



Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's) & Portfolio Construction

Econ x499.10

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Financial Advisors often find their investment results impacted by the “integrity” of their portfolios. This course takes a systematic approach to portfolio construction from a “Top-Down” perspective and asks how prevailing macro-economic conditions can be translated into viable investment strategies.

Exchange Traded Funds are employed as the primary investment vehicle so to reduce the need for Fundamental analysis (typically required with individual equities) and allow a deeper focus on portfolio “balance.” For their part, ETFs are fast becoming a preferred way to participate in a broadening array of investments. They are said to offer the best of both worlds, the intra-day trading of stocks with convenience and pooled investment approach of mutual funds. All at lower costs!

COURSE GOALS: By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Apply business cycle theory to identify investment opportunities
- Understand basic concepts of “Top-Down” portfolio construction
- Analyze existing portfolios to identify gaps and concentrations, and how to address them
- Develop a working knowledge of ETF's advantages, limitations and strategies

REQUIRED READINGS (Available on Gaucho Space)

Wk 1: What Are ETF's & How Do They Compare?

Wk 2: What Are Sector Strategies?

Wk 3: What Are Growth/Value & Capitalization Strategies?

Wk 4: What Are Regional/Geographic Strategies?

FINAL EXAM