

Week #5 – After the First Exam – Starting Stocks!

Don't Give Up! *Never* Give Up!

Usually, I wait until the end of my weekly announcement / e-mail message until I give you my standard pep talk. This time, I thought I would give it to you first. I figured you needed it after the first exam. It never fails. Some students do very well on the exam. Some students do not do very well on the exam. And some students do not even take the first exam. (Some of those will drop and others will catch up. If you did not take the exam, please contact me as soon as possible. Please be one of the students who catches up. We want you to succeed!) My apologies for any problems some of you may have had with Blackboard. Your comments on the exam, as well as everything else regarding the course, are always appreciated. (Don't forget about the *Strength-to-Go-On Bar & Grille* discussion board. Remember that you can post anonymously.) A few students searched the Internet during the exam and got definitions from Investopedia. They are usually a good source of information about investing but in this case, their definition about short-term investments was very misleading. Those of you who did, please take another close look at the last chapter 1 presentation regarding short-term investments.

The grade sheets will be posted by Wednesday night, February 18th, on the class web site. There will be the summary page which lists your score on the exam out of 100 points as well as your current overall course score and grade. The second page will contain the exam raw scores. The third page will contain the assignments. Asterisks around an assignment score mean that the assignment is not due yet and is not counted in the current grade. We do not use Blackboard for grading. Please see the class web page for your current grade. In the [My Grades] section of Blackboard, you will see a phony assignment labeled [Grade ID Number]. Please use this student grade identification number look up your scores in the grade spreadsheets on the class web page.

Have you decompressed from the shock of the first exam yet? Yes? Good! Because now we start our Introduction to Stocks. Stocks are exciting! Stocks are sexy! Stocks are risky! The presentations are taken from chapter 5 with a very little bit from chapter 2 and very much from lecture notes by Yours Truly. There are a few ancillary presentations as well as the usual handouts / assignments / worksheets downloads. Please get started immediately. There is much to learn. You will need to do some serious studying for this chapter. Please make sure you understand all the terms on the handout and the material in the presentation. Review the material *every* day. This is the key to long-term retention of the material. There are also two copies of the text book in the library on reserve.

Speaking of stocks, please take a look at our Sample Portfolio in the chapter 1 section of the class web site. First Solar and Apple have done well but Proctor and Gamble has been a bit of a disappointment. Oh, well.

Lastly, *you can still submit assignments even if they are late*. There will be a penalty but it will still be worth your while to submit your assignments as soon as you can. The penalty grows as time goes by. (I wish I could just accept the fact that, no matter what the instructor does or says, some students will just never submit assignments. After these many years, it still upsets me no end.) I hope that you enjoy the chapter 5 assignments. If you do, that is a good sign that you could very well become a successful, long-term investor who builds their own portfolio of individual stock and bond investments. (If not, well, there are always mutual funds, right?)

Don't Give Up! *Never* Give Up! (Yes, yes, I know. I started with it but I will also end with it. It bears repeating. All of us at Southwestern College want you to succeed! Study *every* day!)

Sincerely,

Frank Paiano

P.S. The grade sheets will be available on the class page by Wednesday night. Get started on chapter 5, Introduction to Stocks. There is much to learn! Study *every* day! Please submit all assignments, even if they are late.