

*Department of Accounting & Finance
College of Business
East Texas A&M University*

**FIN 595-01W Applied Financial Research
Spring Semester, 2025**

Instructor: Dror Parnes, Ph.D.

Email: Dror.Parnes@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: Monday, 9:15 AM – 2:15 PM

Class Hours: First part (instructor's presentations): flexible,
Exam: available during week #10 (March 2 – March 8),
Second part (students' presentations): Zoom meetings, TBA

Course Dates: 1/13/2025 – 5/9/2025

Course Description and Objectives


This course is a project-based course that demonstrates the application of skills and topics gained in the Master of Finance program, including but not limited to corporate finance, short-term and long-term investments, risk management, financial domestics and international markets and institutions, and other related subjects. The project will be a group project, while working on a company project or other research project identified by the students and approved by the instructor. Students should develop the approach and methodologies needed to address the problem, conduct the research, and present the findings in both oral and written formats.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Synthesize and apply content from the variety of finance courses and other learning opportunities to better understand real world situations.
2. Distinguish financial problems and demonstrate the application of solutions to form a global perspective to real world financial situations and to make impactful recommendations to businesses.
3. Gain valuable, career-relevant experiences by applying classroom skills to address real world financial problems.

Recommended Textbook

“Quantitative Investment Analysis” (CFA Institute Investment Series), 4th Edition, by CFA Institute. Publisher: Wiley.

 We will not strictly follow this textbook. There are topics in the course that somewhat deviate from the book. The textbook can be used as further reading material, but all you need for the course is my Power Point slides and my practice questions and answers already posted.

Exams and Grading

There will be one exam that covers the topics learned in class. In addition, students are required to form teams / groups, identify a genuine financial issue or a problem or a real financial concern for businesses, present it to the class, and also submit (by email, directly to: Dror.Parnes@tamuc.edu, by the end of the semester) a final report / research summary according to the specifications discussed in class. The three components together (exam, presentation, and written report) will account towards your final grades.

Course Content and Communication

All communications will take place through TAMUC official website (D2L).

Grading System

Your final grade will be based on 40% given to the exam (individual scores), 30% to the presentation, and 30% to the written final report (group scores, with an emphasis on the quality of the content, but also on the style and clarity of communication and on the overall effort to collect real data, as well as to allocate appropriate research methodologies and come up with valid recommendations and solutions). I will then assign a final grade according to: 'A' (from 90 to 100), 'B' (from 80 to 90), 'C' (from 70 to 80), 'D' (from 60 to 70), 'F' (less than 60). *There will be no more optional bonus points or mercy assignments, so make sure to do your best on these three tasks!*

Attendance and General Behavior

This is an online course and students must have high self-discipline. It is your responsibility to listen to the online lectures, to download / print the Power Point presentations and the practice questions and answers, and to take as many notes as you can. If you have additional questions, catch my attention right away (likely through email), or come to discuss it over office hours (please notify me in advance), but please do not wait until the last moment before the exams.

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, Gee Library Room 132
Phone: (932) 886 – 5150 or (932) 886 – 5835
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Scholastic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the university. Any student, who attempts to gain an unfair advantage over other students by cheating, will fail the course and be reported to Texas A&M University-Commerce. “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment” Student Handbook.

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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.

Counseling Center

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

AI Use Policy


Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided, the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Class Schedule

Class	Topic
1	Introduction to the Course
2	Measures of Statistical Properties
3	Probability Concepts
4	Probability Distributions
5	Sampling and Estimation
6	Hypothesis Testing
7	Correlation and Regression
8	Issues in Regression Analysis
9	Time Series Analysis
10	-- Exam --
11	Students Presentations
12	Students Presentations
13	Students Presentations
14	Students Presentations
15	Students Presentations
16	Students Presentations and Final Date to Submit Projects

 The schedule is due to possible changes.

Good luck...