INTRODUCTION

The world of high finance has many different interesting careers and professional roles. In this course, we will first go over the main types of positions. We will discuss careers in Investment Banking (including roles in Sales and Trading, Investment research, M&A, and Corporate Financing), go over careers in Investment Management (including roles in Hedge Funds, Private Equity, Venture Capital, and more), and finally touch on corporate finance within companies and financial consulting. In addition to discussing the positions themselves, we will learn how people in these positions interact with each other on a daily basis, and we will practice some of the important tasks that the professionals in these roles perform.

This course takes a “real life” approach to high finance and is a practical education of what really happens. The professor worked in various roles in Investment banking, and also as an investor and trader at a Hedge Fund. He will share his experiences and facilitate exercises simulating what really happens in several different high finance roles. Additionally there will be several guest speakers who are accomplished professionals in different areas of high finance. We will hear first-hand about their professions and experiences, and engage in question and answer dialogues with them.

Students will also take steps to increase their financial acumen and real world finance savvy. Lastly, we will talk about strategies for getting top jobs.

AIMS

Develop an understanding of the skills and activities in many of the top roles in Finance

Increase financial acumen, and learn how to keep improving financial savvy after the course finishes, and eventually become a Guru

Create and hone personal financial profile; develop strategies to obtain a top career

METHODOLOGY

Lectures will be used to present much of the content of the course. The majority of class time, however, will be devoted to activities and discussion. There will also be guest speakers who will present their careers and engage in question and answer with the class.

Activities will be used frequently throughout the course to both simulate important tasks in various finance professions, and so that students can practice career strategies.

Class Discussion is important and a factor in grading. Comments are not needed to be perfect or groundbreaking, however an effort to contribute to the discussion is important. The quality of contributions is taken into account, however, a spirit of collaboration and engagement is most important. Non-participation, if it should happen, will affect the final grade.

Homework assignments are the other important aspect in the grading. Completion is not only important to learn and practice concepts, but also for ability to engage in daily discussions.
EVALUATION

Participants will be evaluated on the basis of:

Class participation 40%
Written Homework Assignment #1: 20%
Written Homework Assignment #2: 10%
Written Homework Assignment #3: 30%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Sources for financial news and helping to come up with investment ideas (*this is not an all inclusive list, but rather a list of some sites I like and find useful):
  
  - http://www.economist.com/
  - http://www.reuters.com/
  - http://money.cnn.com/
  - http://www.thestreet.com/
  - https://www.google.com/finance
  - http://www.fool.com/
  - http://www.investopedia.com/ (also a good quick source for financial definitions and information. Note: the definitions here are not always 100% perfect. This is not a substitute for more rigorous academic articles and textbooks, but it is a nice resource for quick information in a bind)
  - http://seekingalpha.com/

- Sources with career resource information such as interview preparation, networking advice/strategies, other career tutorials and training guides:
  
  - http://www.streetofwalls.com/finance-training-courses/ (a lot of career specific free training and tutorials)
  - http://www.mergersandinquisitions.com/ (mostly investment banking focused but many good resources)
  - http://www.wallstreetoasis.com/
  - http://www.ibankingfaq.com/