

FINC 4541-Investment Analysis

Course Outline

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. James A. Yoder

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Office Hrs: By appointment

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

Catalog Description:

A study of the investment process with the concentration on the formulation of a sound investment program for both individuals and institutions.

Required Background or Experience:

- Prerequisites: FINC 3511 or equivalent
- Prerequisite Justification:
In depth knowledge of present value analysis and methods of valuation of securities is required. These topics are covered in FINC 3511.
- Writing Skills: .The course uses the writing skills developed in English courses and ABED 3100.

Expected Outcomes: ([Learning Goals \(http://www.westga.edu/accfina/1676.php\)](http://www.westga.edu/accfina/1676.php))

- Understand the operational mechanics of securities markets (LG 2, 3, 4, 5, 9)
- Develop the ability to interpret financial statements and financial information (LG 2, 4, 10)
- Improve analytical skills and critical thinking necessary to value and evaluate alternative investment decisions (LG 2, 3, 4, 5, 10)
- Improve written communications skills through preparation of investment projects (LG 1)
- Conduct research (library) necessary to make investment decisions and build and manage portfolios (LG 2, 4, 8, 10)
- Develop knowledge of equity and fixed income portfolio management (LGO 1, 10, 12)
- Understand the use of futures and options in portfolio management (LG 2, 5, 6, 10)
- Become familiar with global investment and portfolios (LG 9)

Text and References

- Investments: Analysis and Management^{13th} or 12 ed., Charles P. Jones and Gerald Jensen.

Special or Unique Student Materials:

- Students will need access to internet, Excel or other spreadsheet program.
- A financial calculator with a cash flow button is required. Examples: TI BAII plus, TI-83, TI-83 plus. Devices with a wireless connection (e.g. iPhone, Blackberry, iPad) are not allowed for test taking.
- Subscription or access to the Wall Street Journal

Special or Unique University Facilities:

Access to the Business School Computer Lab, and the Internet are required for investment projects.

Expanded Description of the Course and Instructional Methods:

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, and market indices.

Instructional Methods

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

Methods of Evaluating the Outcomes:

Grading Policy (approximate):

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Midterm examination (2) | 200 points |
| 2. Final examination | 100 points |
| 3. Projects/quizzes | As assigned |

Administrative Policies

- Class attendance is strongly recommended.
- No makeup tests/quizzes.
- You are responsible for knowledge of any administrative announcements (test information, schedule changes, etc. that are made during class).
- Tests/quizzes will be announced in advance.
- There is no extra credit in this course. Work submitted for credit in other courses will not count for credit in this course.

- If you require any special conditions for attending class or taking tests, please notify the instructor during the first week of classes.
- Requests for quiz/exam score adjustments must be made within one week of grade assignment.
- 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.
- <https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/> contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class.
- Credit Hour Policy (3 credit hours): Students in this class will spend 150 minutes per week with faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online). Generally, students can expect to spend about 450 minutes of class work outside of the classroom each week. This out-of-class work may include, but is not limited to, readings, assignments, projects, group work, research, and test preparation. The amount of out of class time required for a given outcome will vary by student
- 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.
- You are required to log in to Course Den at least once a week. I am required to report if students on financial aid are still participating in the course on a regular basis throughout the semester.

Tentative Schedule:

| Week (Beginning Monday) | Chapter | Topic |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 08/12 | 1 | Introduction |
| 08/19 | CNN Money Essentials | Retirement Accounts |
| 08/26 | 4 | Security Markets |
| 09/02 | 5 | Trading Securities |
| 09/09 | 6 | Return and risk |
| 09/16 | 13 | Economy/Market Analysis |
| 09/23 | 14 | Sector/Industry Analysis |
| 09/30 | 16 | Technical Analysis |
| 10/07 | 15 | Company Analysis |
| 10/17 | 10 | Stock Valuation |
| 10/28 | 17 | Bond Pricing |
| 11/04 | 17 | Bond Pricing |
| 11//11 | 3 | Mutual Funds |
| 11/18 | 3 | Mutual Funds |
| 11/25 | Thanksgiving | |
| 12/02 | 3/3A | Portfolio Formation |
| | - | |

Final Exam: TBA

Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W” is October 9.