations
   - Community Reinvestment Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Fair Credit Reporting Act

Required Readings

- **Finance public policy framework:**
  - Banking Supervision, FED Education.
  - NCUA’s 2021 Supervisory Priorities, National Credit Union Administration, January 2021.

- **Consumer regulations (e.g., CRA, fair lending), diversity, and inclusivity in financial services:**
  - Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B), U.S. House of Representatives.
  - Fair Credit Reporting Act, U.S. House of Representatives.

6. International/Global Financial Services
   - Financial institution mergers & acquisitions
   - Cross-border financial institutions
   - Risks and opportunities with international financial institutions
   - International clearing and settlements
   - Global payment systems

Required Readings

- FDIC Statement of Policy on Bank Merger Transactions, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).
- Bank Mergers Are on Track to Hit Their Highest Level Since the Financial Crisis, *WSJ*, September 28, 2021, Orla McCaffrey.
  Note: *WSJ* is complimentary to UTEP students. Activate your free *WSJ* membership: [http://wsj.com/ActivateUTEP](http://wsj.com/ActivateUTEP)

7. Climate risk
- Financial risks and opportunities of climate change for financial institutions
  - Green securities and specialized investors
    - Green and sustainable bonds
    - Impact investing
    - Green financial institutions
  - Regulations

Required Readings
- About Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures, Financial Stability Board.

8. Careers in Banking
- 17 Career Paths in Banking and How to Choose the Best One for You, Indeed Editorial Team, March 17, 2021.
Tentative Schedule and Outline
(I reserve the right to revise it)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22-Aug</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-Aug</td>
<td>Crises and Finance Landscape</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>Crises and Finance Landscape</td>
<td>Email your Qs for guest speaker*</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 31-Aug  | Crises and Finance Landscape                      | Lecture        | Guest Speaker
Mike Mehring – CRO & VP Risk Management @FirstLight |
| 5-Sep   | No Classes – Labor Day                            | Lecture        | Guest Speaker
Arturo Bujanda – VP @Raiz (formerly TFCU) |
| 7-Sep   | Crises and Finance Landscape                      | Lecture        |                              |
| 12-Sep  | Overview of Key Technological Trends in Finance Landscape and Regulations | HW1            | Lecture                      |
| 14-Sep  | Overview of Key Technological Trends in Finance Landscape and Regulations | Email your Qs for guest speaker* | Guest Speakers
1-) Andy Atkinson – VP E-Services @FirstLight
2-) Amy Krasikov VP E-Commerce @Raiz (formerly TFCU) |
| 19-Sep  | Overview of Key Technological Trends in Finance Landscape and Regulations | Lecture        | Guest Speaker
Orlando Hernandez, MBA – Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer @WestStar Bank |
<p>| 21-Sep  | Future of Money and Banking and Debate around Regulations | HW2            | Lecture                      |
| 26-Sep  | Future of Money and Banking and Debate around Regulations | Email your Qs for guest speaker* | Lecture |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28-Sep</td>
<td>Future of Money and Banking and Debate around Regulations</td>
<td><strong>Guest Speaker</strong> Mike Mehring – CRO &amp; VP Risk Management @FirstLight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Oct</td>
<td>Future of Money and Banking and Debate around Regulations</td>
<td><strong>Guest Speaker</strong> Paul Wheeler, VP of Dallas Fed</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Oct</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>Cybersecurity risks and Regulations</td>
<td>HW3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Guest Speakers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-) Claudia Rodriguez, CIA, CFE - SVP, Risk Management Director @WestStar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2-) Joe Baca, CBSM - Vice President &amp; Information Security Officer @WestStar</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Oct</td>
<td>Cybersecurity risks and Regulations</td>
<td>Email your Qs for guest speaker*</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Guest Speakers from GECU</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-) Fernando Ortega - SVP &amp; Chief Information Officer</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2-) Antonio Flores-Guerrero, VP, Information Systems</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3-) Ray Stallings, VP, Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>Cybersecurity risks and Regulations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Regulatory Framework and Diversity and Inclusivity in Financial Services</td>
<td>HW4 &amp; Email your Qs for guest speaker*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Guest Speakers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-) Kiana Wright - VP Consumer Lending @Raiz (formerly TFCU)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2-) Mara Portillo, CRCM - Senior Vice President, Compliance Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-Oct</td>
<td>Regulatory Framework and Diversity and Inclusivity in Financial Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>HW &amp; Guest Speaker Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-Oct</td>
<td>International/Global Financial Services</td>
<td>HW5 &amp; Email your Qs for guest speaker*</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-Oct</td>
<td>International/Global Financial Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Nov</td>
<td>International/Global Financial Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Nov</td>
<td></td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-Nov</td>
<td>Climate risk</td>
<td>HW6 &amp; Email your Qs for guest speaker*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-Nov</td>
<td>Climate risk</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16-Nov</td>
<td>Careers in Banking</td>
<td>Email your Qs for guest speaker*</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-Nov</td>
<td>Careers in Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-Nov</td>
<td>New Emerging Topics: Group Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-Nov</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Nov</td>
<td>Overall Reflection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Questions for guest speakers will be collected from the students. Send it to dkirimhan@utep.edu. Then, the instructor will rearrange and deliver them to the guest speakers before the session.
** Names and dates of the assigned guest speakers are subject to change.