

Syllabus for the course CORPORATE FINANCE 3
PhD in Economics and Finance, Bocconi University
Prof Nicola Limodio
A.Y. 2026-27

Description: This course provides rigorous training for PhD students seeking to conduct frontier research in corporate finance and financial economics. The course has four main objectives. First, it familiarizes students with recent contributions at the research frontier in empirical corporate finance, with perspectives into household finance, banking and financial intermediation, finance and development, and related fields in financial economics, with particular emphasis on papers published in leading journals in economics and finance. Second, it offers an in-depth discussion of recent advances in empirical methods and of their applications in the corporate finance and financial economics literature. Third, it encourages students to develop applied theoretical frameworks and to establish a coherent mapping between theoretical models and empirical analysis. Fourth, it trains students to assess empirical settings critically and to connect them to underlying theories and research questions. The course is intended to introduce students to research at the frontier and to prepare them to produce original and rigorous work in economics and finance.

Topics: The topics include but are not limited to:

- A. Frontier topics in corporate finance and financial economics: Investment under financial frictions; capital structure and liquidity; firm balance sheets and risk management; information asymmetries and corporate incentives; technology, innovation, and financial frictions; funding constraints and capital allocation; long-term finance, organizational design, and corporate investment.
- B. Banking, households, and development: Banking and intermediation; Household finance; Finance and development; Macro-financial shocks and firms; Payment Systems.
- C. Methods: Causal inference in corporate finance; Structural and quantitative methods; Measurement and data in financial economics.
- D. Research frontier: Applied theory models; Mapping theory to empirics; Critical evaluation of empirical settings; Presentation training; Student paper presentations and research proposals.

Evaluation: The evaluation of the course will comprise of 3 elements: 30% a paper presentation; 30% class participation; 40% a research project.

Office Hour: by email, upon request.