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Office Hours: I will be in Humanities Basement 16 on Mondays from 12-1, can be contacted on email continuously, and will be pleased to set up appointments to speak with students in person or on the telephone throughout the week.

Readings Assigned


I have ordered Regulation and Public Interests and Checking on Banks at the University Barnes and Noble Bookstore and at Mary Jane Books. We will discuss arrangements for obtaining the other three books at the first class on January 23. I will be posting other supplementary readings and materials on the course site on Blackboard.

Grading System
The course grade will be based on weekly 20-minute examinations (80%) and class participation (20%).

Weekly Written Examinations (80%)
At the start of the class, beginning January 23, you will write an answer to a question based on the readings assigned for that week, although for January 23 the question will focus on the video House of Cards, available at http://www.hulu.com/#!watch/59026 and on Blackboard. You may not use an electronic device, books, or notes for these answers, and you should bring paper and a pen for your answers. These examinations, with a short explanation of the question ahead of time, will take up about the first 25 minutes of the class. The purpose of the short examinations is to give you a chance to complete and think about the readings in advance of the class sessions and to give me an ongoing sense of your work. The questions will not assess your deep understanding of the issues in the readings—the classes will go over the readings—but rather assess your awareness of their basic themes. They will focus on the materials assigned for the week but in writing the questions I often will draw on materials covered earlier in the semester, including the earlier class discussions. There will be no make-ups for these short examinations unless you miss the session for documented circumstances justifying an
absence under University policies. The examinations also will be at the beginning of the class, so arriving late to the class, in addition to diminishing your grade for participation (see below), likely will reduce your performance on the weekly examination.

Your grade for this component of the class will be based on your 12 best scores for answers to be written. If for some reason you miss an examination due to a class absence that will count as one of your dropped scores. While your grade is based on your 12 best scores, you are expected to take all of the examinations for the classes you attend (and missing class for anything other than a good reason, as discussed below, is not a good idea). For example, a sharp drop in your exam scores after you have taken 12 exams, or skipping exams after having taken 12, will substantially lower your grade for class participation because it conveys that you have largely disengaged from class requirements.

Class Participation (20%)

Active class participation means engagement, informed by knowledge of the readings and other materials, in class sessions and other aspects of the course. It requires more than simply coming to class and it does not mean an effort to dominate class discussion. If you find yourself saying something every 5 minutes that’s going over the edge of effective class participation, and hardly ever responding to questions during class discussions falls short of effective class participation. The best indication of effective class participation is the ability to ask and respond to questions in ways informed by close attention to the readings. It is essential that you read the assigned material and be familiar with it prior to coming to class not only for your performance on the weekly examinations but for the class participation component.

You should abide by basic norms of appropriate social conduct in classes, just as you would in other types of professional meetings. A minimum requirement for any credit in the class participation component is that you are there and focused on the class while you are there. I will mark you as absent for the class if you miss the class or leave the class early, such as during the break. You should not use electronic devices like laptops, smartphones or tablets except for those used to take notes. If I believe that you are sending or checking messages, browsing the web, reading unrelated materials, sleeping, talking with others beyond the point of brief exchanges, or otherwise conveying that it is not worth your time to be in class, I will mark you as absent for that session. Any absence during the semester affects a course grade for participation because we meet only once a week. Four absences during the course of the semester will mean that you receive little if any credit for the class participation component.

Please arrive at the class by 4:15. It is disruptive when individuals arrive late, especially because we often will be distributing papers or other materials at the beginning of classes, and disrespectful of your colleagues who get to the class on time. Let me know if I can answer any questions about this or any other section of the syllabus.

Meaning of Grades

For participation and the examinations, a grade of A reflects strong ability to work with the material and to think creatively about it. A grade of B reflects a good, comprehensive awareness of the assigned material. A grade of C reflects knowledge of much of the
material, but weak preparation of a substantial share of it. A grade of less than C reflects major gaps in knowledge or persistent lack of performance in the various aspects of the course. The grade scale used is 3.8-4 (A), 3.6-3.7 (A-), 3.3-3.5 (B+), 3.0-3.2 (B), 2.7-2.9 (B-), 2.3-2.6 (C+), 2.0-2.2 (C); 1.7-1.9 (C-); 1.3-1.6 (D+); 1.0-1.2 (D); .7-.9 (D-). Less than .7 is an E.

**Reading Assignments**

**January 23**  
*Introduction: Discussion of House of Cards video*  
(https://www.hulu.com/#!watch/59026 and on Blackboard.)

**January 30**  
*Regulation and Public Interests*, pp. 1-5, Part II, pp. 77-155.

**February 6**  

**February 13**  

**February 20**  
*Checking on Banks*, pp. 1-84.

**February 27**  
*Checking on Banks*, pp. 85-188.

**March 6**  
*13 Bankers*, pp. 3-87.

**March 13**  
*13 Bankers*, 88-152.

**March 20**  
*University class suspension*.

**March 27**  
*13 Bankers*, 153-231.

**April 3**  
*Dark Pools*, Prologue through Chapter 5, pp. 1-83.

**April 10**  
*Dark Pools*, Chapters 6-12, pp. 84-169.

**April 17**  

**April 24**  

**May 1**  
*Guardians of Finance*, Chapters 2-4, pp. 21-120.

**May 8**  
*Guardians of Finance*, Chapters 5-8, pp. 121-232.