I. Objectives of the course

The objective of this course is to expand your reading and awareness of contemporary accounting and corporate finance topics. Our discussions will highlight the following:

• A good understanding of the research question and its position in the literature.
• A good understanding of the empirical specification.
• Improve the skills to design and conduct your own empirical research.
• Find opportunities for future research in selected areas that might fit your research interests.

II. Textbook (recommended, not required)

As we try to cover new research papers in this course by reading recent papers, a textbook is not required. However, it is beneficial to have some reference books. Below I list three of them.

(Note: The library has these three books either hard copy or electronic version. The one by Min is more related to accounting and finance research, and I will share the electronic version on Blackboard).

III. Format of the course

The course will be taught face-to-face in a seminar format. Class attendance is mandatory. You are expected to participate actively in the classroom through reading required materials, presenting assigned papers, asking/answering questions, etc. You will also be asked to write research proposals and conduct empirical analyses to get preliminary results of your proposed studies.

In general, for each class, we will focus our discussion on 2 - 3 papers in an area with several papers as supplemental and background readings. It is expected that each of you will read critically and carefully and think deeply about the assigned papers before class and be prepared to discuss the readings in detail. For each assigned reading, a student will be assigned as the
discussion leader. The presenter needs to prepare the slides and send them out to the instructor and classmates by **10:00 pm** on the night before the next day morning class. To make sure that everyone reads the paper, non-presenters need to prepare a list of questions and send out to the instructors (only) by the same time. The instructors (or a student appointed) will facilitate the discussion of papers with these questions. Students are expected to ask questions and provide criticisms of the paper during the session. The quality of these questions and discussions will be considered in your class discussions and participation grade.

### IV. Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class presentations and participation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replication + extension (due last week)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final research proposal and presentation (due at the end of week #15)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15 points for proposal and 15 points for presentation)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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### V. Tentative class schedule (may change when necessary)

**Session #1: Introduction (1/16/2024)**

1. Overview of the course: syllabus, course expectation, grading, etc.
2. Generating research ideas
3. Promoting research ideas with figures
4. Methodology choices
5. About writing


*General readings:*


Session #2: IPO (1/23/2024)

Session #3: Capital structure, financing, capital allocation (1/30/2024)

Session #4: Cash holding (2/6/2024)

Session #5: Executives (2/13/2024)

Session #6: Corporate innovation (2/20/2024)


Session #7: Social network (2/27/2024)


Session #8: Revolving doors (3/5/2024)


Session #9: Labor (3/19/2024)


Session #10: Bankruptcy (3/26/2024)


**Session #11: Climate change (4/2/2024)**

Nora M C Pankratz, Christoph M Schiller, Climate Change and Adaptation in Global Supply-Chain Networks, *The Review of Financial Studies*, 2023


**Session #12: Labor mobility (4/9/2024)**


**Session #13: Spillover effect (4/16/2024)**


**Session #14: Proposal presentations (4/23/2024)**
Presentation of students’ research proposals (no data work) (45 minutes each x 3 = 135 minutes)

**Session #15: Proposal due, replication and extension due (4/30/2024)**

*Note that your instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus and/or class sequence when it is necessary.*