

SYLLABUS
FIN 400/ FIN 510: INVESTMENT SEMINAR

Professor: Dr. Alper Gormus

Office Hours:

Commerce : Mondays 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Thursday 4:00 p.m. to 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, Assignments and Project – The course will be conducted on a lecture basis with discussions and questions encouraged. Some out-of-class assignments might be given. Graduate Students are required to do a project. The project will be announced during the semester.
- Exams – Three 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.

Textbook:

Required Text:

FIN 510:Investments – Analysis and Management. Charles P. Jones. 12th Edition.
FIN 400: Investments – Principles of Portfolio and Equity Analysis. McMillan. 11th Edition

You can use earlier versions of the book but please do so at your own risk!! I will be covering material from and make references to the edition listed above. If you chose to use another book, it is your responsibility to follow/match material or research missing material from your version on your own!

The book in this class is just for reference. I DO COVER additional material which are not in your book. Your in-class notes are very important and you ARE responsible for any material covered in class.

I will NOT necessarily follow the book page-by-page. This is why, I cannot tell you that we will cover a chapter, because most of the time, I will cover some material from that chapter and omit others. This is to help you with only receiving relative and up-to-date material. I WILL NEVER ask you a question on an exam which I did not cover in a lecture or specifically asked you to read from the book. With a seminar class, your lectures and class notes are priority and the book is just a supplement. Please see the TOPICS LIST provided for reference. You CANNOT pass a seminar class by just reading the book (attending all lectures is a MUST). As most of the time the class lecture will cover all of the topics, please follow the topics as we cover them in class and locate corresponding sections in the book as a “supplemental” learning route (additional examples etc.) This excludes any section or chapter in the book I tell you to specifically read/know during a lecture.

Calculators and Laptops:

You may NOT use tablets, 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:

Your grade will be the proportional average between your exams and the project (minus attendance – see below). This grade distribution for this option is as follows:

Graduate Students:

Exam 1 (22.5%)

Exam 2 (22.5%)

Exam 3 (22.5%)

Final (22.5%)

Project (10%)

Undergraduate Students:

Exam 1 (25%)

Exam 2 (25%)

Exam 3 (25%)

Final (25%)

90 - 100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

Below 60% = F

Above cut-offs are non-negotiable. Please at no time request to be “bumped up” a letter grade because you are “so close.” 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 average of all your exams and the project (minus attendance). If you miss a mid-term exam for a good reason (university policy applies and I must verify), I will count the final exam grade for that missed exam as well. You automatically fail the class if you miss two exams.

Policy on Attendance:

Daily attendance will be taken. Students are allowed to miss only 2 class periods without penalty. Any additional absences will deduct 2 points of your final % grade. I advise you to use your 2 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).

Topics List:

Logic of Investment
Money Market Securities
Capital Market Securities
Fixed Income Securities
Issuing of Securities
Types of Markets
Market Order Types
Margin Trading
Short Selling
Rates of Return
Arithmetic vs. Geometric Returns
Expected Return
Variance and Standard Deviation
Covariance and Correlation

Risk Premium and Risk Aversion
CAL, CML, SML Concepts
Modern Portfolio Concept and Diversification
Complete Portfolio
Efficient Frontier
Portfolio Variance and Optimum Portfolio Concepts
Capital Asset Pricing Model Assumptions
Constructing the CAPM model
Overpriced and Underpriced Securities
Fama-French Three Factor Model
Momentum
Carhart Four Factor Model
Efficient Market Hypothesis
Passive vs. Active Investment Strategies
Market Anomalies
Fundamental vs. Technical Analysis
Introduction to Derivative Securities
Introduction to Options Trading
Introduction to Real Estate Financing

FINAL EXAM is on the same class day during the finals week. The time is the same class time.

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.

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