

Course Description/Objective:

Introduction to basic investment principles, including markets, stocks (a.k.a. equities), bonds (a.k.a. fixed-income debt instruments), 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 investment alternatives.

Course Materials:

Required: **Fundamentals of Investing** by Jordan & Miller, 7th, 6th, 5th, or 4th edition (See bottom of class web page)
Notebook, Calculator/spreadsheet, Dedication, Organization, Motivation, Hard work, *Reliable connection to Internet*

Attendance and Lateness:

Students taking on-line classes *must have self-discipline*. Reading the text and the presentations, listening to the audio lectures or viewing the audio/visual lectures, submitting the assignments, and taking the exams are all expected to be done on time. If you get behind, please contact me as soon as possible! Southwestern has many student success resources available. (See below.) Procrastinators, you know who you are! Do not be yet another online student who disappears after 4 weeks.

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, 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, three hours should be set aside for learning. Therefore, you should plan to spend approximately nine hours per week for our class. The actual time spent varies from individual to individual. The best rule of thumb is to set aside at least *one hour each day* for Introduction to Investments. Pick a time during the day that is good for you and study each day. Do not 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 discussions. 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 as soon as possible or come see me for extra assistance in my office.*** We want you to succeed!

Wk	Dates	Topics	Chap	Exam
1	Jan 30 - Feb 5	Part 1: Introduction – Introductions & Welcome; Getting Started; A Brief History of Risk and Return	1	
2	Feb 6 - Feb 12	Security Types – Overview of Financial Investments – Risk vs Return Short-term Securities	lecture lecture	
3	Feb 13 - 19	Mutual Funds	4	
4	Feb 20 - 26	Mutual Funds (<i>continued</i>)	4	#1*
5	Feb 27 - Mar 5	Part 2: Stocks Introduction to Stocks and the Stock Market	5	
6	Mar 6 - Mar 12	Introduction to Stocks and the Stock Market (<i>continued</i>)	5	
7	Mar 13 - 19	Common Stock Valuations (Present Value & Dividend Discount Models)	6	
8	Mar 20 - 26	Common Stock Valuations (<i>continued</i>)	6	#2*
9	Apr 3 - 9	Projecting Cash Flow & Earnings (Financial Statements & Ratio Analysis)	17	
10	Apr 10 - 16	Stock Price Behavior and Market Efficiency Behavioral Finance & the Psychology of Investing; Technical Analysis	7 8	#3*
11	Apr 17 - 23	Part 3: Bonds – Interest Rates and Bond Valuation Interest Rates; Introduction to Bonds Corporate Bonds, Government Bonds, Municipal Bonds	9	
12	Apr 24 - 30	Bond Prices and Yields; Bond Valuation Hybrid Securities: Preferred Stock & Convertible Securities	10 lecture	
13	May 1 - 7	Part 4: Portfolio Management Portfolio Management Diversification and Asset Allocation (Mutual Funds Revisited)	11 11	#4*
14	May 8 - 14	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 15 - 21	Alternative Investments Real Estate, Annuities, Precious Metals, Collectibles, Starting a Business, etc.	lecture	
16	May 22 - 26	Final Exam: Week of May 22 nd to 26 th		Final

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