

Fall 2011  
Introduction to the Practice of Finance  
(15.403)

Mondays, 4:00 – 6:00  
Room E51-345

**Instructor**

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**Teaching Assistant**

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**Purpose**

Introduction to the Practice of Finance is a Core course for first semester Finance Track students, and is meant to complement Finance Theory I.

This course has several objectives:

- Give students an overview of how the discipline of finance is practiced
- Facilitate understanding of what it means to be a finance professional
- Facilitate understanding of how the different sectors of the financial services industries are connected.
- Be forum for discussing career issues in finance
- Provide a venue for group learning and cohort building

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Students will engage in the course primarily through class participation and a group project, each of which counts 50% of the final grade.

In addition, students are required to attend an Onsite Day, such as New York Finance Day, London Banking Days, Boston Investment Management Day, the Asia Finance Trek, or another onsite experience. Because Onsite Days can't necessarily be completed prior to the end of this course, participation won't affect the grade for course, but completion of an Onsite Day is required to receive the Finance Track certificate.

**Sloan Values**

All students are requested to observe Sloan Values. Especially, please come on time, give the class your entire attention, avoid being disruptive, and stay for the duration.

### 15.403 Class Schedule *draft 07/01/11*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics and Assignments</b>
Sept 12	Overview of Finance Track and 15.403
Sept 19	Overview of careers, skills, and professions in finance
	project preferences due
Sept 26	Panel on inv. banking and related functions (include anatomy of a deal)
	Group assignments made
Oct 3	Panel on trading and related functions
Oct 10	Holiday
Oct 11	New York Finance Day
Oct 17	panel on public policy issues in financial services
Oct 22/23	Wall Street Prep
Oct 24	No class – SIP week
Oct 31	Panel on investment management I: investment functions
Nov 7	Panel on investment management II: client-facing functions
Nov 14	Panel on asset owners and consultants
Nov 21	Panel on insurance and corporate treasury
Nov 28	Panel on VC and PE
Dec 5	Panel on private wealth management
	Group projects due
Dec 12	Student presentations

## **Group Projects**

All students are required to participate in a group project. Students can either form their own groups or request to be assigned to a group. Groups should have 4-6 members.

Groups projects are intended to provide a venue for shared learning and cohort building. Students may propose one of the following projects or one of their own imagination:

- Compile questions for a panel.
- Moderate a post-panel class discussion.
- Do a financial analysis of the career options you are considering.
- Analyze and discuss an ethical problem you have faced.
- Fill in a section of the financial services map
- Find something in theory which is relevant for practice.

More information about the group-forming process will be provided in the first class on September 12.