

# Your Fall 2021 syllabus

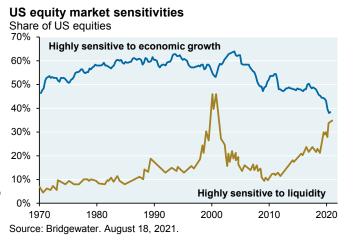
Greetings. We look forward to seeing you back on campus, although you will not be allowed to gather in groups larger than five, which we expect to reduce COVID transmission and cut down on excessive alcohol consumption and related misbehavior<sup>1</sup>. Since 85% of you experienced declining grades during online learning last year<sup>2</sup>, we've doubled up your coursework and will require you to take eight classes this semester. Your Fall 2021 syllabus appears below. Update: Biology BI66 "The Origins of COVID" scheduled to be taught by Professor Peter Daszak has been cancelled until further notice. No additional information is available at this time

# [1] Addictive Behaviors AN103 (Anatomy): The Prefrontal Cortex and External Stimuli

Students will explore the addictive consequences of Fed liquidity on the stock market now that the Fed is about to slow its asset purchases, and as the share of US equities more sensitive to liquidity conditions than to economic growth keeps rising. Background reading includes data on Treasury demand from foreign central banks that own 30% of the Treasury market, as well as Treasury demand from banks, pension funds and insurance companies for regulatory and liability management reasons; these demand sources may mitigate the impact of reduced Fed purchases on long term interest rates.

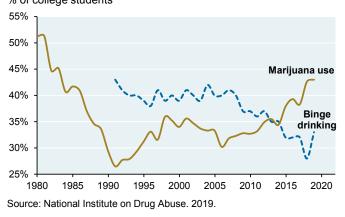


Primary dealer expectations for monthly Fed purchases



<sup>1</sup> 33% of US college students engaged in binge drinking in 2019 (5+ drinks in 2 hours for men). College binge drinking has declined since the early 1990's, and is being substituted/accompanied by rising marijuana use.

#### College binge drinking and marijuana use % of college students



<sup>2</sup> Inside Higher Ed, January 2021

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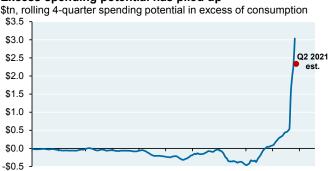


# [2] Mechanical Engineering ME89 (Engineering): Dynamics of coiled springs

Students will review Hooke's Law<sup>3</sup> and its application to US growth, spending, inventories and inflation. Some leading indicators have weakened recently, a reflection of intense supply chain issues which include a temporary but pronounced semiconductor shortage<sup>4</sup>. However, look at the big picture: rising wages, government transfers and pandemic issues have boosted pent-up consumer spending, and there's unprecedented pent-up demand when looking at the gap between low inventory growth and high sales growth. Both of these coiled springs will eventually spring back. So will housing, which is now constrained by soaring prices and the tightest supply conditions since 1990 (2-3 months). There's consumer resistance to higher prices for durables, cars and homes, but ammunition for healthy US consumer spending is firmly in place particularly given improved household balance sheets. As drags from supply constraints and the Delta variant eventually fade, US and global growth should be supported by reopening dynamics, inventory restocking and a lot more capital spending.

While these dynamics all point to higher GDP growth as production rises to meet demand, it's also hard to see how inventory vs sales gaps can be closed without higher prices as well. Many companies agree, as indicated by the all-time high 45% of small business respondents planning to increase prices.

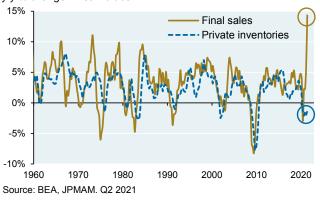




1972 1977 1982 1987 1992 1997 2002 2007 2012 2017 2022 Source: Fed, BEA, JPMAM. Q1 2021. Spending potential: 65% of taxable income, 100% of transfer pmts, 10% of housing wealth and 1.5% of fin. wealth.

