Preliminary Syllabus

This second year Ph.D. course in the theory of corporate finance provides a rigorous introduction and prepares students for theoretical research in corporate finance.

Topics. The topics include the role of debt, financial intermediation, financial distress, liquidity, capital reallocation, and the dynamics of financing constraints. The last part of the course considers the macroeconomic and growth implications of corporate finance.


Prerequisites, Requirements, and Miscellanea. No background beyond first year graduate microeconomics is required, although familiarity with contract theory and information economics is useful. Course requirements include problem sets, a paper critique/paper, and a final exam. The course meets on Tuesdays from 1:15pm to 4:00pm in Seminar Room A. The first class meets on Tuesday, August 25. You can contact me by email at rampini@duke.edu or by phone at 919 660-7797. There is a course web page with a schedule and additional course information (url http://faculty.fuqua.duke.edu/~rampini/finance553.htm).

1. Debt and Financing with Costly State Verification


2. Financial Intermediaries


3. Financing and Control

4. Financial Distress

5. Multiple Financiers

7. Liquidity, Financial Intermediation, and the Government


8. Illiquidity and Search in Financial Markets


9. Dynamic Financing with Moral Hazard


10. Dynamic Financing with Limited Enforcement


11. Financing Constraints and Business Cycles


12. Collateral and Asset Prices


13. Finance and Growth

TBD.