



# ECO 276 Money, Markets and Democracy

Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

In this course, students will learn about the historical history of financial systems and how political institutions affect market dynamics. Dissect the complexity of modern finance, from bonds to currencies, by examining the impact of regulatory regimes and prospective reform possibilities. Learn about power dynamics, regulatory capture, and approaches to fair and sustainable financial systems via real-world case studies, enabling educated discourse on the nexus of money, markets, and democracy.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the historical evolution of money, from commodity to fiat forms, and explore their impact on the emergence of financial instruments and markets.
2. Evaluate the role of central banking in relation to the money supply, interest rates, and economic activity, examining its implications for financial stability.
3. Evaluate the societal implications of various financial instruments and markets in terms of their impact on economic dynamics and social structures.
4. Investigate the dynamics of asset bubbles and market cycles, using historical case studies to better understand their origins and implications for financial stability.

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A

## **GRADING**

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	15 Points
Discussions	15 Points
Assignments	20 Points
Midterm	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

George Bragues, *Money, Markets, and Democracy*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: The Intersection of Politics and Markets Topic 2: Historical Perspectives on Money Topic 3: The Evolution of Money in Democratic Systems Topic 4: Understanding Bonds: Instruments of Capital <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#1 Discussion#1



Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Navigating the Terrain of Stock Markets Topic 6: Exploring Derivatives: Risks and Rewards Topic 7: Currency Markets: Dynamics and Impacts Topic 8: The Role of Money in Political Economies</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#2 Discussion#2 Assignment#1</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Origins of Market Systems Topic 10: The Influence of Money on Governance Topic 11: Prevalence of Monetary Policy in Democracies Topic 12: Market Forces and Social Welfare</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm Discussion#3</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Bonds: Financing Government and Corporate Entities Topic 14: Stock Markets: Engines of Economic Growth? Topic 15: Unpacking the Complexities of Derivatives Topic 16: Exchange Rates and Global Trade</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#3 Assignment#2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Political Economy of Currency Markets Topic 18: Regulatory Challenges in Financial Markets Topic 19: Money, Power, and Democracy Topic 20: Ethical Considerations in Financial Markets</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow



University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.