FINA5515A/4515A
Introduction to Microfinance
Fall 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKS 1 TO 6</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hossein Kavand</td>
<td>613-520-2600 ext. 3248</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hosseinkavand@cmail.carleton.ca">hosseinkavand@cmail.carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASS TIME</td>
<td>TUESDAY 8:35-11:25</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROOM:</td>
<td>DT328</td>
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<tr>
<td>OFFICE HOURS</td>
<td>DT919-2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 11:30 to 12:30</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEKS 7 TO 12</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sana Mohsni</td>
<td>613-520-2600 ext. 2991</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sana.mohsni@carleton.ca">sana.mohsni@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASS TIME</td>
<td>TUESDAY 8:35-11:25</td>
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<td>ROOM:</td>
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<td>OFFICE HOURS</td>
<td>DT1715</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12:00 to 13:30</td>
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**PREREQUISITES**

**Graduate**
FINA 5501, FINA 5502.

**Undergraduate**
BUSI 2505 with a grade of C+ or higher, STAT 2606 and ECON 2009 with a grade of C- or higher in each, fourth year standing and enrollment in the Global Financial Management and Systems concentration in the BIB.

The School of Business enforces all prerequisites.

**CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will introduce students to the theory and practice of microfinance. It will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of microfinance, its achievements, its current challenges, and the basic skills needed to manage microfinance institutions (MFIs). The course also serves as a forum to reflect on the future of microfinance and of financing for development in general. A mix of cases and lectures will be used.
COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course has two objectives. First, it will introduce students to financial systems and financial intermediation. Microfinance organizations are specialized financial institutions. In order to acquire an appreciation for their role and the nature of the challenges they face, a broader understanding of the role and management of financial institutions in general is required. This course will therefore outline the nature and role of the financial system, in particular the idea of financial intermediation, the economic role of intermediation, and the challenges that occur in that context. The first six weeks of the course will be devoted to these issues.

Second, this course will provide an overview of the theory and practice of microfinance. The second six weeks of the course will focus on the topic of microfinance and its related issues. Students will be exposed to the history and origins of microfinance, its goals, achievements and challenges. They will also be introduced to the role of microfinance institutions (MFIs) in managing financial risks, reaching out to clients and making MFIs sustainable. The course will also serve as a forum to reflect on the future of microfinance and financing for development in general.

A mix of cases and lectures will be used to conduct the course.

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<th>WEEKS 1 TO 6</th>
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REQUIRED TEXT
There is no formal textbook for this course. The course will be based on contemporary papers/assigned readings in the selected topics and sections of the suggested text. In addition, interested students can read the following books as supplemental reading to augment their knowledge and to get a better understanding of financial systems and financial risk management.

SUGGESTED TEXTS

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS
Books
Articles

Other

**Grading Scheme**
Class Participation: 20%
Assignment: 30%
Final Exam: 50%

Students are expected to participate in discussions during class.

All course material, including content from course deliverables, is eligible for testing on the final exam. In the event a student cannot participate in class, or complete a course deliverable for a reason permitted under the university’s guidelines, the weighting of the course component will be added to the weighting of the final exam provided the student submits the appropriate supporting documentation (e.g. doctor’s note).

**Weeks 7 to 12**
REQUIRED TEXT
There is no formal textbook for this course. The course will be based on contemporary papers/assigned readings in the selected topics. In addition, interested students can read the following books as supplemental reading to augment their knowledge and to get a better understanding of microfinance.

SUPPLEMENTAL BOOKS
The Economics of Microfinance, B. Armendariz and J. Morduch, MIT Press, 2007
Creating a World without Poverty, M. Yunus, Public Affairs, 2007

SUGGESTED ARTICLES
1. The History of Microfinance, Global Envision, April, 2006.
25. From revolution to evolution: Charting the main features of microfinance, R. Mendoza and Brandon Vick, Fordham University Department of Economics Discussion Paper Series, 2008.
29. Commercialization in microfinance: a study of profitability, outreach and success factors within the Latin American context, P. Dacheva and E. Gotwalt,
OTHER RESOURCES
Selected web links:

World Council of Credit Unions [http://www.woccu.org/](http://www.woccu.org/)
Women’s World Banking [http://www.swwb.org/](http://www.swwb.org/)

Microfinance Focus [http://www.microfinancefocus.com](http://www.microfinancefocus.com)

Islamic Development Bank [http://www.isdb.org/irj/portal/anonymous](http://www.isdb.org/irj/portal/anonymous)

Unitus [http://www.unitus.com](http://www.unitus.com)
MFI Rating Fund [http://www.microrate.com/ratings-list](http://www.microrate.com/ratings-list)

GRADING SCHEME
Class Participation: 10%
Case Analysis & Presentation: 35%
Individual Project: 15%
Final exam: 40%

Overall mark: 50% of the mark for weeks 1 to 6 plus 50% of the mark for weeks 7 to 12.

