

# INTD 100: Ethics in Finance in a Post Recession Era Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Fred Park

## Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Fred Park  
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Office: Wardman Hall 207  
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OH's: MWF 3:30-5:00 pm or by Appointment

## Peer Mentors

Jenna Cohen	Samantha Blum
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OH's: Tues/Thurs 1-3pm or by appointment	OH's: W/F 9-10:30am or by appointment

## Course Information

Times and Location: MWF 11:00–11:50 in UV 216

## Course Description

Ethics in Finance. In this post global financial crisis era, we look both backward and forward in discussing moral issues within the financial industry worldwide. We will use the events from the 2008 financial crisis to motivate topics like wealth inequality, predatory lending, stock market manipulation, and the so called 1%ers. We will look at what blurs the lines between what is legal and what is ethical. We will discuss questions like how can a part time working American making \$25,000 a year obtain a loan for \$1,000,000 to buy his dream house with no money down and interest only payments? Or is it reasonable to bailout big banks in 2008? In the latter, taxpayer money was loaned to banks at a low interest rate and the banks then re-loaned the money back to the taxpayers at a higher rate banking the profits. We will examine questions like these and more.

## Course Readings

- *The Big Short*, Michael Lewis (required)
- *The End of Wall Street*, Roger Lowenstein (required)
- *Flash Boys*, Michael Lewis (required)
- Additional Readings will be placed on *Moodle*

## Additional Materials

1. small stapler and staples
2. Student Composition Book, 10-1/4" × 7-7/8"

## Freshman Writing Objectives

1. The student identifies, summarizes, and critiques the arguments presented in class readings.
2. The student demonstrates the ability to write an effective essay which states and supports a thesis.
3. The student demonstrates the ability to communicate clearly, in written and oral form, conclusions about complex problems.
4. The student evaluates the mechanical strength of his/her own writing.
5. The student develops a habit of revision.
6. The student writes a final analytical paper of more substantial length supported by research.

## Course Policies

1. No late assignments whatsoever. All assignments are due on the date listed on this syllabus. Only exceptions will be a verifiable medical excuse or college related outing that must also be verifiable ahead of time. This includes sports related trips which must be signed off by me before the trip.
2. I have a strict absence policy. You get 2 unexcused absences. Every absence after the two that is unexcused will lower your final grade in the course by 1/2 grade. For example if you currently have an 'A-' grade in the course and have 3 unexcused absences. Your 'A-' → 'B+' which is a profound drop. Valid excuses include a doctors note, emergency (documented), or sports related travel. For sports travel, you must bring in the necessary forms ahead of time for me to sign or else your absence will be counted towards the two allowed. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to obtain all missing material.
3. Disruptive behavior will absolutely not be tolerated in any way, shape, or form in this class! This includes cell phone use (talking, texting, email, etc), computer use unrelated to the course, internet browsing, talking, chatting, or any other general disruptions. If you are being disruptive in class to the instructor and/or your fellow students, you will be asked to leave.
4. Those students needing special accommodations for testing etc. can contact Disability Services which is extension 4825 or visit them in the Library, Room G003.

## Course Breakdown

Four Essays	80% (20% each)
Journals, Discussions and Summaries of Reading, Quizzes	20%

## Tentative Schedule:

### Week 1–September 9-11

Orientation, Class Expectations, Outline of Syllabus

### Week 2–September 14-18

Reading: *The Big Short*, Michael Lewis

Writing Topic: Critical Reading Practices

### Week 3–September 21-25

Reading: *The Big Short*, Michael Lewis

Writing Topic: Rhetorical Analysis

Essay #1 assigned Sept. 25th, first draft due Oct 7th. Final due tba.

### Week 4–September 28-October 2

Reading: *The Big Short*, Michael Lewis

Writing Topic: Library Research Practices

*Money as Debt*, Documentary viewing

*Wall Street*, Movie Viewing

### Week 5–October 5-9

Reading: *The Big Short*, Michael Lewis

Writing Topic: Writing Processes

(organize, focus, invent, format, revise, edit)

### Week 6–October 12-16

Reading: Film Week. 3-5 movies based on Finance. TBA.