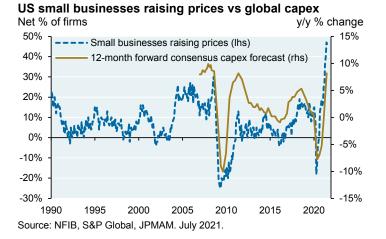


y/y % change in real values



# Global manufacturing delivery times





<sup>3</sup> Hooke's Law: the force of a coiled spring being released is linearly proportional to the distance from its equilibrium length <sup>4</sup> The semiconductor shortage. Most chip shortages are related to older and simpler 200-mm silicon wafers used in cars, computers, monitors, laptops, TVs, refrigerators and washing machines. Demand for many of these items soared during the pandemic as people built out home offices and related projects. There's limited economic incentive to build new 200mm chip plants given wafer-thin margins; only a handful of new ones are planned for 2022. Even so, there's a few billion dollars being invested to expand capacity by ~20% in existing plants, in which case the semiconductor squeeze should start to ease by Q2 2022. Auto manufacturers are also discussing longer term contracts with Tier 2 suppliers that might incent them to build out new 200-mm capacity. A by-product of the semiconductor shortage: Ford is offering customers faster delivery if they agree to "lower feature content", which translates into fewer semiconductors.



## September 7, 2021

# [3] Military Strategy HS233 (History): The Art of War

Students will learn how tech and communication services companies conquered US equity markets. Readings include David Autor's "*The Fall of the Labor Share and the Rise of Superstar Firms*" (MIT, 2019). Implications for investors include the superior risk-reward characteristics of growth equity and venture capital investments focused on software and other high-margin businesses with low labor intensity.

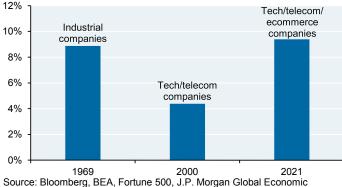
Industry concentration is at an all-time high and is attracting antitrust attention. But the tech/communications services opportunity set is much bigger than the 5 megacap firms: secular growth tech stocks we discussed in our 2021 Outlook are performing in line with the megacap stocks this year, and carry a lot less antitrust baggage. As long as wages are the largest component of overall business expenses (last chart), the corporate sector will look to tech companies to help reduce their unit labor costs and improve productivity. In other words, we expect strong demand for technology goods and services to continue, and do not expect any mean reversion in sector profit margins.

Contribution of top firms to overall US market cap



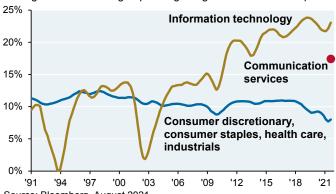
Source: Bloomberg. September 3, 2021.

#### Industry consolidation surpassed prior 1969 peak Revenues of largest 15 companies as % of US GDP



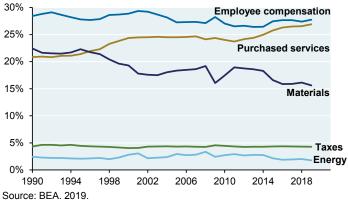
Source: Bloomberg, BEA, Fortune 500, J.P. Morgan Global Economic Research, JPMAM. 2021.





Source: Bloomberg. August 2021.

# Wages are still the largest component of business expenses, Percent of gross output





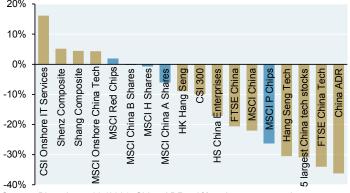
# [4] Chinese History CH04 (History): The Creation of a More Just Society

Students will review The Great Leap Forward and The Cultural Revolution as prior examples of Chinese leaders imposing sacrifices in the pursuit of societal goals. Many Chinese stocks have been clobbered after new rules and critical gov't commentary on the internet<sup>5</sup>, e-commerce, for-profit tutoring, data sharing, overseas equity listings, cryptocurrency, online finance, real estate, labor practices, anti-trust and competition, drug prices, food product disclosure and corrosive Western decadence such as celebrity-watching, social media and gaming.

Since the Chinese government described online gaming as "spiritual opium", students will also revisit materials on the Opium Wars of the 1840's and its consequences: a proliferation of drug addicts and opium dens, a surge in corruption and other criminal behavior, a breakdown in public morality and an exodus of silver shipped abroad by addicts. Around 25% of China's adult males were addicted to opium, a level of mass addiction not equaled by any nation before or since<sup>6</sup>. From 1820 to 1870, China's share of global output fell in half, from 33% to 14%.

For long term investors with patience, there are some attractive opportunities here, but selectivity is key. Despite the large selloff in Chinese equities, the valuation gap vs the US shown in the last 2 charts is not as large since China traded at higher multiples before the crackdown began. We use enterprise value to projected free cash flow to minimize the impact of regional accounting differences and to capture the impact of new rules on future company profits, even though it is probably too early to expect analysts to fully adjust their forecasts.

