Course Description and Purpose
Financial markets, or markets for financial assets, play an important role in the efficient functioning of a market economy. Financial Institutions are any establishments that make these markets function efficiently. The course studies the fundamental principles that govern financial markets and institutions. We attempt to understand the workings of the Banking Industry, the Federal Reserve and the behavior of financial intermediaries.

Topics include valuation of financial assets and the characteristics of financial instruments in money and capital markets. We analyze the relationships among financial institutions, monetary policy and the stability of the economy as a whole. Financial Markets and Institutions will provide a foundation for your further study of Finance, as well as an essential component of your managerial education about the world in which business operates.

This course explores the function, pricing, and institutional structures of financial markets. Our intent is to understand the differences between these instruments and the institutions that operate in today's financial markets. Rapid changes in the composition of financial instruments and institutions mean that the content of this course must be evolving as well. Understanding the economic foundations of these intermediaries, in addition to the institutional instruments, and
developing your analytical and research skills, will prepare you not only for today's job market, but will also help to increase your educational flexibility in adapting to future changes.

**Course Learning Objectives**
At the end of this course students should be able to:
1. Apply concepts relevant to financial markets and financial institutions, such as the flow of funds, levels of interest rates and interest rate differentials, to current events or topical issues.
2. Identify and analyze the appropriate measures of risk and return for various financial instruments. Explain the mechanics and regulation of financial securities exchanges and determine how the value of stocks, bonds, and securities are calculated.
3. Identify and explain how symmetric versus asymmetric information affects the structure and operation of the financial system.
5. Describe the integration of international financial markets and analyze the implications for financial managers.
6. Analyze and research how issues related to financial markets and institutions affect or are affected by the global and local communities.

**Finance Major & Curriculum Objectives Targeted**
Students will be able to:
- Identify the functions of financial markets and institutions and examine their impact on the level of interest rates and interest differentials.
- Use information technology as a tool to do essential business tasks including performing electronic research, and creating documents, presentations and spreadsheets.
- Research and organize written and oral communication.

**Teaching Methodology**
Course delivery will focus on ensuring that students are able to:
1. Present written and verbal communication in a clear and concise manner.
2. Interact with other students and the instructor to demonstrate functional skills and foundational knowledge, as well as through research, utilize your combined knowledge and skills to propose a solution for community problems.
3. Learn how to perform web based research.

**Course Prerequisites**
Students must be admitted to the College of Business and have taken FIN 3403 (Financial Management), or its equivalent, (contact the department for equivalents) before taking FIN 4303. It is highly suggested that FIN 4303 be taken before FIN 4324 (Commercial Banking), FIN 4604 (International Finance), FIN 4615 (International Banking), FIN 4486 (Risk Management) and FIN 4502 (Securities Analysis) since it provides an excellent introduction to material to be covered in detail in these courses.

[Review more information about prerequisites](#)
Research Paper and Assignments

Students will perform the Assignments using Bloomberg Market Concepts. Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) is an 8-hour, self-paced e-learning course that provides a visual introduction to the financial markets. BMC consists of 4 modules - Economics, Currencies, Fixed Income and Equities - woven together from proprietary Bloomberg data, news, analytics and television. The course is available through the Bloomberg Institute website or on the Bloomberg Terminal through the function BMC <GO>. Instructions are available in the content section of Blackboard. Due dates for Assignments are below:

1. Economic Indicators due February 5th
2. Currencies due February 19th
3. Fixed Income due March 11th
4. Equities due April 15th
5. Research paper (described during the first class session) presented in class on April 29th

Please use COURSE CODE: DBFIN4303S16 when completing.

Research Paper on Bloomberg

At this session students were introduced to Bloomberg and other software available in the Lab. http://bizstreams.fiu.edu/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/2015SpringFIN4302FinancialSoftware

The research project that is due by each group at the end of the semester is as follows:

1) Write a report on the five most important capabilities that are possible using the technology in the Lab. At least four should come from Bloomberg. While you are doing the Bloomberg assignments, I would highly advise you to get Bloomberg certified, it can take between 3-6 hours. However this is not a requirement of this class!

2) For each capability describe the type of company that may use it and the types of job positions that require the use of that technology. Try to think outside of the box and consider companies not only in Miami but across the world.

The above group task is worth 10% of each student’s total grade.
Each student individually will submit a report on the last day of class that answers the following questions:

1. What research did you personally perform to determine what technology needs are important in a finance related industry?
2. What data did you personally access from Bloomberg?
3. How can you use what you learned in the rest of your academic career?
4. How can you use what you learned for your future dream job?
5. Write two questions that would help clarify the uses of the technology that are still unclear to you after completing this project?
6. Why does this research matter - how does this relate to your course, major, degree, personal goals, career objectives etc?)?
7. Complete the following statement:

In light of what I learned about this software I will……..(make specific action oriented decisions).

*The individual student report is worth 4%.*