Spring 2015_Finance 327: Investments

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Office Hours: Wednesdays: 11:00-12:00 and by appointment.
Textbook: Fundamental of Investing, Smart, Gitman, and Joehnk (12th ed.)

BSBA Goals: BSBA students will graduate being effective communicators, critical thinkers, able to analyze ethical problems, global in their perspective, and knowledgeable about the essentials of business. This class contributes to those goals through its student learning outcomes.

Course Objectives: This course provides students with knowledge of fundamental concepts of investing to further advance the understanding of fundamental concepts of finance, financial markets and market participants, valuation techniques of financial instruments, and working knowledge of portfolio management.

Student Learning Outcomes
Understand the investment environment, securities markets and transactions.
Understand return and risk.
Calculate portfolio return and risk
Build a diversified portfolio and assess portfolio performance.
Analyze and value common stocks and fixed income securities
Understand the general structure and basic features of mutual funds and derivative securities.

Class Procedures
1. Grading: Your grade in this course will be determined in accordance with the University and the Department of Finance grading policy and standards: A, outstanding achievement; B, praiseworthy performance; C, satisfactory performance; D, minimally passing and F, failing. Though subject to a downward revision in cutoff scores (i.e. a “curve”), grades will generally be assigned to the following percentage achievements: A(93+) A-(90+) B+(87+) B(83+) B-(80+) C+(77+) C(73+) C-(70+) D+(67+) D(63+) D-(60+) F(59.9-)  The grade in this course will be determined by the following weights: Exam I: 25%; Exam II: 25%; Exam III: 25%; Home works, in-class exercises/participation, and unannounced quizzes (25%).
2. Exams: There will be three regular exams given (i.e.; no final exam) and you must take all of the exams on time no later than 20 minutes after they begin. All assigned text book materials, materials posted on Blackboard, in-class handouts, and everything covered in class are fair game for exams. The format of exams will be a combination of multiple choice questions, and/or T/F, and/or fill-in blank, and/or problems, and/or essay/problems, and any combination thereof. Makeup exams are rarely given and are determined by case by case basis. You must obtain permission to take a makeup exam in writing at least one week prior to the scheduled in-class exam. Makeup exams are generally different from scheduled in-class exams (e.g.; format, length, etc.) Please bring a Scantron sheet Form 882 to each exam along with #2 pencils and erasers. Additionally, you must bring your student ID or a picture ID to receive a test booklet. Only the following items are allowed in exams: a Scantron sheet, #2 pencils, and a 256K calculator. No other electronic device such as cell phone, computer, IPod, IPad, tablets, laptops, etc. will be allowed in exams. You will not be allowed to share financial calculator with classmates either in class or during exam, therefore be certain that it is in working condition. I keep all of your submitted assignments and exams and you are welcome to come to my office to see and discuss them. The exam schedule is as follows: Please note that there will be a class meeting on the posted university scheduled final exam (please check the university catalog for the time and date.) If you wish to see the results and review of all graded materials this will be your opportunity.
3. Quizzes, homework, in-class exercises/participation, and Attendance: Regardless of the extenuating circumstances, there will be no makeup given for missing quizzes and/or in-class exercises/participation. Attendance is important. You cannot participate if you are absent. Occasionally, I will take attendance as evidence of your in-class-exercises/participation. You must attend the entire class period to earn credit for in-class exercises/participation and/or quizzes. Bring a text book and a financial calculator to every class since you may need them for in-class exercises and/or quizzes. If requested, homework assignments are due at the beginning of the session on the due day. Late submission will not be accepted. If you cannot attend the class you should turn in your assignment via a classmate or via an email’s downloadable/readable attachment prior to the class. You must print your name and put your last name first on all submitted assignment (e.g.; DO, ANDREW) otherwise a 10% grade deduction for exams and no credit will be given for all other assignments.
4. Calculator: Many of the in-class exercises and exam problems involve complex calculations requiring a financial calculator to efficiently solve them. You must have a financial calculator and proficiently use it to get through the course. Only a 256k financial calculator is allowed in exams. You will not be allowed to share financial calculator with classmates either in class or on exam. I will use an HP 12C in class to work on various problems. You can follow lectures most easily if you use an HP 12C. Regardless of the type, you must know how to use it and it is your responsibility to learn. The manual that comes with a calculator is usually good or http://www.tvmcalcs.com/ or http://www.educalc.net/245081.page Please do not wait until the exam day to begin learning how.
5. The course follows the text closely. For each topic covered you should read the relevant materials prior to class. After the topic is covered you will have a chance to further your understanding of the topic by in-class exercises, and/or quizzes, and/or practicing homework assignments. These assignments are meant to help you review the concepts covered in class and prepare for the quizzes and exams.
6. Syllabus changes: Each student is responsible for information contained in the syllabus. Additionally, you are responsible for any and all modifications to this syllabus made in class during the term.
7. Class cancellation: If I am twenty (20) minutes late for a class, the class is officially canceled. Assignments due for the canceled class will be due on the next scheduled class period.
8. Each student is responsible for all classroom handout materials and all information disseminated during the class time. If you miss a class for whatever reason it is your responsibility to find out from your peers what went on in class. The majority, but not all, of my
lecture notes are posted on Blackboard.