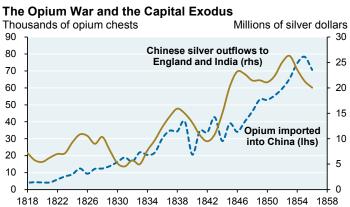




Source: Bloomberg. 9/5/2021. China ADR: 70% tech + comm services



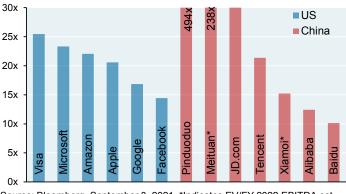




Source: "China Upside Down: Currency, Society, and Ideologies, 1808-1856", Man-houng Lin, Harvard University Asia Center. 2007.

US vs China megacap valuations

Enterprise value to FY 2021 EBITDA



Source: Bloomberg. September 3, 2021. \*Indicates EV/FY 2022 EBITDA est.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Fang Xingdong (Director of the Center for Internet and Society at Zhejiang University) explains the motivation: the Chinese government needs to prevent internet platforms from "breaking the existing institutional framework and challenging the power and governance capacity of the state" [Source: Gavekal Research] <sup>6</sup> Alfred McCoy, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Southeast Asian Studies

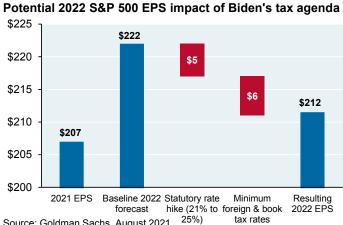


## [5] Progressivism in Film FA08 (Arts): Raiding the Temple Granaries

Students will re-enact one of the most progressive scenes in film history: when Moses raids the temple granaries in Cecil B DeMille's *Ten Commandments*. The class will then pivot to the current Administration's progressive plans to raise corporate taxes to pay for infrastructure and other initiatives (clean energy and EV subsidies, child care, family leave, pre-K education and Obamacare premium expansion). At the time this syllabus was prepared, Democrats had not reconciled their competing visions. **The most likely scenario is an infrastructure bill with ~\$1 trillion in new spending and a reconciliation bill with ~\$2 trillion in new spending**.

Students will review the base case scenario for corporate taxes: 25% corporate tax rate (up from 21%); an increase in the effective tax rate applied to low tax jurisdictions from 13% to 18%-19% (GILTI tax); a minimum book tax of 15% on large US companies that is unlikely to have much bite given prevailing effective tax rates (see second chart); and partial commingling of foreign tax credits. **The bottom line is a modest 5% hit to 2022 S&P earnings per share, with slightly higher tax hikes for tech, healthcare and communication services**. While the tax impact on S&P earnings appears modest, students will review the overall cost of the two bills (including tax increases on individuals and pass-through entities), which is large compared to tax bills in the post-war era; see third chart "infrastructure + negotiated reconciliation bill" and fourth chart on marginal effective corporate tax rates across countries, and the impact of the proposed bills.

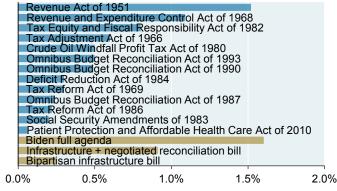
**Note from the Dean**: we cannot guarantee film majors anything resembling a viable financial future; you will have to hit the jackpot. One example: recent film graduates of Columbia University who took out student loans had median debt of \$181,000, and two years after earning master's degrees, half earned less than \$30,000 a year. Recent Columbia film alumni had the highest debt compared with earnings among graduates of any major university master's program [WSJ, "Hobbled for Life", July 8, 2021].



# Source: Goldman Sachs. August 2021.

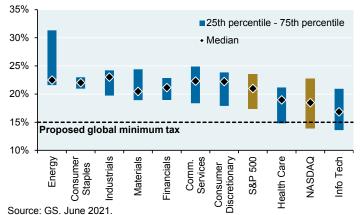
## Revenue impact of major tax bills

Annual tax increase as % of GDP; 2-year average for historical bills

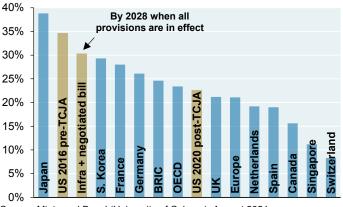




Consensus 2022 effective tax rates before new bills







Source: Mintz and Bazel (University of Calgary). August 2021.



# [6] American Literature of the 1970's AL400 (English): Fear of Flying

After discussing Erica Jong's 1973 second-wave feminist novel *Fear of Flying*, students will analyze consumer reactions to the Delta variant, which so far also indicate a revived fear of flying<sup>7</sup>. Other social distancing categories such as bars, restaurants, lodging, parks and theaters are starting to decline as well, but not by nearly as much. As a result, the sharp decline in "COVID recovery" stocks shown in the third chart might represent an interesting opportunity as the Delta variant eventually fades and booster shots rise. While social distancing spending indicates that Americans are circulating and spending in large pre-pandemic numbers, they're still demonstrating a pronounced aversion to office settings as shown in the last chart.

