Instructor: Professor Martina Jasova
E-mail: mjasova@barnard.edu
Office hours: M 8–10am, W 4–6pm, Zoom.
Please register online at https://calendly.com/jasova

Class hours: W 9–10:50 am
Class room: Zoom

Course Description: This seminar introduces students to the research at the intersection of macroeconomics and finance. We will study how big data can help answer questions related to economic crises, central banks’ policies, banking, household finance and inequality.

Learning Objectives: The course has three principal learning objectives: (1) to introduce students to the frontier research in macro-finance, (2) to become familiar with quantitative data and statistical methods used in applied research, and (3) to discuss and examine how researchers use big data to analyze connections between finance and the macro economy.

Evaluation: The final grade will be based on

- Weekly participation (in class and on Canvas) (15%)
- Class presentations on assigned topics (10%)
- Research proposal (10%)
- Presentation of your preliminary findings (15%)
- Final paper (50%)

Readings: The seminar has no textbook. Together we will cover a selection of articles at the frontier of the latest research in empirical macro-finance. All required readings will be available on Canvas.

CARDS: If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodations in this course, you must register with the Center for Accessibility Resources & Disability Services (CARDS) for assistance. Students requesting accommodations will need to first meet with an CARDS staff member. Once registered, students are required to request accommodation letters each semester to notify faculty. Accommodations are not retroactive, so it is best to contact CARDS early each semester to access your accommodations. If you are registered with CARDS, please see me to schedule a meeting outside of class in which you can bring me your faculty notification letter and we can discuss your accommodations for this course. Students are not eligible to use their accommodations in this course until they have met with me. CARDS is located at 101 Altschul Hall.

Wellness: It is important to recognize and identify the different pressures, burdens, and stressors you may be facing, whether personal, emotional, physical, financial, mental, or academic. We as a community urge you to make your health, sanity, and wellness your priority throughout this term and your career here. Sleep, exercise, and eating well can all be a part of a healthy regimen to cope with stress. Resources exist to support you in several sectors of your life, and we encourage you to make use of them. Should you have any questions about navigating these resources, please visit these sites:
The Honor Code The honor code will be strictly enforced. Approved by the student body in 1912 and updated in 2016, the Code states:

We, the students of Barnard College, resolve to uphold the honor of the College by engaging with integrity in all of our academic pursuits. We affirm that academic integrity is the honorable creation and presentation of our own work. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to seek clarification of proper forms of collaboration and use of academic resources in all assignments or exams. We consider academic integrity to include the proper use and care for all print, electronic, or other academic resources. We will respect the rights of others to engage in pursuit of learning in order to uphold our commitment to honor. We pledge to do all that is in our power to create a spirit of honesty and honor for its own sake.

Course outline and weekly readings

Week 1: Introduction (September 9)
What is macro-finance? Assignment of topics. Course overview.

Week 2: Structural Distortions of Crises (September 16)
Student presentations #1


Week 3: COVID-19 Pandemic and Consumer Behavior (September 23)
Student presentations #2


Week 4: COVID-19 Pandemic and the Federal Reserve (September 30)
Student presentations #3


Week 5: Feedback: Proposals (October 7)

Week 6: Gender and Finance (October 14)
Student presentations #4


**Week 7: Labor-Finance and Discrimination (October 21)**

**Student presentations #5**


**Week 8: Corporate Finance (October 28)**

**Student presentations #6**


**Week 9: Household Finance (November 4)**

**Student presentations #7**

• Sumit Agarwal, Souphala Chomsisengphet, Neale Mahoney and Johannes Stroebel. 2015. “Regulating Consumer Financial Products: Evidence from Credit Cards.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130(1)


**Week 10: Macro-Finance, Labor and Inequality (November 11)**

**Student presentations #8**


**Week 11: Progress Updates and Discussion of Preliminary Results (November 18)**

**Week 12: No class (November 25) Academic holidays**

**Week 13: Class Presentations of Research Papers I (December 2)**

**Week 14: Class Presentations of Research Papers II (December 9)**