Welcome to our seminar on the business and regulation of banking and financial services. The course schedule, the subject matter that we will cover, and the assigned readings are fully set out in the syllabus, which has been posted to TWEN. You will find that all readings are either “linked” in the syllabus or listed in the syllabus and posted in the TWEN folder set up for each class session. When reading the syllabus, please pay attention to the questions on which we will focus for each session.

First Assignment: Please watch the film *Too Big to Fail* (available in the Library or from Netflix on DVD and from Amazon, Vudu and HBO by streaming video) and read Chapter 1.1 of our text, *Financial Regulation: Law and Policy* by Barr, Jackson and Tahyar (Foundation Press, 2016).

In class, be prepared to introduce yourself and offer a brief “movie review” of *Too Big to Fail*. We will focus on what happened in the 2007-2008 financial crisis and try to tie it back to the basic risks of banking.

General Course Note: This course will be conducted as a participatory seminar. Your contributions to our discussions in class are encouraged and valued and will constitute a significant part of your grading. Active participation will make this course more interesting for all and, given that few students come with any background in finance, will help us reach the broader, basic understanding of banking and its underlying complexity that we hope to convey.

Papers: You will be asked first to outline and then complete a 15-page paper on a topic of your choosing, which should get more deeply into the law and detail of your topic than we are likely to go as a general matter in class. Each student will present his or her paper to the class in the last three weeks of the semester. If you would like to do your graduation paper in this class, please come ready to
discuss your proposed topic on the first day of class, because final commitments to graduation papers are due on Friday, September 1, the day after our second class. It would be helpful for you to prepare a basic outline or at least a careful statement of the issue you would expect to address in a graduation paper.

We look forward to seeing you on August 24th.

Tom Brooks and Don Meyer

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