



136103 The Financialization of OECD Economies

Proposing Professor: *Arlo Poletti*

Teacher: *Simone Raudino, Program Manager at European Commission*

Dates	Timetable	Topics	Room
30/03/26	14.00 – 18.00	Theoretical and industry perspectives on finance	Sala professori 'G. Poggi'
31/03/26	9.00 – 13.00	The finance – real economy nexus	Sala professori 'G. Poggi'
01/04/26	14.00 – 18.00	Financialization processes in developed economies	Sala professori 'G. Poggi'
02/04/26	9.00 – 13.00	Simulations with financial instruments	Sala professori 'G. Poggi'

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

This short course tracks the centrality that finance — understood from an industry and a functional perspective — has increasingly acquired in OECD economies, paying particular attention to the accelerations of the 1970s and 2000s.

The course discusses advantages and pitfalls of the increased financialization of our economic lives, and its implications in terms of productivity, living standards, economic stability and social justice.

To do so, the course:

- Introduces the history, theory, mechanisms, tools and finalities of corporate and public finance;
- Places the role of the financial industry in a broader macroeconomic and microeconomic perspective;
- Analyses historical developments in the relationship between the financial economy and the real economy.

The course has four pedagogical goals:

- To provide students with a comprehensive and evolutionary (e.g. historical) understanding of the key players, functions and mechanisms of financial markets;
- To present an overview of the theories and methods used in the financial industry;
- To allow students a critical appraisal of the evolving role of the financial industry in the workings of liberal economies, and of the relationship between finance and the broader public purpose;
- To enable students to reach an adequate level of sophistication on key financial issues, also necessary to understand the role of finance in political economy and international relations debates.

TARGET STUDENTS

The seminar is designed for students in bachelor's and master's degree programs particularly LT Sociology and International Studies and LM GLOCAL and SSR students.

REGISTRATION

Registration is compulsory and must be done online at <https://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito> by 23/03/2026 (minimum number of enrollment(s) for activation: 10 - maximum number: 20)

Please take note of the SANCTIONS PROVIDED for those who do not show up for the first and/or next meeting without having given proper notice. See <http://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito>

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION

It is necessary to accrue 12 hours of in-person attendance to the meetings and to participate actively in class discussions and simulations. Readings, provided by the teacher, are mandatory for the evaluation. Learning verification will take place through the active participation in class discussion, simulations/group assignments, and an MCQ. Passing the activity will allow the acquisition of 2 training credits.