



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN TIRANA
Course Syllabus

Course: Investing (4 credit hours)
Professor: Mahendra Singh Rawat
Class Hours: Friday 17.00 – 21.00
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Catalog Description

The focus of this course is on understanding the fundamentals of investing. The course content will cover the language, the concepts and the vehicles that are used in investing. It will also cover framing up of strategies that will enable an investor to develop, implement and monitor his investment plan and achieve the financial goal. So as to further enable the learner how to make informed investment decisions, financial theories and empirical evidences will also be discussed in the course.

Prerequisites:

Students enrolling in this course must have successfully completed Composition I and preferably Composition II or equivalent. Also, introductory courses in mathematics, economics and statistics are prerequisites i.e. full 3rd year standing. Exceptions are possible depending on the individual.

Course Purpose:

This course introduces students to the global securities market and its role in capital formation, wealth creation, economic development, risk mitigation and other finance related goals. Students will learn securities' evaluation methods and asset allocation concepts. Internet tools used by professionals will be taught along with actual investing in the global market (students will work with fake money). The classroom activities include traditional lectures, computer labs involving quantitative analyses along with team projects and class presentations

Required Readings, Text

Fundamentals of Investing by Gitman & Joehnk 9th. Edition, Pearson.

Required Additional Materials:

Essentials of Managerial Finance by Scott Besley, Eugene F Bringham May 2004.
Essentials of Investments by Zvi Bodie, Alex Kane and Alan J.Marcus
Handouts, Special Reading Assignments, Internet Resources, Economic Journals, Bulletins or News Papers will be used extensively to augment the textbook.

Course Objectives

1. To develop a working knowledge of the global securities market
2. To understand the role of stock market price indices in the world of investments

3. To develop a working knowledge of computer technology that is reshaping investing and providing powerful investment analysis tools
4. To develop a working knowledge of securities evaluation techniques
5. To understand how asset allocation concepts play a major role in determining the risk-return profile of individual and institutional investors

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

1. Learn how to make sound investment decisions
2. Get a thorough in-depth knowledge of the financial markets,
3. Have a rigorous training in analytical thinking and precise mathematical derivation
4. Explain comprehensive core concepts in investment analysis.
5. Gain hands-on experience with optimization, data analysis, and other quantitative techniques.

In short you will be able to make informed decisions about what to do with the Money at your disposal.

Content of the Course

1. The Investment Environment
2. Markets and Transactions
3. Online Information and Investing
4. Concepts of Returns and Risks
5. Modern Portfolio Concepts
6. Common Stocks and Analyzing Common Stocks
7. Stocks Valuation
8. Market Price Behavior
9. Fixed Income Securities
10. Bond Valuation.
11. Preferred Stocks and Convertibles
12. Mutual Funds
13. Options, puts, calls, and warrants
14. Commodities and financial futures
15. Managing Your Own Portfolio

Course Requirements

1. Term paper.

During the 3rd week, each student will be assigned a topic upon which to research and come up with an informed analysis. This paper is due within class hours 2 weeks after the Christmas recess. The basic rules of writing a term paper apply, unto but not limited to the cover page, introduction, summary, main discussion, critique, conclusion, index, sources and bibliography. This will account for 10% of the final grade.

2. Group Discussion.

Time and technology allowing, students will be divided into groups for discussion and /or excursion purposes. To encourage peer communication and critique, each group shall be assigned a project/discussion paper as collectively selected by the other groups and with the consent of the Professor, for collective research and presentation. On or around week 13, there shall be in-class presentation and evaluation. Each group member shall participate in the actual presentation, as moderated by the team leader. This is a peer

evaluation process; so on the scale of 1-10 points, the class shall collectively adjudge the group and allocate the relevant score. This is a serious test of character, prudence, integrity and judgment such that sober participation and decision making is mandatory. A point score of '0' shall automatically be entered for those who choose not to participate.

Classes that fall on national holidays will be scheduled for the same week that they were missed. Be advised that failure to show up for the make up classes will result in an absence. Those who can't make up due to factors beyond human capacity and conflict with other classes are advised to attend similar lecture within the course of the week.

3. Grading and Assessment:

Each student's assessment in this class is directly related to the ability to meet this course's objectives- the ability to interpret the models presented in class and apply them to actual real life situations. There are No make-ups for quizzes under any circumstances. Homework turned in more than 6 days late will not be considered and the student will receive a '0' points for that assignment. Both midterm and the final exam will be inclusive of all covered material.

Classroom discussion of topics and current economic application is highly encouraged. Although not directly computed in your grade, students who positively participate in class may have their final grade improved above what the numerical calculation would suggest by up to a maximum of 5 points.

4. Examinations.

a) Mid Term Examination:

There shall be one such examination during week five or six of the semester, from the content so far covered. Test format may combine a mixture of short answer, true/false, matching, short answer, and one or two essay questions covering *all* readings, lecture, and hand-out and class discussion content.

b) Final Examination-TBA

General Requirements

1. I encourage students to work together and help each other out as much as possible in terms of discussing and reviewing the material. However, each student must turn in or complete in class work they have completed originally for this class.
2. *In the event of illness or emergency, contact your PROFESSOR IN ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible. The University's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOUR CODE and follow them meticulously.*
3. Students who are disruptive in class will be asked to leave. Disruption includes anything that negatively interrupts the flow of lecture or discussion. Cellular phones should be put on mute or vibration mode during class. Students are not permitted to call or answer their cell phones during class.
4. Lecture attendance is mandatory. UNYT's policy is that if a student is absent for more than 20% of the course (i.e. 9 hours), then 'F' will be the grade awarded for the course.
5. The workload assumes that students are spending two hours studying for every one hour in class. For this session that means that you should expect to study for

- about 8 hours a week outside of the class time, not including the time spent on assignments.
6. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus that does not affect the total quality and amount of work required of the students.
 7. If you feel that you have special learning difficulties, please contact the Professor who will connect you to a trainer (Ms. Anxhela Gramo) who is trained to help students with learning difficulties. This service is provided to our students, just as it is offered in all American universities.

Criteria for Determination of Grade, including Evaluation Methods

Term paper	10%
Group Discussion	10%
Homework	10%
Midterm	30%
Final	40%

The grading scale listed below is the official UNYT.

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning
A	96-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-95	
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above average
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet minimum standards for passing the course

Technology Expectations:

1. Student sources to be found at the Text Book resource site
2. Power point notes and graphics are also available
3. Students must keep copies of all assignments and projects sent by e-mail.
4. Assignments are to be typed.
5. Continuing and regular use of e-mail is expected.

October 19, 2007