

Course Description/Objective:

Introduction to basic investment principles, including markets, stocks (a.k.a. equities), bonds (a.k.a. fixed-income debt investments), mutual funds (a.k.a. investment companies), insurance products, interpretation of financial statements and other financial data and information, brokerage accounts, and the relationship of economic and political conditions to investing.

Course Content:

Investment environments, risks and returns, mutual funds, stocks, bonds, markets and transactions, investment strategies and tools, portfolio management and asset allocation, options and futures contracts, real estate and other investments.

Course Materials:

Required: **Fundamentals of Investing** by Jordan & Miller, 7th, 6th, 5th, or 4th edition (See bottom of class web page)
Notebook, **Calculator** (not your *#@!in' cell phone!), Dedication, Organization, Motivation, Hard work, Jokes

Attendance and Lateness:

Do not miss class! Your grade depends on it. *Do not come late to lecture!* It is disrespectful to your fellow students. Come early and make friends. You will need them. *You are responsible for all information covered in class.* (Everything covered in class is on the class web site. The lectures are recorded.) This is **not** a valid excuse: "But I was absent that class." *Do not miss class! Do not come late!*

Grading:

The course grade will be based upon class participation, homework and individual and group assignments, short quizzes, exams, and a comprehensive final examination. The required format and documentation will be defined by the instructor. All work will be graded and returned as quickly as possible. *Any work turned in after its due date will be automatically penalized at least ten percent unless prior consent of the instructor is obtained.* Academic dishonesty of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation. *Please do your own work!* Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A – 90% of all possible assignment, short quiz, exam, attendance, and participation points
- B – 80%
- C – 70%
- D – 60%
- F – less than 60%

Time Requirements:

The Southwestern College catalog indicates that for every one college unit, two hours should be set aside for homework. Therefore, you should plan to spend approximately six hours per week for homework. The actual time spent varies from individual to individual. The best rule of thumb is to set aside *one hour each day* for Introduction to Investments. Do not procrastinate and try to do all the reading and work on one day. That is not learning. Learning requires repetition.

Accommodations:

Southwestern College recommends that students with disabilities or specific learning needs contact their professors during the first two weeks of class to discuss academic accommodations. If a student believes that they may have a disability and would like more information, they are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services (DSS) at (619) 482-6512 (voice), (619) 207-4480 (video phone), or email at DSS@swccd.edu. Alternate forms of this syllabus and other course materials are available upon request.

Academic Success Center Referral

To further your success, reinforce concepts, and achieve the stated learning objectives for this course, I refer you to the Academic Success Center learning assistance services. Upon request for tutorial services, you will be automatically enrolled in NC 3, Supervised Tutoring, a free non-credit course that does not appear on your transcripts. Services are located in the ASC (420), the Writing Center (420D), the Reading Center (420), Math Center (426), the Library/LRC Interdisciplinary Tutoring Lab, MESA, specialized on-campus school tutoring labs, the HEC, and the SYEC. Online learning materials and Online Writing Lab (OWL) are available at www.swccd.edu/~asc.

Instructor Availability:

Or just make an appointment when it is convenient for you!

Office: 210F

Office hours: **Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. – Thursday 2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.**
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. Online!
(Available via Virtual Office or phone)

Work phone: 619-421-6700x5692

Home phone: 619-223-5264 (emergency – not after 8:30 p.m. please)

E-mail: fpaiano@swccd.edu (24-hour response, Mon-Fri)

Web site: www.WonderProfessor.com

Student Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to create a portfolio of five to twenty stocks and explain their rationales for making their choices. Students will be able to calculate at least 10 financial statistics about two individual companies and then compare and contrast the two individual companies resulting in a recommendation to choose one company for their portfolio.

The following course schedule is subject to change as the course progresses. If you have any suggestions about the course material, please feel free to tell me personally or interject them into the classroom discussion. We will attempt to cover all this material but our emphasis is always placed on everyone understanding and using what is covered. However, I will make every attempt to satisfy those students who are anxious to move ahead on their own with extra assignments. ***If you get behind, please contact me or come see me for extra assistance in my office.***

Wk	Dates	Topics	Chap	Exam
1	Jan 31, Feb 2	Part 1: Introduction – Introductions & Welcome; Getting Started A Brief History of Risk and Return	1	
2	Feb 7, 9	Security Types – Overview of Financial Investments Short-term Securities	3 lecture	
3	Feb 14, 16	Mutual Funds	4	
4	Feb 21, 23	Mutual Funds (<i>continued</i>)	4	#1*
5	Feb 28, Mar 2	Part 2: Stocks Introduction to Stocks and the Stock Market	5	
6	Mar 7, 9	Introduction to Stocks and the Stock Market (<i>continued</i>)	5	
7	Mar 14, 16	Common Stock Valuations (Present Value & Dividend Discount Models)	6	
8	Mar 21, 23	Common Stock Valuations, The Value Line (<i>continued</i>)	6	#2*
9	Apr 4, 6	Projecting Cash Flow & Earnings (Financial Statements & Ratio Analysis)	17	
10	Apr 11, 13	Stock Price Behavior and Market Efficiency Behavioral Finance & the Psychology of Investing; Technical Analysis	7 8	#3*
11	Apr 18, 20	Part 3: Bonds – Interest Rates and Bond Valuation Interest Rates; Introduction to Bonds Corporate Bonds, Government Bonds, Municipal Bonds	9	
12	Apr 25, 27	Bond Prices and Yields (Bond Valuation) Hybrid Securities (Preferred Stock & Convertible Securities)	10 lecture	
13	May 2, 4	Part 4: Portfolio Management Portfolio Management Diversification and Asset Allocation (Mutual Funds Revisited)	11 11	#4*
14	May 9, 11	Parts 5 & 6: Derivatives and Speculating / Miscellaneous Topics Stock Options (a.k.a. Options, Options Contracts) Futures Contracts (a.k.a. Futures) Margin Accounts and Shorting (Buying & Selling Securities) Brokerage Accounts	15 14 2 2	
15	May 16, 18	Alternative Investments Real Estate, Annuities, Precious Metals, Collectibles, Starting a Business, etc. Baffle the Broker, NPV/IRR, Catch up, Topic of Your Choice	lecture	
16	May 23	Final Exam: Tuesday, May 23rd, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – Note date & time!		Final

* Always check www.WonderProfessor.com or the Canvas announcements and modules for date of next exam.