**On aviation, challenges are not just a fear of flying but electronic means for companies to now avoid it.** A Bloomberg survey showed 84% of companies expect to spend less on aviation, with budget declines of 20%-40%. While corporate customers normally only represent 12% of seats, they can represent as much as 75% of airline profits. Hotels could see revenue declines of 15%-20% as virtual meetings replace one quarter of corporate travel volumes (mostly internal non-client trips). A Conference Board survey cited reduced business travel as the most likely long term impact of the pandemic.

#### Airline spending, all transactions



Source: Internal Chase data, JPMAM. August 28, 2021.



Index (100 = Jan 2021)

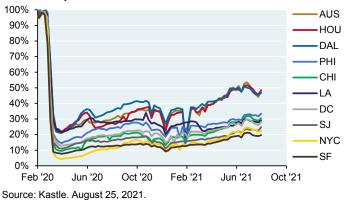


**Social distancing spending, card present transactions** Spending change vs 2019, 7 day smoothing



Source: Internal Chase data, JPMAM. August 28, 2021. Social distancing: retail, lodging, restaurants, parks, theaters and other recreational services.

#### Office utilization rates by metro area Based on keycard/fob data



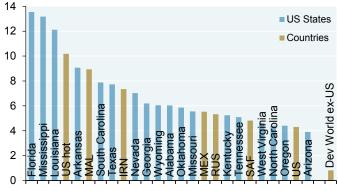
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> I flew to Canada last week for 3-days of sturgeon fishing. Direct routes from NYC to Vancouver are gone, so you have to connect through Montreal or Toronto and plan for missed connections due to delays related to COVID document checking. My largest catch was a <u>massive 9-foot Fraser River sturgeon</u> near the town of Hope.



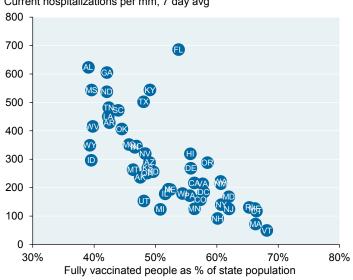
## [7] Fundamentals of Organisms BIO50 (Biology): Natural Selection and its rare deviations

Students will review examples of natural selection (peppered moths, rat snakes, Galapagos finches, warrior ants) and rare examples of *reverse* natural selection, in which species adapt behaviors that are contrary to their own survival. Examples of the latter include COVID vaccine-resistant communities in the United States, where hospitalizations are rising sharply for unvaccinated people and for younger people as well. US hotspot mortality rates are now the highest in the world, alongside Malaysia and Iran, and are 10x higher than mortality rates in the rest of the developed world. Of US states, Florida now has the highest mortality rate, edging out Mississippi and Louisiana.

25 highest mortality rates vs Dev World ex-US Daily deaths, # per mm; US states, top 50 countries by GDP



Source: Johns Hopkins University, IMF, JPMAM. September 5, 2021.

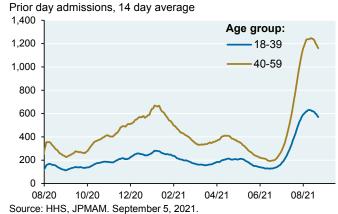


US state hospitalizations vs vaccinations

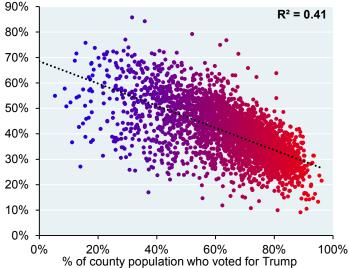
Current hospitalizations per mm, 7 day avg

Source: OWID, HHS, IMF, JPMAM. September 5, 2021.





Trump share of 2020 vote and vaccination by county Fully vaccinated people as a % of county population



Source: Harvard Dataverse, CDC, State Health Depts, JPMAM. September 5, 2021.



## [8] Poetry PY51 (English): Emily Dickinson and mortality

Students will analyze Dickinson's famous poem "Because I could not stop for death". For most vaccinated people, you won't have to either, at least based on the latest vaccine efficacy data. While there is evidence of declining vaccine efficacy over time, such data has to be analyzed carefully to avoid an amalgamation paradox which can produce misleading results when applied to heterogeneous populations with "hidden" variables that explain results more accurately<sup>8</sup>. In the case of COVID, the hidden variable is age.

