**Money Syllabus**

Finance is the most important area of study that you will never be taught in high school (and most likely, not in college either). It is a field as expansive and rigorous as physics, yet far more prevalent in the news and relevant to our lives.

[This video](This%20video) (<http://youtu.be/PHe0bXAIuk0?t=33s>) will give you a taste of economics, which is closely related to finance. (You can [speed it up](http://yatharthrock.blogspot.com/2012/11/how-to-speed-up-or-slow-down-playback.html) if you find it too long/slow.) If you find the concepts boring, finance will probably be equally boring and you may want to consider taking another course. The video is a great explanation of the relationship between money and credit (the promise to pay money at some later time), particularly on the large scale of recessions and government spending.

In this course, we’re going to keep looking at how money and credit work on a smaller, more specific scale. The promise to pay money is what allows people to buy cars and houses, pay college tuition, use credit cards, and store money in banks and retirement funds. It’s what allows entrepreneurs to launch new companies, businesses to invent new products, and governments to expand public works beyond what they get in taxes.

We’re going to go through many of these examples so that you can appreciate the logic of how money and credit flow throughout our society. By the end of the course, you may not remember what bonds, futures, mortgages, Treasury bills or Fed Funds are, but you will understand why there are so many different forms of money and credit, why there are so many financial institutions, and how they make our society possible.

But as we all know, the manipulation of credit can also lead to great unpredictability, as well as scandals, bankruptcies and recessions. Government debt has imperiled the U.S. and much of Europe. Banks and investment firms, intended to promote the flow of credit throughout the economy, have become regarded as the greediest and most corrupt institutions in the nation. Time permitting, we will look at how and why the financial system fails in a crisis.

Looking forward to teaching all of you!

Clinton