Spring 05 – Financial Markets II

Q: Please write comments below consider such questions as: How much did you learn? How much did this course contribute to your education? Did you grow intellectually? Did the course promote thought and discussion?

This is probably the best course I had in CERGE-EI. Distinguishing feature of the course was smooth transition from class work and standard textbook material teaching to development of independent research skills by students (writing research proposal by students and presenting own research by the teacher). All these features are exactly fitting to the second year course requirements. Undoubtedly, revision of the course and updating the second part was a very good idea. Also, discussion of the most recent research ideas and directing students to particular research seminars was useful.

I think the course was very useful, there was a clear structure in it, and very good materials were used.

I learnt a lot because the whole information presented was new for me. From my point, all topics included in the course are important and need to be included next year again.

Intellectual growth -> Yes! Contributed to my education Yes! Course promoted discussion Yes! However, for me it was too much in one course. We covered a lot but not deeply. I sometimes got confused about the interconnection of the course parts. Since I love derivatives I would concentrate on that more in the second part of the course. But I guess it is very individual. To a course that puts together a lot one needs ES on the regular basis.

The course was good, clearly organized and systematic. I appreciated the detailed description of which literature we are using.

I liked the course very much. The first part was good because we learn to compute the real prices (options, bonds). I would prefer to do more computing from real-life in second half of course too.

I think the course was fine. A more-less covered basic things, I appreciate using articles, I think HW's were Ok, maybe there could have been 1-2 harder questions. Sometimes I would prefer going little bit faster but that might be because I already knew some stuff. Together really Ok.

I think that I gained new and interesting knowledge in this course. I learned a lot also because of home assignment and readings.

I believe that the course was very useful since we have covered a lot of important topics that are relevant for my future research and which it is important to know to

understand the basic idea of financial markets. Regarding readings, the only source that was difficult to read was these notes P&P.

I have already known lot of the covered issues. I did not have much knowledge about CCAPM and I still don't, I hope it will be clearer when finals come up. On the other hand, the possibility to write a proposal and consultations may have helped those who were interested in finance more deeply.

I haven't any experience with the field and this course helped me as an introduction to the field a lot.

I didn't learn much. First half of the semester was devoted to very simple stuff which is useful as introduction but the second half was completely different and I don't see any link between them. Some topics were covered too deeply; maybe broader range would be more appropriate.

Beginning was long and simple – maybe the first half can be made denser. We finished a course in Finance but we didn't cover lots of important things, (perhaps we spent too much time on the basics).

Q: Please write comments below, consider such qualities as: organization, clarity, efficient use of time, and student participation. (Teacher's part)

The teacher displayed very good organizational skills and was able to clarify difficult material. I appreciated the structure of the course and distribution of expectations for exam beforehand, so that there was no uncertainty about what to expect for the exam. The books and handouts which were used for the course are of high quality. These books are considered to be standard textbooks for Financial markets course in leading US universities.

I really appreciate the willingness to help with searching the research topic. Organization was very clear, time was used efficiently. I strongly appreciate the attention paid to the exploration of the fundamentals. The only thing I would mention is that sometimes your presentations were a bit monotone, I never …

The teacher was organized and prepared for class. The information was presented clearly.

Very fair exams (at least midterm ☺) in the sense that one knows what to learn. I also appreciate the emphasis on understanding, not memorizing (open-book exam). Presentation of own paper is ok, pretty motivating.

I liked that we were asked questions, even those simple ones (students participation) and that prof. Zemcik was not tough on our answers. (it's encouraging). Prof. Zemcik was always well prepared and organized just sometimes I was getting

confused with the material presented too much on the debt too little said (explained very badly).

The teacher was organized and (most of the time) clear. Fair homeworks. One of the better courses.

Great teaching! Good choice of handouts, well organized lectures.

One thing I really appreciate was that at the end of each lecture, whole material covered was summarized. I would like if all teachers were able to do this because it helped me to see the meaning of it all. Presenting articles + debate was Ok. First 1-2 lectures there were some problems but then it was really Ok, easy to follow, no mistakes.

Sometimes not everything was clear to me.

Classes were properly organized. Material given by lecturer was useful and interesting. Articles discussed stimulated thinking toward my future research (including those articles written by teacher).

Organization: I would prefer more general course. It seems to me that lot of time was devoted to CCAPM and estimation issues. I would rather deal with some financial tools.

I appreciate the presentation of your paper.

The use of journal articles helped. The course was more interesting and up to date. I appreciated the opportunity to submit and discuss the research proposal in the area of finance – prof. Zemcik was very helpful in evaluating the idea and providing guidance for further research (possible for dissertation).

Teacher has been always prepared for class. I think it would be useful in the future to distribute notes of more complicated derivations before the exam (it's hard to focus and understand more complex issues when you have to write it down at the same time).

Sometimes very slow and higher level of academic excellence should be expected.

The teacher organized his lectures well, was clear, but could be more efficient in terms of information per lecture.

Q: Please write comments below, consider such qualities as: organization, clarity, efficient use of time, and student participation. (1st TA part)

He was also organized and prepared. He could explain difficult materials, graded homeworks adequately.

I know during 2nd year the approach is to hold ES when there are homework assignments but I would appreciate the ES on regular basis, so apart from solving homeworks we could solve other tasks (for instance from Hull textbook). The topics covered in the course are interesting and worth mastering.

Mostly doing homeworks, it was quite Ok, maybe doing other exercises would have been helpful.

Much better then I expected.

I didn't attent the E.S. but know Martin, and I assume he was prepared. He was helpful with respect to homeworks.