9. The use of electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cameras of any type, video or voice recorders, cell phone, IPod, IPad, tablets, computers, etc. during class and exam is prohibited.

10. If you receive the highest grades in either (1) exam 1 and exam 3 or (2) exam 2 and exam 3, you will receive a letter grade upgrade for the course.

11. Re-grading of assignments or re-assess course grade: Requests for re-grading of assignments or re-assess course grade must be in writing within one week of their return’s date and the score/grade may be adjusted up as well as down.

12. Email: The best way to contact me is to send electronic mail to Andrew.do@sdsu.edu. When send an email to me, please include “Fin 327” and a brief purpose on the “Subject.” Failure to so may result in a “spam” classification of your email and may result in my-not-so-prompt response or no response.

13. The grade for homework assignments, in-class exercises/participation, and unannounced quizzes will be calculated according to the following formula: 
   \[
   \frac{x}{y} \times 100
   \]
   where \( x \) = the number of credited homework assignments, in-class exercises/participation, and unannounced quizzes, and \( y \) = the total number of all homework assignments, in-class exercises/participation, and unannounced quizzes given.

14. Students with disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services (SDS). To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact SDS as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from SDS.

15. Academic honesty: As a student taking coursework in this College, you have an obligation to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct. This involves avoiding acts of academic dishonesty which will not be tolerated. Examples include signing others into class on any given day, cheating on exams (e.g.; talking, collaborating, copying, using materials that are not given nor permitted by the instructor, using electronic device such as cell phone, video or voice recorders, etc… and laptop computers), copying homework, plagiarizing, and other infractions as spelled out in the SDSU codes. Such acts damage the reputation of the school and the degree and demean the honest efforts of the majority of students. The reason for requiring the highest standards of ethical conduct is to ensure fairness, honesty and integrity in the evaluation of student performance. Evaluation of student performance should not be invalidated by students intending or attempting to misrepresent the skill, achievement or ability of either themselves or others.

STUDY HINT: Before reading each chapter, look at why the chapter is important to you and its learning goals at the beginning, observe the margins for key terms, and read the Summary and Learning Goals Review sections at the end. This will give you some idea of what the chapter will be about before you actually read it. Be sure to read relevant chapter before coming to class. If you have not read the assigned chapter prior to class, you may find it difficult to keep up with the lecture. Keeping current will also allow you to ask questions on areas that you’re having trouble understanding. It is important to keep up with the reading and homework assignments.

TOPICAL OUTLINE
First Principles of Managerial Finance - Handout
Investment Role and Scope: Process, Financial Innovations, Plans - C1
Securities Markets and Transactions - C2
Investment Information and Trading - C3
Random variable and Probability - Handout
Basic Securities and Risk Hedging in Financial Markets
Decision Making and Choice under Uncertainty
Fundamental of Return and Fundamental of Risk - C4
Time Value of Money - C4 and Handout
Portfolio Theory and Concepts - C5
Gains from Diversification-Two Risky Assets - Handout
The Capital Asset Pricing Model: Beta and Return - C5
Common Stock Investments - C6
Background information and Security Analysis - Handout
Fundamental Analysis of Common Stock - C7
Common Stock Valuation and Investment Decisions - C8
Foundations of Interest Rates and Theories of Term Structure - Handout
Interest Rates and Default Risk - Handout
Fixed Income Securities: Bond Investments and Preferred Stock - C10
Bond Valuation and Analysis - C11
Market Efficiency and Behavioral Finance C9
Put and Call Options – C14
Principles of Asset Valuations - Handout

As a student you have full control of the quality of your education, only you can learn, no one can do it for you.

I wish you a productive semester.