I. **Title:** Seminar in Special Finance Themes  
**Code:** BADM 797E  
**Credits:** 3 (Three)

II. **Description**  
Development of special topics in finance area in accordance to the doctoral Student interests under the faculty supervision. Comparison of finance research and strategy application in different scenario of business.

III. **Objectives: General and Specific**

1. Construct possible research topic(s) in finance  
   1.1 Determine a specific research topic according to students interests  
   1.2 Justify the selection of the selected research topic(s)  

2. Analyze the modern theory of finance.  
   2.1 Determine related theories to the selected topic(s).  
   2.2 Determine the similarities and differences between selected theories.  

3. Compare the finance theory to the financial practices.  
   3.1 Link the main assumptions of finance theory to specific financial practices.
3.2 Select the most appropriate finance theories to the specific financial practices.

4. Apply the modern concepts, methods and methodologies of finance research to an industry or a sample of companies.
   4.1 Identify the source and availability of data.
   4.2 Determine the related methods and methodologies to the selected topic(s).
   4.3 Justify the selection of methods applied to research topic.

5. Analyze the limitations of the intended research.
   5.1 Identify the main practical and theoretical limitations of the selected topic(s).
   5.2 Determine the limitations of possible source of data.

6. Evaluate the influence and implication of the selected research topic(s) on the companies' practices.
   6.1 Explain the importance of the selected research topic to companies’ efficiency.
   6.2 Explain financial variables and nonfinancial variables that affect conducting the selected research.

IV CONTENT

Because of the dynamic of the course and the variety of research topic that can be selected by students, it is difficult to establish specific content. The followings are suggested topics:

Behavioral finance/psychological biases
The implication of the Tax Cut of 2003
Mergers and acquisitions
Layoff
Signaling
Downsizing
Foreign direct investment
Dividend policy and investment decision
Earnings management
Acquisition strategies
V. Activities:
1. Students should read the material before the discussion in class.
2. Groups of 2 or 3 students will be formulated to present and discuss some topics in class.
3. Students are required to search for some topics, literature, and financial practices in the internet to select their research questions that are part of the evaluation.
4. Presentations of the selected topics in class individually or in small groups.

VI. Evaluation
1) A free-choice topic (selected by the student and subject to the professor approval, 60%).
   These topics should be analyzed in a critical manner with appropriate references. Also, should satisfy the course objectives. The minimum acceptable work is 3,000 words and the maximum not to exceed 5,000 words.
2) Presentation (25%)
3) Participation in class (15%).

VII. Resources
Vary depending on the students’ research interest. However, the following web pages are necessary to support the research topic:
Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA)
The Security Exchange Commission (SEC)
The Economic and Administrative Journal-Metro:
ceajournal.metro.inter.edu
Web pages of special companies such as: IBM, EDS, Microsoft.

VIII. Bibliography
Vary depending on the research topic selected. The followings are suggested
References related to the suggested topics:


Lasalle Bank “Tax Cut 2003” June 2003 Pg.2-10
Wealth Management Group


Lasalle Bank “ Tax Cut 2003” June 2003 Pg.2-10
Wealth Management Group


