

Behavioral Finance - An Introduction and Current Issues

Summer Term 2025 – Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Petko S. Kalev

Subject Description:

In this module, you will learn about the behavioral biases, heuristics and framing effects that present obstacles to maximizing the value derived from financial and investment decisions. In other words, Behavioral Finance examines how individual financial decision making and behavior affect outcomes in financial markets. This will include examination of the trading and investment behaviors of various types of investors, including individual and institutional investors, and in various market settings, with predominant focus on equity investment and trading markets.

Intended Learning Outcomes for Students enrolled in this Class:

1. Critically identify the behavioral biases, heuristics and framing effects that present obstacles to maximizing the value derived from corporate financial and investment decisions.
2. Critically assess and analyze how individual financial decision making and behavior affect investment outcomes in financial markets.
3. Critically highlight the relevant issues that arise in comparisons between efficient ('economically rational') markets and less understood but more realistic behavioral ('partially rational' or 'irrational') markets.
4. Demonstrate how educated investors and corporate decision makers can overcome these behavioral biases, heuristics and framing effects to improve their corporate financial and investment decisions.

Prescribed textbook:

Nofsinger, John R., 2018. The Psychology of Investing, 6th Edition. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, New York, NY 10017.

Timetable:

Monday, May 26, 2025: Classroom Teaching

10:30 - 16:15 (10:30-12:00, 13:00-14:30, 14:45-16:15)

Tuesday, May 27, 2024: Classroom Teaching

9:30 – 15:15 (9:30-11:00, 11:15-12:45, 13:45-15:15)

Wednesday, May 28, 2023: Classroom Teaching

9:30 – 15:15 (9:30-11:00, 11:15-12:45, 13:45-15:15)

Tuesday, Jul 8, 2025: Project Presentations

9:30 – 15:30 (9:30-11:00, 11:15-12:45, 13:45-15:30)

Wednesday, Jul 9, 2025: Project Presentations

9:30 – 12:45 (9:30-11:00, 11:15-12:45)

Exam: Seminar paper and presentation (Hausarbeit und Referat)

Credit: 6 ECTS

Language: English

Admission: The course is open for Master Students of the following programs:

- Master BWL
- Master IBWL
- Master Finance & Accounting
- International Students (“Erasmus Students”)

Recognition of Credits:

- Master BWL: Modulgruppe Forschung
- Master IBWL (alt): Modulgruppe Internationale Betriebswirtschaftslehre (Wahlpflichtbereich b)
- Master IBWL (neu): Modulgruppe Betriebswirtschaftliche Forschung
- Master Finance & Accounting: Modulgruppe Methoden und Forschung aus Finance & Accounting

Deadlines

- Registration for the exam: **Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 12:00 hrs** through FlexNow. In the case of any registration problems, please contact [bwl-bfc\(at\)uni-bamberg.de](mailto:bwl-bfc(at)uni-bamberg.de) before the deadline.
- De-registration from the exam: **Monday, May 26, 2025, 18:00 hrs** through FlexNow.

Virtual Campus

There will be a Virtual Campus for this class. Students may register in the Virtual Campus until Friday, May 16, 2025 without a password. After that date a password will be required that will be communicated during the first classroom session.

Limited Access

The number of students to be admitted to the class is limited. Access will be granted following the principles of the University of Bamberg. Information about the enrolment will be communicated in the beginning of May.