

Texas A&M University-Commerce
FIN 400 – Principles of Investments – Summer 2024
Syllabus

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Office: BA 319
Office Hours: By appointment. Please email to schedule office hours.
Class Format: All lecture videos will be uploaded in MyLeo (D2L Brightspace). You MUST check your email and course D2L (MyLeo) on a regular basis.

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles and theories of financial asset pricing and valuation. It provides students with a rigorous analysis of modern portfolio theory, the efficient investment frontier, the capital asset pricing model, the security market line, the capital market line, and the valuation of common stocks, bonds, etc. It includes an introduction to the main financial markets, and the development of financial derivatives. It aims to be an introductory course in the topic of investments, and it leads to higher-level courses such as Fixed Income, Derivatives and Risk Management, and Advanced Financial Modeling.

The student, upon completion of this course, should be able to:

1. Understand securities markets, debt securities, equity securities.
2. Form portfolios based on investor risk preferences and constraints.

Prerequisites

FIN 304, and basic knowledge of Mathematics, Statistics, and Accounting.

Course Materials

Textbook: Bodie, Kane, and Marcus, *Essentials of Investments*, 12th Edition
Financial calculator: Texas Instruments BAII Plus/ BAII Plus Professional
Laptop/Desktop: Microsoft (MS) Excel.

Note: I will teach you how to solve problems using both the financial calculator and MS Excel. You will have the choice to use either financial calculator or MS Excel. However, please note that MS Excel is a Microsoft product and works best with Microsoft Windows and I will be using MS Excel in Windows. If you are using a Mac iOS, there might be compatibility issues and it is your responsibility to troubleshoot Microsoft Excel in Mac iOS; otherwise, you should just use the Texas Instruments BAII Plus financial calculator.

Grading System

Course total score will be based on the following components as below:

D2L Homework Quizzes (15*20 points)	= 300 points
Project Assignment	= 100 points
Mid-Term Exam	= 300 points
Final Exam	= 300 points
Total	= 1000 points

Grades will be based upon the following standard:

900 points or above	=	A
800 --- 899 points	=	B
700 --- 799 points	=	C
600 --- 699 points	=	D
Below 600 points	=	F

Note: Instructor reserves the right to modify the above grading system with prior announcement in class or thru D2L/ email

Course Requirements

This course will use the MyLeo (D2L Brightspace) course management system. Please check the D2L regularly for course information, class lecture materials, homework quizzes, assignment, exam dates and announcements. D2L quizzes and assignments typically will have due dates and will not be available for submission after the due date. Because technical problems may arise, please do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments and quizzes. Use only Chrome to access this course on MyLeo (D2L Brightspace). D2L is a Windows-based product. Safari, Firefox, Edge, Internet Explorer (IE) are not supported browsers. Often your assignments are not fully visible/accessible from browsers other than Chrome. If you are using a Mac iOS, you must download the Chrome app. However, the app does not fully guarantee your full accessibility.

Examinations

Exams will be primarily of an objective nature, e.g., problem solving, and multiple-choice. You must not discuss exam contents with any other person. You are on your honor to help preserve the integrity of the exam. Make-up exams will ONLY be considered under extenuating circumstances. Work, personal travel, etc. are NOT extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances would include school sponsored excused event (communicated by faculty advisor/coach), hospitalization, medical emergency, physical injury, or death of an immediate family member. You will be required to provide proof of the extenuating circumstance to be approved for a make-up exam. Make-up exams for students attending school-sponsored events, are scheduled before event departure. Other approved makeups are scheduled within three days of approval of documented extenuating circumstances.

Project Assignment

There will be one project assignment given during the term. Details on the project will be provided during the term. You are encouraged (NOT mandatory) to work in groups with a maximum of four members in each group. You are free to form your own group for the project assignment. There will be NO extension on the Project deadline.

Homework Quizzes

There will be several homework quizzes given during the term through D2L. Each homework quiz will typically cover a chapter and may include both conceptual and problem questions. You are allowed to use your textbook and class lecture materials during the homework quizzes; however, you must complete those on your own without anyone's help. Each homework quiz will have its deadline and there will be NO extension on the deadline.

Tentative Course Schedule

Dates	Chapter
Jun 3-9	Chapter 1: Background and Issues Chapter 2: Asset Classes and Financial Instruments
Jun 10-16	Chapter 3: Securities Markets Chapter 4: Mutual Funds and Other Investment Companies
Jun 17-23	Chapter 5: Risk, Return, and the Historical Record Chapter 6: Efficient Diversification
Jun 24-30	Mid-Term Exam: Chapters: 1-6
Jul 1-7	Chapter 7: Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) Chapter 8: The Efficient Market Hypothesis
Jul 8-14	Chapter 9: Behavioral Finance and Technical Analysis Chapter 10: Bond Prices and Yields
Jul 15-21	Chapter 11: Managing Bond Portfolios Chapter 12: Macroeconomic and Industry Analysis
Jul 21	Project Assignment Due
Jul 22-28	Chapter 13: Equity Valuation Chapter 15: Options Markets
Jul 29- Aug 4	Comprehensive Quiz (ALL Chapters) Final Exam

Note: All dates are tentative and may be changed with prior announcement in class or thru D2L/ email.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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 Services

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Web: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99. R0.03

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99. R0.10

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Nondiscrimination Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all Federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M- Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.