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Lehrstuhl für Betriebswirtschaftslehre
mit Schwerpunkt Finanzcontrolling

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Datum	18. Juni 2026

Course Syllabus WS 2026/27

Finance and Financial Control Workshop

Course Outline

The aim of the course is to familiarize participants with the practical meaning and implementation of scientific methods. Economics, financial economics and capital markets are shaped by exciting historical events. The selection of books below (see section references) presents historical events and experiences in this field in an appealing way. Some of the authors are experienced practitioners as well as scientists. Accordingly, they discuss both scientifically based and non-scientifically derived attempts to explain the interaction between economics, economic policy and markets from the perspective of the individual market participant or economic agent.

Each course participant has the choice to pick the book of his or her highest preference and to develop ideas and theses within the course. As the books are of length and require time to read and digest, participants should start their reading early on. After a review of the book and the **workshop** meetings with **presentations**, participants may then focus their attention to selected parts of the book only.

The final outcome delivered by the course participants is a short, but dense, **essay**. Based on the concept of *Hegelian* dialectics, the essay first briefly formulates a scientific thesis from theory. This theory is acquired in previous courses in economics and finance and extended by additional literature research. The essay then works out an antithesis based on the chosen book. Finally, it ends up with a proposed individual synthesis.

Rules for Course Participation

This course is open to all students in the Master-Program, especially those specializing in subject area of Economics, Financial Economics, Econometrics, Accounting or Finance and Taxation. A **prerequisite for participation** in the course is that participants have successfully completed **two Finance modules** on the Master level (e.g. “Finanzcontrolling” and another or two any other). Most parts of the course material and references are in English. The lecture language is in English (or German depending on the participants preference). The course comprises 3 SWS.

Formal Essay Requirements

Each participant writes a scientific essay based on his or her chosen book from the attached reference list below. All essays have to meet the following formal criteria:

- The essays are limited to a total of 8 pages maximum
- Language: German or English
- The first page is a title page with at least the following information:
  - Title of the essay (e.g. “Essay on why Finance may matter”)
  - Title of the book on which the essay is based (e.g. “based on: ‘The wealth of nations’ by Adam Smith”)
  - Course: Professor Wagner – Finance and Financial Control Workshop
  - Student’s name and registration number
  - The date
- The second page contains an abstract (maximum of 11 sentences)
- Pages 3 to 6 contain the main text
- Page 7 contains a list of references
- Font size: 12pt
- Page margins requirements: Left margin: 4 cm; Right margin: 2 cm; Top margin: 3 cm; Bottom margin: 1.5 cm
- A signed statement of individual authorship at the end of the paper, “Declaration of Independence” (see also the requirement for the Master thesis).

Examination

Examination contains oral participation and the written essay. The final mark is made up (i) with three quarters based on the written essay and (ii) one quarter based on the oral presentation as well as group discussion participation.

Written **essays** can be delivered any time after essay presentation. The final deadline for essay delivery to fincon@uni-passau.de is **February 15th 2027**.

Course Schedule

Additional detailed information on the course schedule is available in Stud.IP. The overall workshop schedule is as follows.

Date	Time	Place	Topic
09.11.2026	12:00	TBA	Introductory session, key concepts, essay writing
16.11.	12:00	TBA	Inter-mediate meeting. Topic discussions
23.11.	12:00	TBA	Inter-mediate meeting. Topic discussions
30.11.	12:00	TBA	Inter-mediate meeting. Book selection and discussions
07.12.	12:00	TBA	Inter-mediate meeting. Book selection and discussions
14.12.	12:00	TBA	Inter-mediate meeting. Book content discussion
21.12.	12:00	TBA	Inter-mediate meeting. Book content discussion
11.01.2027	12:00	TBA	Presentation and discussion of essay theses
18.01.	12:00	TBA	Presentation and discussion of essay theses
25.01.	12:00	TBA	Presentation and discussion of essay theses

References

Akerlof, George A. and Shiller, Robert J. (2009): Animal Spirits: How Human Psychology Drives the Economy, and Why It Matters (Princeton University Press).

Bernstein, Peter L. (1998): Against the Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk (Wiley).

Bogle, John C. (2009): Enough – True Measures of Money, Business, and Life (Wiley).[1]

Clason, George S. (1926): The Richest Man in Babylon (The Clason Publishing Co.).

Cunningham, L. A. (ed.) (2014): The Essays of Warren Buffett: Lessons for Investors and Managers, 4th ed. (Wiley).

Ellis, Charles D. (2021): Winning the Looser’s Game (Mc Graw Hill).

Galbraith, John K. (1993): A Short History of Financial Euphoria (Penguin).[2]

Graham, Benjamin (1949): The Intelligent Investor (Harper).

Hardin, Garrett J. (1985): Filters against Folly (Viking Penguin).

Irwin, Neil (2014): The Alchemists: Three Central Bankers and a World on Fire (Penguin).

[1] *Background reference*: Wagner, Niklas F. (1998): Tracking des Deutschen Aktienindexes (Eul).
[2] *Background reference*: Galbraith, John K. (1997): The Great Crash of 1929 (Mariner Books).

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http://www.wiwi.uni-passau.de/finanzcontrolling

Kahneman, Daniel (2011): Thinking, Fast and Slow (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

Le Bon, Gustave (1895): Psychologie der Massen (Deutsche Übersetzung, Leipzig 1912).

Lewis, Michael (1989): Liar's Poker (W. W. Norton).

Loeb, Gerald M. (1988): The Battle for Investment Survival (Fraser Publishing).

Mackay, Charles (1852): Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds, 2nd ed. (Harriman House, 2018).

Manson, Mark (2019): Everything is Fucked: A Book about Hope (Harper).

Marks, Howard (2018): Mastering the Market Cycle (Nicolas Brealey Publishing)[3].

Myers, Gustavus (1909): History of the Great American Fortunes (Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago.).

Parsson, Jens O. (1974): Dying of Money -- Lessons of the Great German and American Inflations (Wellspring Press).

Rothbard, Murray N. (2008): The Mystery of Banking, 2nd ed. (Ludwig von Mises Institute).

Shiller, Robert J. (2012): Finance and the Good Society (Princeton University Press).

Soros, George (1994): The Alchemy of Finance (Wiley).

Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2003): The Roaring Nineties: A New History of the World's Most Prosperous Decade (W. W. Norton).

Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2002): Globalization and Its Discontents (W. W. Norton).

Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2009): Freefall: Free Markets and the Sinking of the Global Economy (Penguin).

Taleb, Nassim N. (2007): Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets (Penguin).

Tetlock, Philip E. and Gardner, Dan (2015): Superforecasting (Broadway Books).

Thorp, Edward O. (2017): A Man for all Markets: Beating the Odds, from Las Vegas to Wall Street (Oneworld Publications).

[3] *Background reference*: Marks, Howard (2013): The Most Important Thing Illuminated: Uncommon Sense for the Thoughtful Investor (Columbia Business School Publishing).