

Venture Capital, Private Equity and Hedge Funds: An Introduction

UGBA 195T, 2 units

Course Overview:

This course will provide a high level introduction to venture capital, private equity, and hedge funds. In the course, students will learn:

- What are venture capital, private equity, and hedge funds?
- What types of investments do they make?
- How do they generate superior investment returns?
- What do the professionals in these firms do?
- How are these firms organized, structured and managed?
- What are the career paths in these firms?
- What are the risks and rewards experienced by these firms?

Teaching Method:

The course will use Harvard Business School case studies written for MBA students. There will be some lectures to introduce core concepts. The course syllabus will focus approximately 50% on venture capital, 25% on private equity and 25% on hedge funds.

Prerequisites / Grading / Homework:

- Course is best suited for UC Berkeley seniors with extensive prior course work in business. First preference to seniors enrolled in Haas School of Business.
- Some interest or experience in start-ups, investing or finance will be helpful.
- Homework will include reading and analyzing one business case per week of approximately 15-20 pages in length.
- Grading will be based on classroom participation (25%), pop quizzes (25%) and a final project (50%).

Instructor:

Rob Chandra serves on the Haas School of Business faculty where he teaches an undergraduate course on alternative investing and co-teaches an MBA course on entrepreneurship. He is a general partner with Avid Park Ventures, a San Francisco based venture capital firm. His current or prior investments include Alibaba, CrowdStrike, Dropbox, Lending Club, MongoDB, Nutanix, Robinhood, Snap, Twitter and Uber. During his 20 years in venture capital, Rob has been an investor in 25 start-ups that went public or were acquired by other public companies. He has been ranked five times on the Forbes Magazine's annual ranking of the top 100 venture capitalists. Prior to starting Avid Park, Rob was a managing partner with Bessemer Venture Partners. Previously, Rob worked for McKinsey & Company. He has a BA from University of California at Berkeley and a MBA from Harvard Business School. For questions, contact him at RobChandra@berkeley.edu.