

**Course Title: FIN 331 Introductory Investments**

**Term: Fall 2022**

**Instructor: TBA**

**Course Credit: 3**

**Mode of Instruction: Online**

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**Course Description:**

This course covers the knowledge of investments, security markets, and security valuation. Development of investment strategies based on efficient markets, asset pricing, and portfolio theory will be also discussed. During the course, students will learn specific topics include why financial markets exist and how they work, efficient market hypothesis, risk versus reward, investment styles, valuation techniques, simple quantitative analysis, the power of compound interest, financial crises, and the role private equity, venture capital, innovation and start-ups, and personal financial advisors.

**Course Prerequisites:**

FIN 311 Principles Of Finance

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Understand of what is meant by an efficient market and why it matters when making investment decisions;
- B. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the basic functions of public equity and debt markets;
- C. Analyze third-party investor portfolios and produce sound analyses and recommendations for improved portfolio performance;
- D. Confront challenging investment issues that require them to identify acceptable alternatives, assess the opportunities and the risks, and make and defend decisions.

**Course Material:**

Zvi Bodie, Alex Kane, and Alan J. Marcus, *Essentials of Investments*, 12th Edition, McGraw-Hill Education, 2021.

**Evaluation:**

- Quizzes [40%]
- Mid-term Exam [25%]
- Final Exam [35%]

**Description of the Evaluation tasks:**

Assignment/ Essay/ ... : During the term, students will be required to finish several evaluation tasks within due date. All the tasks are linked with specific course topics/outcomes and will adequately assess students' competence and learning outcomes. Students are encouraged to meet with instructor about these tasks at any point.

Mid-term/ Final Exams/ Quiz/... : There may be periodic quizzes given at the beginning of lecture sessions; the feedback from these quizzes will monitor the progress of the learners and help to set learning priorities. There will be mid-term exam/ final exam for the course. They are the basic criteria for the evaluation of students' learning outcomes and final grade.

**Grading Policy:**

Students are supposed to finish each online lecture. Prior to each class, students should finish the required readings. During the class time, students are encouraged to make use of all relevant online course resources and communicate with the instructor. Students' grades are accumulated based on the cumulative evaluations.

Students' letter grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

|           |         |          |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| A+ 90-100 | A 85-89 | A- 80-84 |
| B+ 77-79  | B 73-76 | B- 70-72 |
| C+ 67-69  | C 63-66 | C- 60-62 |
| D+ 57-59  | D 53-56 | D- 50-52 |
| F < 50    |         |          |

**Academic Integrity:**

Students must strictly adhere to the university's academic integrity rule; and all essays, exams and any other form of academic assignments must adhere to these rules. Any form of plagiarism, cheating, or misappropriation of materials will be considered a violation of academic integrity and will be punishable by the university.

**Withdrawal from the Course(s):**

Students will be able to apply for a transfer or withdrawal within 3 days of the starting date of the course. If a withdrawal is applied for within 3 working days, the tuition fee will be fully refunded. After 3 days, the tuition fee will not be refunded. If a withdrawal is applied for in the first two weeks, it will be recorded as W (Withdraw) on the course transcript. After this initial two-week period, the class will be recorded as F (Fail).

**Tentative Schedule:**

| Week 1 |   |
|--------|---|
| 1      | Elements of Investments<br>Investments: Background and Issues |
| 2      | Asset Classes and Financial Instruments                       |
| 3      | Securities Markets  |
| 4      | Mutual Funds and Other Investment Companies                   |
| 5      | Equity Securities<br><b>Quiz#1</b>                            |

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|---------------|--|
| <b>Week 2</b> |  |
| 6             | Portfolio Theory   |
| 7             | Risk, Return, and the Historical Record                    |
| 8             | Efficient Diversification                                  |
| 9             | Capital Asset Pricing and Arbitrage Pricing Theory         |
| 10            | Behavioral Finance and Technical Analysis<br><b>Quiz#2</b> |
| <b>Week 3</b> |  |
| 11            | Security Analysis  |
| 12            | Macroeconomic and Industry Analysis                        |
| 13            | <b>Mid-term Exam</b>                                       |
| 14            | Equity Valuation   |
| 15            | Financial Statement Analysis<br><b>Quiz#3</b>              |
| <b>Week 4</b> |  |
| 16            | Derivative Markets   |
| 17            | Option Markets   |
| 18            | Option Valuation   |
| 19            | Future Markets and Risk Management                         |
| 20            | <b>Quiz#4</b>  |
| <b>Week 5</b> |  |
| 21            | Active Investment Management                               |
| 22            | Evaluating Investment Performance                          |
| 23            | International Diversification                              |
| 24            | Hedge Funds  |
| 25            | <b>Final Exam</b>  |