Writing Topic: Writing Processes cont'd.

(organize, focus, invent, format, revise, edit)

### Week 7–October 19-23

Reading: *The End of Wall Street*, Roger Lowenstein

Writing Topic: Collaborative feedback and peer review.

### Week 8–October 26–October 30

Reading: *The End of Wall Street*, Roger Lowenstein

Writing Topic: Style: sentence structure, voice, point of view.

Essay #2 assigned, first draft due Oct 30. Final due tba.

### Week 9–November 2-6

Reading: *The End of Wall Street*, Roger Lowenstein

Writing Topic: Style: Writing Arguments: Supporting Claims.

### Week 10–November 9-13

Reading: *Flash Boys*, Michael Lewis

Writing Topic: Research methods and methodologies

### Week 11–November 16-20

Reading: *Flash Boys*, Michael Lewis

Writing Topic: Review of Revising from feedback.

Essay #3 assigned, first draft due Nov 20. Final due tba.

## Week 12–November 23-27

Reading: Film

## Week 13–November 30th–December 4

Reading: *Flash Boys*, Michael Lewis

Writing Topic: Argumentative Writing.

## Week 14–December 7-11

Reading: TBA. On Class Moodle.

Writing Topic: Argumentative Writing.

Final Paper due Dec 16th 5pm.

## Assignment Submission

1. You will submit two versions of each assignment. A hardcopy version in class no later than 11:05 am on the due date. In addition, by the same deadline, you will need to submit an electronic version on moodle. If you only submit one version, then it will be counted as being late.
2. Late assignments will be docked by 25% for each day late. The instant it becomes late, it is automatically docked 25%. Each additional day results in another 25% deduction.
3. If an emergency occurs and the student is unable to submit the assignment by the due date, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.
4. All submitted assignments should be typed in 12-point Times Roman with double spacing. Margins should be one inch. All essays will be written on standard 8.5 × 11 inch white paper.
5. All submitted assignments should be written in a coherent manner with any grammatical issues resolved ahead of time.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism will absolutely not be tolerated in any way shape or form in this course. If you take part in plagiarism, you will receive a failing grade on that specific assignment. A second offense will result in an automatic failure in the course and further disciplinary action. For more detailed information on plagiarism, please see: <http://whittier.libguides.com/plagiarism>

## Research Help and Resources

Librarians are available via email, text, chat, phone, and in-person to help you with your research, including finding academic resources, searching databases, creating citations, and evaluating sources. Go to <http://www.whittier.edu/library/askALibrarian.html> for more information.

### DubSearch

If you're not sure where to begin your research, start with DubSearch. This tool allows you to search multiple databases at once to help you find academic journals, books, newspapers, and audio/visual

content relevant to your topic.

#### Text-a-Librarian

Need a quick answer to a question? Text a librarian at (562) 242-1222.

#### Research Guides

Librarians have created customized research guides for every academic subject at Whittier College to help you locate appropriate sources for college-level research. You can view the entire list of research guides at [whittier.libguides.com](http://whittier.libguides.com); <http://whittier.libguides.com/>

#### Intro to Library Research

Not sure where to start with your research? The library's Intro to Research guide includes information on choosing a topic, getting a topic overview, finding academic sources, and creating citations: [whittier.libguides.com/research101](http://whittier.libguides.com/research101); <http://whittier.libguides.com/research101>;

#### Wikipedia Guide

Learn to use Wikipedia effectively and critically. See the library's Guide to Using Wikipedia: [whittier.libguides.com/wikipedia](http://whittier.libguides.com/wikipedia); <http://whittier.libguides.com/wikipedia>;

#### Library Homepage

Start your research on the library's homepage ([www.whittier.edu/library](http://www.whittier.edu/library)) and select "Find Books & Articles" to search databases, the catalog (books and DVDs), and to find out about other library services like LINK+ and Interlibrary Loan.