FIN 3357.01 – INTRODUCTION TO INVESTMENTS  
Spring 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Emiliano Giudici, Dept. of Economics and Finance  
CONTACT INFORMATION: Office: McGee 303U, ☏ 468-1457, ✉ giudicie@sfasu.edu (preferred)

OFFICE HOURS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:45 – 12:30</td>
<td>8:30 – 12:00</td>
<td>10:45 – 12:30</td>
<td>9:00 – 11:00</td>
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<td>1:45 – 2:45</td>
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*other times by appointment.*

CLASS MEETING: McGee 121, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 13:45

COURSE MATERIAL

• Textbook: Hirt, G. A. and Block S. B., 10th ed., ISBN 978-0-07-803462-6; Previous editions are allowed but not recommended
• Calculator: Texas Instrument BA II or TI BA II Plus or others with financial functions
• Several Scantrons form # 882-E for quizzes and exams
• Access to MySFA account and D2L and spreadsheet software (MS Excel is recommended).

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. 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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Attendance is required. Since quizzes will be administered very frequently, and since there are no make-up quizzes, students missing classes will not accrue enough points to pass the course. Should a student miss a class it will be his/her responsibility to obtain the notes from a classmate. Should the absence result in a missing exam or quiz, the student will receive a grade of zero.

CLASSROOM POLICIES
As a courtesy to the instructor as well as the classmates, each student is invited to:

• avoid leaving the classroom early, unless previously agreed with the instructor;
• avoid being late and disrupting the quiz or the lecture;
• turn off cellular phones and any other noise-making devices. Obviously, it is forbidden to talk (or text) on the cell phone when the class is in session.

In order to ensure the fairness of the tests, it is forbidden to share a calculator during an examination (or quiz). It will be the responsibility of each student to ensure that the proper material is brought in class every meeting. Since scantrons will be used for exams and for quizzes, the students must carry a scantron every class period.
Finally, it is in the student’s best interest that any work submitted be clear and neat: assignments on scratch paper or unreadable will not be graded.

EVALUATION METHODS
Mastery of the subject will be evaluated by quizzes, exams and projects. Whenever possible, the quizzes will be administered at the end of each chapter and will take only part of the lecture. All quizzes will have similar, but not identical weights and some might be administered online. The exams, on the other hand, will include more chapters and will take the entire lecture.

The final grade will be computed with the following weights:

Three Term Exams: 75% (25% each exam)
Average of Quizzes, Projects/Assignments: 10%
Final Exam (comprehensive) 15%

The overall grade in the course will be obtained by averaging the exams and the quizzes / projects with the weights listed above. However, since the final exam is comprehensive and considerably more difficult than the mid term exams, the lowest midterm (or a missing exam) will be replaced by the grade in the final exam (provided it is higher). The exact exam dates will be announced in class.

The distribution of the final letter grades will be based on the weighted average discussed above according to the following criteria: >90 A, 80-89.9 B, 70 – 79.9 C, 60 – 69.9 D, < 60 F.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE – see D2L for an updated list of material covered

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18 &amp;</td>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>Math primer; Investment Setting; Participating in the Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Participating in the Market</td>
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<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>3 / 4</td>
<td>Participating in the Market / Investment Companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Economic Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Industry Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Valuation of Individual Firm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Efficient Markets</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Behavioral Finance and Technical Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
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<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bonds and Fixed Income Fundamentals</td>
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<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Principles of Bond Valuation and Investments</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>EXAM 2 (ch. 7, 9, 10, 11, 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>17 / 16</td>
<td>Portfolio Management and Capital Market Theory + Stock Index Futures and Options</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>14 / 15</td>
<td>Put and Call Options and Independent Readings: Commodities and Futures*</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>EXAM 3 (ch. 14, 15, 16, 17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
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<td>COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM**</td>
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* Independent study as part of asynchronous minutes
**Final exam is scheduled for Wednesday December 7 from 1 to 3 pm – see university schedule for date & time
Rusche College of Business
Syllabus Addendum

Academic Integrity (4.1)
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)
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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041
The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
crisis@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741