

Alternative Investments I & II
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, STERN SCHOOL
Monday/Wednesday 3pm-4:20pm¹

This course provides both a theoretical and practical look into the world of managing alternative investments, in particular, hedge funds. The course is, however, organized from the perspective of an asset manager (e.g. pension fund, endowment, family office, fund of funds, etc.) having to choose amongst a cross-section of hedge funds. While the class is designed as a year-long, full credit (i.e., 6 units) course, it is possible for students to choose just the fall semester course, but not vice versa with respect to the spring semester.² Students start from the beginning and are educated about the hedge fund sector, the building blocks of hedge fund strategies, and presentations by leading practitioners in the field. For example, this past Fall, speakers included Kevin Kenny, founder Emerging Sovereign Group; Jamie Dinan, founder York Capital; John Paulson, founder Paulson & Co.; Lee Ainslie, founder Maverick Capital; Peter Muller, founder PDT Partners; Cliff Asness, founder AQR Capital; Myron Scholes (Nobel laureate, formerly LTCM and Platinum Grove Asset Management); and Bruce Darringer (COO, King Street Capital).

The course is by application only. Students interested in taking the course must submit a brief cover letter for why they want to take the course and a copy of their transcript to professor Matthew Richardson (mrichar0@stern.nyu.edu). “Foundations of Financial Markets” and the statistics core class are a necessary prerequisite for the course though extra weight will be given to students who have taken some additional finance electives. The course is cross-listed with the NYU Stern MBA program.

¹ Note that some sessions will meet at 4:30pm when an outside speaker is only available at that time. The course also runs on the NYU Stern graduate calendar.

² The spring semester involves students performing a complete A-Z due diligence analysis of hedge funds. During the semester, students will perform due diligence of an actual hedge fund, including off-campus meetings with the hedge fund and asset allocator (fund of funds manager co-teaching the course).