

FIN 400 – 01E
Principles of Investments
Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Celine Hoe

Course Meeting Day/Time: Tue, Thurs 2:00 pm –3:15 pm

Classroom: BA 256

Office: BA 304

E-mail: Celine.Hoe@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 PM ~ 1:45 PM (In Person), Tuesdays 6:00 PM ~ 8:30 PM (Virtual, Zoom Link to Be Posted in D2L), by Appointment

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**

All emails must contain “FIN 400 01E” in the subject line to be treated as high priority and be sent from your myLeo accounts. The syllabus is tentative and subject to change as the semester progresses. It is the students’ responsibility to check school emails, and announcements as well as updates on D2L frequently. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING UP IN THIS COURSE.**

I. Course Description

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, 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.

II. Prerequisite

FIN 304.

III. Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of Principles of Investments, the students should be able to perform the following tasks:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of investment environments and securities markets.
2. Demonstrate an ability to analyze and apply asset valuation/pricing techniques/theories.
3. Demonstrate an understanding and the ability to develop and apply skills for portfolio management.

IV. Required Course Materials

1. Essentials of Investments, 2024 Release, by Zvi Bodie, Alex Kane and Alan Marcus, McGraw Hill, ISBN: 9781265062002
2. Financial Calculator: **Texas Instruments BAII Plus Professional calculator or comparable (not alpha programmable).**
 - **PowerPoint slides will be oriented toward the TI BAII Plus Professional.**
3. Microsoft Excel

V. Recommended Reading

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

VI. Policies and Procedures

Email Use

The best way to communicate with me outside of class is by email. **Please put your course number “FIN304 02W” in the subject line to be treated as high priority. You should expect a response to your emails within 24 hours during regular business hours on weekdays and 48 hours during weekend. If you do not hear from me within that time frame, please resend your email. You have to send emails from your myLeo accounts.**

Attendance

Daily attendance will be taken. Students are allowed to miss classes without penalty only for legitimate and verifiable reasons. You have to contact me before the class meeting time. Any other absences will deduct 1 point of your final grade.

Exams

There will be three exams, including two midterm exams and a MANDATORY FINAL exam.

There will be no makeup exams. If you have to miss an exam because of an excusable and verifiable reason, you must contact me before the exam. Failing to do so or failing to provide documentation of the reason for absence from a medical doctor or ETAMU official will result in a grade of zero on the exam. **If I were to excuse you from an interim exam, the weight of the missed exam will be added to the weight of the final exam.**

Regardless of the excuse, if you miss two exams you will automatically fail the class.

Please mark exam dates on your calendar. “Forgetting”, being “out of town” and/or “confused” about the time that an exam must be taken is not an acceptable excuse for missing it.

D2L Assignments

There will be assignments posted in D2L every week or every other week. They will be multiple choice questions. You will receive a notification email when each assignment is posted. You will complete each assignment through D2L by the due date. You will be given sufficient time to complete the assignment. The purpose of the assignments is to help you review the materials learned every week or every other week.

No extensions to the assignment deadline will be granted unless accompanied by official documentation from a medical doctor or ETAMU official. Such documentation must be submitted BEFORE assignment answers are released. Documentations submitted after the answers being posted will NOT be considered. Extensions are at the discretion of the instructor and may include a late penalty.

Assigned End-of-Chapter Questions & Problems and Other Extra Practice Questions & Problems

There will be end of chapter questions & problems and other questions & problems assigned as homework. You do not have to submit the solutions. Solutions to these homework problems will be available in

D2L. To enhance learning, you should devote some time to these assignments. Some (but not all) of the problems on the exams will be similar to the problems in these homework assignments.

Grading

No assignment for extra credit will be given to any individual student. For grading purposes, the following weights will be assigned:

D2L Assignments	15%
Mid-term examination I	25%
Mid-term examination II	25%
Final examination	35%

and letter grades applied as follows:

90 – 100	A
80 - 89.99	B
70 - 79.99	C
60 - 69.99	D
0 - 59.99	F

VII. Progression of Course

This agenda is subject to change. The exact timing of lectures and content of exams will depend on the flow of the course. I EXPECT ALL STUDENTS TO HAVE READ ALL ASSIGNED MATERIAL BEFORE CLASS.

Week	Topic
Week 1, August 20	Class Introduction, Chapter 1: Background and Issues
Week 2, August 24	Chapter 1: Background and Issues
Week 3, August 31	Chapter 2: Asset Classes and Financial Instruments
Week 4, September 7	Chapter 3: Securities Markets
Week 5, September 14	Chapter 4: Mutual Funds and Other Investment Companies
Week 6, September 21	Chapter 5: Risk, Return, and the Historical Record
Week 7, September 28	Chapter 6: Efficient Diversification Exam 1: Chapters 1- 5 (September 29, Class Meeting Time)
Week 8, October 5	Chapter 7: Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)
Week 9, October 12	Chapter 8: The Efficient Market Hypothesis
Week 10, October 19	Chapter 10: Bond Prices and Yields
Week 11, October 26	Chapter 11: Managing Bond Portfolios Exam 2: Chapters 6 – 8, 10 (October 27, Class Meeting Time)
Week 12, November 2	Chapter 13: Equity Valuation
Week 13, November 9	Chapter 15: Derivative Markets
Week 14, November 16	Chapter 15: Derivative Markets; Chapter 9: Behavioral Finance and Technical Analysis
Week 15, November 23	Chapter 9: Behavioral Finance and Technical Analysis; Chapter 12: Macroeconomic and Industry Analysis
Week 16, November 30	Chapter 12: Macroeconomic and Industry Analysis
Week 17, December 7	Final Exam: Partially Comprehensive (Details to be announced later) University Exam Schedule: December 8: 1:15 PM ~ 3:15 PM (CST)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

VIII. Other Information

- ◆ You shall start studying early in the course, well before the test/exam, to give yourself a head start in learning the material. When you don't understand course material, ask questions either in class, during office hours or by email. You will not get good grades if you wait until a week or couple of days before the test/exam to start studying.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection 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 service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.



or click

System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Email is the preferred method of communication. The instructor will respond to emails within 24 hours during regular business hours on weekdays.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

EAST TAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

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

East Texas A&M University Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 Statement

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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:

<http://www.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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Important Information about Counseling Center

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

East Texas A&M University 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