1. Course Description

This course is intended for second- and third-year PhD students with an interest in financial economics. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the art of critically reading and analyzing current research in finance. Each Friday we will focus on the upcoming week's seminar paper. One student will provide a formal discussion of that paper, and a different student will provide a written referee report on that paper. The work of these two students will provide a catalyst for discussion among the broader group.

2. Course Requirements

The class meets Fridays from 1:30pm to 2:50pm (some meetings may be rescheduled based on everyone's commitments). The first class meeting is on September 1 and the last class meeting is on December 1. Class meets in Seminar Room 2, unless otherwise announced in class or by email.

Your grade for this course will be based on two paper discussions and two referee reports per semester. Each week one student will be responsible for presenting a discussion of that week's paper. This discussion should be structured roughly along the lines of a conference discussion: it should last ten to twenty minutes and include accompanying slides. During the discussion, the student should provide a concise summary of the paper and should offer salient criticisms of the paper's shortcomings, as well as an appraisal of its strengths.

Each week a different student will prepare a referee report on that same paper. This should be treated as if the student had been asked by the editor of a major finance journal for their opinion on the paper's publishability.

These two students should work separately, without contacting the other student assigned to that paper. Their work will provide a catalyst for discussion among the broader group.

*Attendance in both the finance seminar and the finance pre-seminar is mandatory.*

3. Course Materials

The materials for this course are each week's seminar paper as well as any background reading required to understand that paper. It is the student's responsibility to determine the range of background materials required for any given paper.