

SYLLABUS
FIN 510: INVESTMENT SEMINAR
University Center Dallas

Professor: Dr. Al Gormus

Office Hours:

Commerce Campus: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Dallas Campus: Wednesdays and Thursdays 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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Course Description:

This course is designed to provide essential elements in making investment decisions. Students are expected not only to have an overview about how professional investors think, but also to learn basic pricing theories on major financial instruments. Principles governing the proper investment of personal and institutional funds, information sources, security analysis, exchanges and regulations also will be discussed in the course.

Course Format:

- Lectures and Assignments – The course will be conducted on a lecture basis with discussions and questions encouraged. It is expected that students read the chapters before they come to class. Some out-of-class assignments might be given.
- Exams – Two mid-term exams and a comprehensive final exam. Exams, including the final, are primarily objective-style questions and some problems. (YOU NEED SCANTRONS FOR ALL EXAMS)
- Attendance is mandatory (see below for details).

I DO COVER material which might not be in your book. Your in-class notes are very important and you ARE responsible for any material covered in class.

The order which I cover the topics sometimes will NOT necessarily follow the order of the book chapters (even if they are in the book). I've adjusted my teaching over the years to better serve students' learning abilities. If you attend class you will have NO problems.

Textbook:

Required Text: Investments – Analysis and Management. Charles P. Jones. 12th Edition.

Calculators and Laptops:

You may NOT use Palm Pilots, calculators with extended memory, cell phones or other similar devices on the examinations. If you need to watch your time during the exams, please bring a watch. You are allowed to use your laptop for note taking purposes only, however, I have a “one strike and you’re out” policy. This means that if I ever catch

you checking your email or surfing the internet etc. you will never be allowed to bring a laptop again.

Grading:

100% of your final grade (minus any applicable attendance penalty - see below) will be the simple average of your 2 examinations (best one out of two midterms and the final). This grade distribution for this option is as follows:

90 - 100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

Below 60% = F

I believe in complete fairness. Above cut-offs are non-negotiable. Please at no time request to be “bumped up” a letter grade because you are “so close.” I do not do any special treatment for any one individual. Whatever grade “bumping” I do to one, I do for the entire class with the same proportions. Class average at the end of the semester will determine if any curves will be given.

For your privacy, NO grades (including exams, assignments, or final grades) will be posted in a public area and NO grades will be disclosed over the phone or e-mail. Exams will be returned in-class and you will have an opportunity during class to review your work. You can also come during office hours to check your grades.

Make-Up Examination Policy:

No make-up exams are offered. Your final grade is based on the best two of your two mid-terms and the final (total of two exams). If you miss a mid-term exam, we will use that as the exam you drop. Taking the final exam is mandatory and if you miss it, you will receive a zero grade.

Policy on Attendance:

Daily attendance will be taken. Students are allowed to miss only 3 class periods without penalty. Any additional absences will deduct 2 points of your final % grade. I advise you to use your 3 days wisely and save them to be used at times of absolute necessity (i.e. sickness).

Electronics Policy:

You must turn-off and put away all cell phones and communication devices during examinations. If you need to watch your time, please bring a watch to the exams. Laptops

are allowed while only restricted to be used for note-taking purposes (please refer to “Calculators and Laptops” section above).

Tentative Schedule and Important Dates: This is a tentative schedule for coverage of the text material and adjustments will be necessary during the semester. It is your responsibility to be aware of any changes announced in class.

Exam 1: October 16th

Topics include (but not limited to): Investment Theory, Investment Alternatives, Indirect Investments, Security Markets, Security Trading, Risk/Return Framework, Portfolio Theory, and Asset Allocation.

Exam 2: November 20th

Topics include (but not limited to): Capital Pricing Models, Stock Analysis, Efficient Market Hypothesis, Reading the Market, Technical Trading,

Additional topics for the final: Options, Real Estate Valuation.

FINAL EXAM IS ON Thursday December 11th, 2014 (6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.) and it is COMPREHENSIVE

Topics will include everything covered for both mid-term exams and anything covered after that.

General comments:

- Trying to cover a vast amount of material in a single week can be difficult at times. We will start on time and do our best to finish on time. Your cooperation is appreciated.
- I will do my best to follow the tentative schedule. Due to intended or unintended circumstances the schedule might (**and most likely will**) need to be moved around (class performance, extraordinary circumstances as well as regular events; i.e. guest speakers, etc.) This should not be a problem if you are attending class regularly (and if you are not, you are always responsible for all class announcements).

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS

Personal computer problems **do not** excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or

work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, Office Services such as Kinko's, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore such as Barnes & Noble, etc. If in any way, your computer has technical problems during an exam (if any are online exams), I cannot give you another chance to take the exam. This is why you should MAKE SURE your computer and internet connections are of adequate quality.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. If you have questions related to eCollege, A&M-Commerce's online course management system, click on "TECHNICAL SUPPORT" on the left side of your course screen. An email box will appear. Fill out this technical support form, click submit, and your questions will be forwarded to the technical support staff. A resolution will be sent to you from the technical support staff via email. If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The HelpDesk can be reached by sending an email to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or by calling 866-656-5511. Additionally, you can click on the "Help" button located at the top of each page for more information.

If you use an Internet Service Provider other than the university, please contact a company representative if you are having difficulty accessing the Internet. Other support questions may be addressed to Computing, Telecommunications, and Information Systems (CTIS). The CTIS help desk is staffed Monday-Friday from 8am – 5pm and can be reached at 903-468-6000. The after-hours and weekend emergency phone number is 877-808-1607. When the after-hours support number is dialed, the answering service representative will ask for your name and phone number. The representative will then contact the on-call CTIS technician who should return your call within about 15 minutes.

POLICY ON LATE WORK

Late work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED without a university excused absence as defined by **Texas A&M – Commerce Rules and Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01**. Note: keep a copy of your work - this protects you in the event of questions about missing assignments.

CLASS ETHICS

You are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty while pursuing your academic goal(s). The university's statement on academic honesty is found in the Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures, A13.12, Academic Honesty. Academic dishonesty is defined in the following manner:

"Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material."

Moreover, while taking any of the quizzes or exams in this course, your **only** outside source of information should be the textbook, your own personal notes, and a financial calculator or a spreadsheet program (i.e. EXCEL) by which to solve financial calculations. You are not allowed to consult with any other reference material or person while taking an exam.

Students found to have committed academic dishonesty will automatically receive a failing grade for the course and face possible expulsion from the university.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu