FINC 4541-Investment Analysis
Course Outline
Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. James A. Yoder
Office Hours: T, R 12:30 - 2:00 PM
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E-mail: jyoder@westga.edu

(You are WELCOME to drop in any time I am in the office)

The policy of the University of West Georgia is that each student is responsible for checking his/her my.westga.edu e-mail account on a regular basis.

I. Catalog Description:

Study of securities markets and security analysis for portfolio planning.

II. Required Background or Experience:

A. Prerequisites: FINC 3511 or equivalent

B. Prerequisite Justification:
In depth knowledge of present value analysis and methods of valuation of securities is required. These topics are covered in FINC 3511.

C. The course uses the writing skills developed in English courses and ABED 3100.

III. Expected Outcomes: (www.westga.edu/accfin/outcomes.htm)

A. Understand the operational mechanics of securities markets (LO 2, 3, 4, 5, 9)

B. Develop the ability to interpret financial statements and financial information (LO 2, 5, 10)

C. Improve analytical skills and critical thinking necessary to value and evaluate alternative investment decisions (LO 2, 3, 4, 5, 10)

D. Improve written communications skills through preparation of investment projects (LO 1)

E. Conduct research (library/internet) necessary to make investment decisions (LO 2, 5, 8, 10)

F. Develop a knowledge of equity and fixed income portfolio valuation (LO 1, 10, 12)
G. Understand the use of futures and options in portfolio management (LO 2, 4, 6, 10)

H. Become familiar with global investment and portfolios (LO 9)

IV. Text and References

Text: Investments, 11th ed., Charles P. Jones

Supplementary Material: Value Line, Morningstar Mutual Funds.

V. Special or Unique Student Materials:

Financial calculator such as the TI-83I TI-BA II plus, HP-10b. Devices with a wireless connection (e.g. Iphone, Blackberry, Ipad) are not allowed for test taking.

Subscription or access to Wall Street Journal

VI. Special or Unique University Facilities:

Solutions to problems from the book are on the UWG library course reserve page. The password is “invest.”

VII. Expanded Description of the Course and Instructional Methods:

A. Expanded description of the course:

This course examines investment analysis from the standpoint of the individual. Topics include investment alternatives, security markets, trading procedures, bond valuation, stock valuation, market indices, and mutual funds.

B. Instructional Methods

1. Lecture, discussion, problem solving, and applied projects.

2. Videotapes:

Analyzing Mutual Funds

VIII. Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:

A. Grading Policy (point basis)

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B. Administrative Policies

1. Class attendance is strongly recommended.

2. No makeup tests/quizzes.

3. You are responsible for knowledge of any administrative announcements (test information, schedule changes, etc. that are made during class).

4. Tests/quizzes will be announced in advance.

5. There is no extra credit in this course. Work submitted for credit in other courses will not count for credit in this course.

6. If you require any special conditions for attending class or taking tests, please notify the instructor during the first week of classes.

7. Please don’t be offended if I don’t participate in social networking sites.

8. Finance is the most quantitative major in the core and depends heavily in accounting. If you did poorly in your math and accounting courses, finance is probably not the major for you.

IX. Tentative Schedule:

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Final Exam: April 26, (Thursday), 8:00-10:30 P.M.

Last day to withdraw: March 2