

Fin 400 Principles of Investments

Fall 2015

Professor: Daniel G. Bandi, CFA

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Office Hours: Questions can be emailed and I usually respond within one business day. We can also arrange time to chat online or talk over the phone.

Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays 7-9pm, unless otherwise stated.

Departmental Policy: You have to email me from your MyLeo Accounts to get a reply.

Course Description:

Principle of Investments. This course will provide an introduction to the basic principles of investing. It will cover both theoretical and practical applications of portfolio management including concepts of risk, return, securities market function and the analysis of debt and equity securities.

Pre-requisites: Fin 304, Intro to business finance.

Required Textbook:

Investments. Principles of Portfolio and Equity Analysis. Michael G. McMillan, CFA Et Al. Wiley & Sons Publisher. ISBN 978-0-470-91580-6

Teaching Procedures:

This will be an online class with mostly live, synchronous lectures which will be archived. I understand that the benefit of an online class is the flexibility to view lectures at times which are convenient to the individual student. That said, I would encourage attendance and participation in the synchronous sessions. At a minimum, I strongly encourage viewing of the archived lectures. It will be difficult to achieve a passing grade not viewing the class sessions, and I believe you will miss out on pertinent information and an educational opportunity. After all, that is why you are spending your money! We will have a textbook for this class. We will not cover every chapter or all of the material in the chapters we do cover. I will let you know what chapters to read. I recommend you do your reading prior to class. I will also be using articles, videos and chapters from other texts in this class. It is imperative that you consume this information. Much of it will be necessary to complete the class projects.

Investing is a business of communication and relationships. I encourage communication in class, with me and with each other. It probably goes without saying, but the communication is expected to be both courteous AND professional. You are to treat each other and me as if we were clients. A lot of what we discuss will have no real right or wrong answer. It's OK to disagree, but it must be done respectfully. I will not tolerate rude behavior, profanity or any inappropriate comments or inappropriate treatment of others or myself.

Projects:

This course will have three projects that will serve as both exams and case studies. They will mostly be real-world like case studies with some theory questions included. I will give you more details on these projects as the course goes on. Each project will use knowledge gained in our coursework/discussions. There are three sections to our course and each project will cover one section.

Advice and Odds & Ends:

We are going to cover a lot of ground in this class. Each topic we cover could be a class in itself. In fact, each topic could be a lifetime of work. So we will be going an inch deep and a mile wide. I hope to expose you to the building block academic theories prevalent in investment management, but also explain how these theories are used in practice. For each topic, I plan to present material from the text. I think this is an excellent text that you can use not only in this class but also in your career. I've been in your shoes and spent a lot of money on books. I do believe this one is a good investment. Beyond the text, I plan to use articles, research, other texts, videos and guest perspectives.

This is the second time I have taught this class and taught over the internet. If I'm doing something you don't like let me know. While teaching this class is newer to me, investing is not. I've been analyzing equities and managing portfolios for over twenty years. I strongly recommend you take advantage of my experience. Ask questions of me. Ask questions of each other. Investing is as much art as it is science, and collaboration is a critical part of the process. As you've probably heard before, there are no stupid questions.

You are investing money in this class, and my job is to help you get a return on your investment. However, as you may know (or you will find out) in life you get out what you put in. I know the idea of no tests, no final and only three projects sounds easy. I will state this emphatically, I EXPECT A LOT OUT OF YOU IN THIS CLASS. I encourage you to do the readings, listen to the videos etc. If I give you something to read or listen to, it's for a reason. I HATE busywork, bureaucracy, meetings and anything that wastes time. If I don't think it's important, I won't give it to you, or I will tell you that it's an interesting read for your spare time. I'm pretty busy, so if I take the time to give you something to consume, it's important. That said, you should be looking at things on your own – the Wall Street Journal, CNBC, Financial Analysts Journal, CFA Institute Facebook etc. I guarantee you that most of the things that we will learn and discuss are going on every day in the real world. Engage yourself in that world. Curiosity is the hallmark of a good investor.

Grading:

90% and above = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60 – 69% = D

Less than 60% = F

Project 1 = 30%

Project 2 = 35%

Project 3 = 35%

Course Outline:

Here are the textbook chapter assignments. These may change as the term goes on.

Week 1 – Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2 (pages 90-102 only)

Week 2 – Chapter 3 – Market Efficiency

Week 3 – Chapter 4 – Portfolio Management an Over view and Chapter 5 Risk & Return Part 1

Week 4 – Chapter 6 – Risk and Return Part 2

Week 5 – Chapter 7 – Basics of Portfolio Planning and Construction

Week 6 – Project 1 Study review. Project due later this week.

Week 7 – Project 1 answer review and Chapter 8 – Overview of Equity Securities

Week 8 – Chapter 9 – Intro to Industry and Company Analysis

Week 9 – Chapter 10 – Equity Valuation Concepts and basic Tools

Week 10 – Chapter 11 Equity Market Valuation and Chapter 12 Technical Analysis

Week 11 – Project 2 Review and due later this week.

Week 12 – Overview of fixed income securities

Week 13 – Fixed income risk and return

Week 14 – Fixed Income Credit analysis

Week 15 – Project 3 Review

Week 16 – Project Due

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.

- 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.

- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset) http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset

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.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical) <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the “My Courses” tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

Pearson Learning Studio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson Learning Studio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson Learning Studio Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You then will be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

Note: Personal computer 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, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or 1-866-656-5511
2. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

Internet Access

An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu). <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

FREE Mobile APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	App Title:	iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone Android – LearningStudio Courses - Phone
	Operating System:	iPhone - OS 6 and above Android – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS
	iPhone App URL:	https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8
	Android App URL:	https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses
- Grade to Date
- View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
- View Activity Feed for all courses
- View course filters on activities
- View link to Privacy Policy
- Ability to Sign out
- Send Feedback

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

My primary form of communication with the class will be through Email and Announcements. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information critical to the class will be disseminated to students in this way via your official University Email address available to me through MyLeo and in Announcements. It will be your responsibility to check your University Email and Announcements regularly.

Students who Email me outside of regular office hours can expect a reply within 24 hours M-F. Students who Email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply by the end of the next regularly scheduled business day.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

Course Specific Procedures

Late Work

In principle, I do not accept late work and do not believe in allowing students to turn in work after the due date. My position is that everyone knows the rules of engagement at the beginning of the term and that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they plan accordingly to submit their assignments in a timely manner.

Drop Course Policy

Students should take responsibility for dropping themselves from the course according to University policy should this become necessary.

Academic Honesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In **ALL** instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Plagiarism is defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

Collusion is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment
- If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

Students should also reference the following link [Criminal Justice web site](#) for more information.

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. (See current Student Guidebook).

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)

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
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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.