

# Introduction to Finance

## ARU 2025

### Quarter 2 (January-March)

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All logistical details are included in the [course website](#). Please also familiarize yourself with the [ARU Handbook](#) if you have not already done so. Unless specified otherwise in this syllabus or on the course website, all policies in the Handbook are in effect for this course.

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#### **INSTRUCTOR**

Yaron Brook      Email: [yaron@yaronbrookshow.com](mailto:aron@yaronbrookshow.com)

#### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The goal of this course is to build a Finance 101 foundation from a moral perspective that takes and celebrates finance as a vital productive activity in creation of wealth instead of being corrupt and exploitative, as it's been thought of through the ages. We will methodologically explore the role of financiers in the economy and the tools they use, but we will do it while examining the philosophical ideas that make attacks on them possible, and those required to defend them.

#### **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

Class #1: Intro – Economic Role of Finance

Class #2: Money & Interest

Class #3: Banking

Class #4: Credit Markets – Valuation

Class #5: Equity Markets – Valuation

Class #6: Risk – Derivatives – Other Financial Institutions

Class #7: Regulation & Financial Fragility

Class #8: Future of Finance

#### **READINGS**

You will need to have Yaron Brook's and Don Watkins' book *In Pursuit of Wealth* for this course. Can be bought here on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The Kindle version is acceptable as well. Other reading materials will be provided for each class by the instructor and should be readily available online.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES**

##### **Weekly assignments:**

Each week, submit a weekly assignment based on the readings or material from the last lecture as indicated on the course website. Weekly assignments will be graded on the scale 1-5, and have to be submitted by **Sunday**, 11:59 pm PT time. For more details, follow the information on the [course website](#).

**Final Paper:**

One 1500-2500 words paper addressing a topic of your choice related to readings and discussions in the course, approved by Dr. Brook in advance (before Week 7). Due 2 weeks after the last class of the course.

**Grades:**

10% - live class participation

60% - weekly assignments

30% - final paper

Note: Participation means **active** participation in the live class. If you can't attend the classes live, contact the TA of this course [rbakula@aynrand.org](mailto:rbakula@aynrand.org) to discuss the way to get participation credit.