**Economics 215**

**“Stocks, Bonds, and Financial Markets”**

**Fall 2015**

**Instructor: Jue Ren**

**E-mail:** [**jue.ren@emory.edu**](mailto:jue.ren@emory.edu)

**(Please include “Econ 215” in your Email subject to ensure a reply)**

**Class times: MWF, 14:00pm – 14:50pm**

**Location: Rich Building 104**

**Office Hours: Wednesday 15:00-18:00, or by appointment**

**Office: 310C Rich Building**

**Course description:** This course is a brief introduction into financial markets, financial instruments and financial institutions.  We will examine major products in the modern financial world—stocks, bonds, and derivatives—their markets, and the roles of investment banks, security brokers, hedge funds, and mutual funds.

**Textbook**: Mishkin, and Eakins, *Financial Markets and Institutions* *(8th Edition)*;Highly Recommended.

Melicher, and Norton, *Introduction to Finance: Markets, Investments, and Financial Management* *(14th Edition)*; Recommended.

**BAII Plus Financial Calculator; Required.**

**Prerequisite**: This course requires ECON 101 or ECON\_OX 101 or BUS 201or ECON\_OX 100 or equivalent transfer credit as a prerequisite. Some facility with elementary algebra and calculus required. Course exams consist of roughly 60% math and theory problems and 40% facts and general understanding questions about financial markets.

**Topics:** Below is a list of discussion topics:

1: Introduction and Time Value of Money

2: Interest Rate and Bond Pricing

3: Stock Market

4: Futures and Options Markets

5: Hedge Fund and mutual funds

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend classes. Extra credits will be given if you are strongly engaged in class discussion, problem solving activities and presentations. Attendance will be the best way to prepare exams and improve grades. Please do not make travel arrangements on exam dates. Midterm will take place at **October, 12th 14:00 P.M.** Final exam will take place at **December, 16th 8:00 A.M.**

* **Electronics:** Please do not use computers in class and keep cell phones on mute.
* **Recording devices:** Please do not record class without explicit permission from me.

**Homework, Stock Pitch, and Stock Valuation Project:** Homework will be assigned weekly. A group of 3, or 4 students will work on a stock valuation project and give a 15 minutes stock pitch, which are significant parts of homework grading.

**Academic Coaching:** Academic Coaching is available for this course.  During a session you can hone and develop your academic repertoire under the guidance of an Emory College Academic Coach (an undergraduate student that has received extensive training on academic skills such as test preparation and time management).  Each student is eligible for a total of 2 Academic Coaching appointments per week during the semester. To schedule an appointment with an Academic Coach follow this link and login with your Emory network credentials: [www.emory.edu/asst](http://www.emory.edu/asst)

**Grading System:**

Participation: 10%

Homework: 15%

Quiz: 20%

Midterm: 25%

Final: 30%

**Grading Scale:**

100-95 = A, 90-94 = A-, 85-89 = B+, 80-84 = B, 75-79 = B-, 70-74 = C+, 65-69 = C-, 60-64=D

**Honor Code:** I expect all students enrolled in the course to abide by the Emory Honor Code. I take honor code violations EXTREMELY seriously. Please do not come even a little bit close to violating any of its stipulations. Details can be found at <http://college.emory.edu/home/academic/policy/honor_code.html>