

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

FIN 510 (01B) – Investment Seminar
Fall Semester, 2025

Instructor: Dror Parnes, Ph.D.

Email: Dror.Parnes@etamu.edu

Class Hours: Monday, 2 PM – 2:40 PM / Wednesday, 2 PM – 2:40 PM in BA243

Office Hours: Monday, 2:45 PM – 5:15 PM / Wednesday, 2:45 PM – 5:15 PM in BA302

Course Dates: 8/25/2025 – 12/12/2025

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces graduate 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, options, and futures. 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. Students will accordingly enhance their capabilities of analytical problem solving in common business environments.

Textbook

“Essentials of Investments,” 12th Edition. By Bodie, Kane and Marcus. McGraw-Hill/Irwin. ISBN 9781260772166

 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 is no need to submit any of the homework practice questions and answers. There will be 3 in-class exams during the course. Each one will last for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Each contains 12 multiple choice questions (8.333 points each question, 100 points altogether). These relatively short exams will cover the most recent lectures, and they will be non-cumulative. The questions on the exams will be similar (but not identical) to the homework practice problems. Students can take each exam only once. We will discuss the specific rules for the exams in our first meeting.

Course Content and Communication

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

Grading System

Your final grade will be based on a simple average of the 3 exams (33.3% each, 100% together) during the course. In light of the high intensity of the course, make-up exams are only for students with proven medical records or other extreme circumstances. Once this average is computed, I will 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 exams!*

 We will use a lot of calculus, algebra, and statistical methods during the course. I will attempt to clarify these techniques when they are relevant, yet I can only do that concisely. Please make sure to refresh your memory with those techniques. The best time to do that was yesterday!

Attendance and General Behavior

This is a blended course, so we will occasionally meet face-to-face, while some lectures take place online. It is your responsibility to listen to the face-to-face / 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. *There will be strict dates for the three in-class exams, and we will discuss the specific dates for them in our first meeting.*

Zoom Meetings

There will be at least 3 Zoom meetings during the semester, so please follow the announcements on D2L regarding the dates, hours, and content.

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/rulesProcedures/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, Review of some statistical methods
2	Financial Securities and Markets, Mutual Funds and Index Funds
3	Risk and Return
4	Risk and Return, CAPM, SML
5	Efficient Diversification, CML
6	Exam #1
7	Bonds
8	Bonds
9	Performance Evaluation, Efficient Markets
10	Equity Valuation
11	Exam #2
12	Options (Introduction)
13	Options (Introduction)
14	Forwards & Futures Markets (Introduction)
15	Forwards & Futures Markets (Introduction)
16	Exam #3

 The schedule is due to possible changes.

Good luck...