Active participation in class discussions is essential to the course since much of what you learn will come through conversations with your peers. Each student (group of students) is required to analyze two cases as part of their course deliverables. Cases will be assigned on the first day of class and each student (group of students) will be responsible for analyzing and preparing a write-up for each of the assigned cases. One of the two assigned cases will be presented to the class. A typical case will focus on one or multiple topics in microfinance and is designed to enhance your understanding of the material covered in class and to expose you to the challenges that the field faces.

All course material, including content from course deliverables, is eligible for testing on the final exam. In the event a student cannot participate in class, or complete a course deliverable for a
reason permitted under the university’s guidelines, the weighting of the course component will be added to the weighting of the final exam provided the student submits the appropriate supporting documentation (e.g. doctor’s note).

**CASES**
The list of suggested cases and the protocol for presenting cases will be discussed in class

**INDIVIDUAL PROJECT**
Each student is expected to write a 5-page report on a microfinance organization of their choice. Suggestions include the following: CGAP, UNITUS, ACCION, BRI, ALTERNA, GRAMEEN, Microcredit Summit, Microfinance Information Exchange, Ottawa Community Loan Fund, Millennium development goals, Islamic Development Bank, M Pesa,...

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Suggested Readings in Neave</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEKS 1 TO 6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction&lt;br&gt;Financial system functions&lt;br&gt;The composition of financial systems&lt;br&gt;The role of central banks; implications of common currency areas for bank stability</td>
<td>Chapters 1 through 7 in Neave present a detailed discussion of the topics we touch on in classes 1 and 2.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Financial activity and capital formation; the role of financial systems in economic outcomes&lt;br&gt;Specific problems of intermediation&lt;br&gt;Deal terms, financing continuum, intermediation</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Credit risk and credit losses</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Bank management – assessing and managing credit risk&lt;br&gt;Models of bank financing and runs; deposit insurance; moral hazard with deposit insurance; differential premiums</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Managing a bank’s finances: duration, financing gaps, risk-weighted assets, capital adequacy and value-at-risk&lt;br&gt;The role of CAMELS assessments</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Further topics and exam preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEKS 7 TO 12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Introduction&lt;br&gt;Origins, history, goals and evolution of microfinance&lt;br&gt;Why intervene in traditional credit markets?&lt;br&gt;The Grameen Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Suggested Readings in Neave</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Microfinance products and services&lt;br&gt;The main features of microcredit;&lt;br&gt;Risk management in microfinance – assessing and managing credit risk, liquidity risk and operational risk&lt;br&gt;Monitoring;</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>The dual goal of microfinance – sustainability and outreach&lt;br&gt;Performance evaluation of MFIs;&lt;br&gt;Case 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Achievement and challenges in microfinance&lt;br&gt;Measuring impact; high interest rates;&lt;br&gt;Regulation&lt;br&gt;Case 2</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Innovation, new techniques and the future of microfinance&lt;br&gt;Commercialization of microfinance&lt;br&gt;Case 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Special Topic: Islamic microfinance&lt;br&gt;Case 4</td>
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Additional Important Information

Course Sharing Websites
Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Policy on Mobile Devices
The use of mobile devices IS NOT PERMITTED in this class. It is disruptive to the instructor and class members. If you carry such a device to class, please make sure it is turned off. If an emergency situation requires you to keep it turned on, please discuss this with your instructor prior to class.

Important dates and deadlines

Group Work
The Sprott School of Business encourages group assignments in the school for several reasons. They provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, followership and other group skills. Group assignments are also good for learning integrative skills for putting together a complex task. Your instructor may assign one or more group tasks/assignments/projects in this course.

Before embarking on a specific problem as a group, it is your responsibility to ensure that the problem is meant to be a group assignment and not an individual one.

Person with Disabilities
Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me at least two weeks prior to the first in-class test or ITV midterm exam. This is necessary in order to ensure sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. The deadlines for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the December 2015 exam period is November 6, 2015. Please refer to http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/ for all PMC information.

Religious Observance
Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and
Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

**Pregnancy**

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Academic Integrity**

Violations of academic integrity are a serious academic offence. Violations of academic integrity – presenting another’s ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized cooperation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the degree and will not be tolerated. Penalties may include expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; and a grade of Failure in the course, amongst others. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy which is available, along with resources for compliance at http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/advisingcentre/academic-integrity/.

**Sprott Student Services**

The Sprott student services office, located in 710 Dunton Tower, offers academic advising, study skills advising, and overall academic success support. If you’re having a difficult time with this course or others, or just need some guidance on how to successfully complete your Sprott degree, please drop in any weekday between 8:30am and 4:30pm. Our advisors are happy to discuss grades, course selection, tutoring, concentrations, and will ensure that you get connected with the resources you need to succeed! http://sprott.carleton.ca/students/undergraduate/support-services/

**Important Information:**

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.
- For us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CARLETON address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your Carleton account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting http://carleton.ca/ccs/students/