SPECIAL TOPICS IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

COURSE OUTLINE

Responsible: Evangelos Vasileiou

1. GENERAL			
SCHOOL	School of Management and Economics		
ACADEMIC UNIT	Department of Accounting and Finance		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE	8000.1.054.0	**SEMESTER**	Winter/Spring
COURSE TITLE	Special Topics in Financial Management		

INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES if credits are awarded for separate components of the course	**WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS**	**CREDITS**
Total		

COURSE TYPE general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development	
PREREQUISITE COURSES	There are no prerequisite courses.
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS	English
OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	Yes (in English) — Both Winter and Spring Semesters
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)	

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes

This course examines the relationship between financial theory and human psychology, highlighting how emotions, beliefs, and cognitive biases influence investment decisions and market behavior.

The course begins with an introduction to Modern Portfolio Theory and the fundamental principles of rational decision-making under conditions of risk. It then introduces the field of Behavioral Finance, which challenges the assumption of fully efficient markets and focuses on the psychological factors that lead to deviations from rational behavior.

General Competences

The course aims to enable graduates to acquire the following general competencies:

The ability to search for, analyze, and synthesize data and information, using appropriate technologies where necessary.

Adaptability to new situations.

Decision-making skills.

The ability to work effectively as part of a team.

The ability to work in an international environment.

The promotion of free, creative, and inductive thinking.

3. SYLLABUS
Key topics covered in the course include: **Calendar Anomalies**: How recurring behavioral patterns and market logic influence capital markets at specific time intervals. **Factors Affecting Investor Psychology**: The impact of external conditions, such as sunshine and weather, on investors' psychological state and decision-making. **Cognitive and Emotional Biases**: Including overreaction, behavioral biases, and recency bias, and their effects on investment decisions. **Prospect Theory** and the limitations of the Efficient Market Hypothesis. **Behavioral Portfolio Theory** and the Adaptive Market Hypothesis. **Emotions, Mood, and Investing**: How fear, greed, sadness, regret, and pride influence investment decision-making. **Personality, Self-Esteem, and Self-Efficacy**: Their role in shaping attitudes toward risk and stock market investment. **Demographic and Social Factors**: Herd behavior and its influence on financial markets. **The Relationship Between Investor Sentiment and Market Performance**: The interaction between emotions and bullish or bearish market trends. Through case studies and empirical research findings, students will learn to identify the psychological patterns that lead to suboptimal investment decisions and to develop more balanced and effective investment strategies. Finally, the course discusses the strengths and limitations of Behavioral Finance, together with practical approaches for improving investment behavior in environments characterized by uncertainty and risk.

4. TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION		
DELIVERY Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.	Meetings with Erasmus Students	
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students		
TEACHING METHODS The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail.	**Activity**	**Semester workload**
	Course total	
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION Description of the evaluation procedure		

5. ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY