FIN 475-002 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN FINANCE
Spring 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Banker Phares Dept. of Economics and Finance

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THIS COURSE IS THE EQUIVALENT OF FINANCE 357 – INTRODUCTION TO INVESTMENTS

Office Hours: 9-12 Monday, 10-2 Tuesday, 10-2 Wednesday. Instructor is available after each class to discuss topics and answer questions.

Financial Planning: This course is one of the six courses (3 hours each) required to obtain a minor in Financial Planning for those not majoring in Finance; and is a required course for a Financial Planning Emphasis for those students majoring in Finance. It is also one of the six courses that must be taken in order to take the CFP exam. Topics covered during this course are shown below. When a number appears to the side of a topic it corresponds to the Principal Topics that are identified by the CFP Board to serve as a curricular framework that the CFP Board accepts for continuing education. In addition, attached to this syllabus is the list of Student-Centered Learning Objectives based on CFP Board Principal Topics including recent revisions.

CLASS MEETING: This course meets weekly by arrangement between the instructor and student.

COURSE MATERIAL

- Course Requirements:
  1) Exams for Course: Three, each of equal value. The Final will be one of the three tests and will have a value equal to a test. There will be no quizzes or homework (unless needed to make up for an unexcused absence). There will be an advance reading assignment each week. A legitimate excuse must be presented in order to make-up a missed exam. If a student has a D or lower average for the first two tests, the student will be required to take a comprehensive final.
  2) Grading Policy: The tests will primarily require short specific answers; i.e. objective. For example, short answer, fill-in-the blank, matching. Tests will be announced at least one week in advance.
  3) Required Attendance for Course: Three absence from each class meeting is allowed without excuse. Other absences require acceptable excuse. If absent
without acceptable excuse, additional course work may be assigned or points deducted.

- **COURSE DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**
  - The course will examine the operation and functions of the organized security markets with emphasis on the individual investor. The prerequisite for this course is FIN 333, although this may be waived by the instructor. This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the basic mechanics and theoretical underpinnings of the investment process in the national and global investment arena. Emphasis will be placed on the fundamental concepts, financial instruments and techniques used in investment decision making. In particular, the following topics will be covered: Valuation of Investments, including: Time Value of Money, Investment Alternatives (Indirect and Direct Investing), Security Markets and the Participants, Trading Mechanisms, Risk, Return and Diversification, Basics of Portfolio Theory and Management, Valuation of Common Stocks and Fixed Income Securities, Derivative Securities. These objectives require quantitative analysis, problem solving, critical thinking and computer skills.

- Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at [http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp).

- **Required Attendance for Course:** Three absences from each class meeting is allowed without excuse. Other absences require acceptable excuse. If absent without acceptable excuse, additional course work may be assigned.

- **Academic Integrity**

  Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

- **Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

  Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)
• Students with Disabilities
  To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Withheld Grade Policy

• Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.