

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 investments.

Course Materials:

Required: **Fundamentals of Investing** by Jordan & Miller, 6th (or 5th or 4th) edition, McGraw-Hill (See bottom of web page)
Notebook, Calculator (or spreadsheet if available), Dedication, Organization, Motivation, Hard work, Jokes

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, 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:

Office: 210F *Or simply make an appointment!*
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.
Thursday 2:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
Work phone: 619-421-6700x5692
Home phone: 619-223-5264 (emergency – not after 8:30 p.m. please)
Web site: **www.WonderProfessor.com**
E-mail: fpaiano@swccd.edu (24-hour response, Monday through Friday)

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 21 - 25	Part 1: Introduction – Introductions & Welcome; Getting Started; A Brief History of Risk and Return	1	
2	Jan 26 - Feb 1	Security Types – Overview of Financial Investments Short-term Securities	3 lecture	
3	Feb 2 - 8	Mutual Funds	4	
4	Feb 9 - 15	Mutual Funds (<i>continued</i>)	4	#1*
5	Feb 16 - 22	Part 2: Stock Markets The Stock Market	5	
6	Feb 23 - Mar 1	The Stock Market (<i>continued</i>)	5	
7	Mar 2-8	Common Stock Valuations (Present Value & Dividend Discount Models)	6	
8	Mar 9-15	Projecting Cash Flow and Earnings (Ratio Analysis)	17	#2*
9	Mar 16-22	Stock Price Behavior and Market Efficiency Behavioral Finance and the Psychology of Investing	7 8	
10	Mar 23-29	Part 3: Bonds – Interest Rates and Bond Valuation Interest Rates (Introduction to Bonds)	9	#3*
11	Apr 6 - 12	Corporate Bonds Government Bonds Mortgage-Backed Securities	18 19 20	
12	Apr 13-19	Bond Prices and Yields (Bond Valuation) Hybrid Securities (Preferred Stock & Convertible Securities)	10 lecture	
13	Apr 20-26	Part 4: Portfolio Management Diversification and Asset Allocation (Mutual Funds Revisited)	11	
14	Apr 27 - May 3	Parts 5 & 6: Futures and Options / Topics in Investments Stock Options (a.k.a. Options Contracts)	15	#4*
15	May 4-10	Futures Contracts	14	
16	May 11-17	Margin Accounts and Shorting (Buying & Selling Securities) Brokerage Accounts	2	
17	May 18-21	Miscellaneous investing topics (real estate, annuities, precious metals, etc.) Review / Catch-up	lecture	
18	May 22-27	Final Exam: Week of May 22 nd to May 27 th		Final

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