The most useful efficacy information comes from studies with data on specific age groups. As shown below, age-specific data from Israel and the UK show that efficacy vs hospitalization and severe infection remain high vs the Delta variant (85%-95%); results for total populations in these studies is misleading (red shaded values due to the paradox cited above). Even so, as with other vaccines, COVID appears to require a three shot regimen for maximum efficacy. I recommend getting a booster as soon as you are eligible: early evidence from Israel shows a 10-fold reduction in infection risk with a booster shot compared to a 2-shot regimen, and shows an increase in implied Pfizer efficacy against severe infection for people aged 60+ from 80% to 93%.

			Vax pd or	Ref		Symptomatic		Severe	
Source	Vaccine	Obs period	age group	group	Infection	infection	Hospitalization	infection/ICU	Mortality
mRNA vaccine effica		•	•						
Red shading indicates confirmed misleading result due to the amalgamation paradox									
IMH/J Morris	Pfizer	Aug	<50	Unvax				92%	
IMH/J Morris	Pfizer	Aug	>50	Unvax				85%	
IMH/J Morris	Pfizer	Aug	All	Unvax				68%	
Israel Min Health	Pfizer	Aug	>60	Unvax		******		89%	
Israel Maccabi Health	Pfizer (booster)	Aug	>60	2 shots	86%			92%	
Public Health England		Feb-Aug	<50	Unvax			87%		
Public Health England		Feb-Aug	>50	Unvax			94%		
Public Health England		Feb-Aug	All	Unvax			75%		
Oxford UK	Pfizer	May-Aug	18-34	Unvax	90%	96%			
Oxford UK	Pfizer	May-Aug	35-64	Unvax	77%	88%			
Kaiser Permanente	Pfizer	Dec-Aug	Dec-Mar; >65	Unvax	43%				
Kaiser Permanente	Pfizer	Dec-Aug	Dec-Mar; All	Unvax	47%				
mRNA vaccine efficacy analysis without age bucketing									
Mayo Clinic	Pfizer	Jan-Jul		Unvax	76%		85%	93%	100%
Mayo Clinic	Moderna	Jan-Jul		Unvax	86%		92%	87%	100%
Mayo Clinic	Pfizer	Jul		Unvax	42%		75%		
Mayo Clinic	Moderna	Jul		Unvax	76%		81%		
Israel Min Health	Pfizer	Jul	Jan	Unvax	16%	16%	82%	86%	
Israel Min Health	Pfizer	Jul	Feb	Unvax	44%	44%	91%	91%	
Israel Min Health	Pfizer	Jul	Mar	Unvax	67%	69%	89%	94%	
Israel Min Health	Pfizer	Jul	Apr	Unvax	75%	79%	83%	84%	
Israel Min Health	Pfizer	Jul	Jan-Apr	Unvax	39%	41%	91%	88%	
Israel Min Health	Pfizer (booster)	Aug		Unvax	95%				
Public Health England	Pfizer	Oct-May		Unvax		88%			
Public Health England	Pfizer	Apr-Jun		Unvax			96%		
Public Health Scotland	Pfizer	Apr-Jul		Unvax	79%				
Public Health Ontario	Pfizer	Dec-May		Unvax		87%	100%		
Qatar Min Health	Pfizer	Aug		Unvax	54%			90%	
Qatar Min Health	Moderna	Aug		Unvax	85%			100%	
Vector and Attenuate	d vaccines with	age bucketir	ng						
Oxford UK	AstraZeneca	May-Aug	18-34	Unvax	73%	76%			
Oxford UK	AstraZeneca	May-Aug	35-64	Unvax	54%	57%			
Vector and Attenuate	d vaccines with	out age buck	eting						
Public Health England	AstraZeneca	Dec-May		Unvax		67%			
Public Health England	AstraZeneca	Apr-Jun		Unvax			92%		
J&J trial	J&J	Sep-Jan		Unvax		66%	85%		
Bharat Biotech trial	Covaxin	Nov-Jan		Unvax	64%	78%		93%	***************************************
Chile Ministry of Health	Sinovac	Feb-May		Unvax	66%	88%		90%	86%
S Afr Med Res Council	J&J	Feb-Aug		Unvax			71%		94%
Source: JPMAM. August	2021.								

See our virus web portal linked above for the latest COVID charts and tables, the latest data on acquired vs natural immunity, and a discussion on new variants and immunity escape.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> For more details, see our August 19, 2021 Eye on the Market "Spaccine Efficacy"

## Access our full coronavirus analysis web portal here



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## September 7, 2021

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