FIN4504 Investments: Summer 2019–Section 1339
Course Dates: May 20 – July 12

My Professor

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Course Credits  3
Notes           Students should anticipate a response to MyCourses email within 24 hours, but I typically respond very quickly. If MyCourses is down or you are unable to upload your assignments, or if you have questions not related to this class, please send correspondence to my main SPC email account above. Assignment grading is normally completed within 3 days after submission due date. Email availability 7 days/week.

Textbook, Online Finance Lab (Pearson), and OTIS—all required


SPC Bookstore ISBN for text: 9780134426808
Excel for Time Value of Money

For Time Value of Money calculations (chapter 4a), the use of Excel is required. As with the FIN3403 Financial Management course, Excel is the preferred tool for solving these types of problems. It is also utilized in several other statistics and finance courses at SPC, so it is best to continue working and gaining proficiency with it. There is a module of Excel resource videos in MyCourses and students are encouraged to review these prior to attempting the chapter 4a assignments.

Course Description

This course examines the nature of the modern capital markets, investments and portfolio management. It is intended to blend theory with appropriate application to create strategies to achieve successful value creation. The characteristics and valuation of equity, fixed income, and derivative securities will be addressed.

Prerequisites: FIN 3403 and admission to Banking BAS or Business Administration BS

Course Objectives

1. The student will understand the nature, requirements, and characteristics of the capital markets.
2. The student will understand the disciplines and strategies for creating and managing portfolios.
3. The student will gain an understanding of research methods, securities analysis, and securities selection disciplines and methods.
4. The student will gain an understanding of the characteristics, valuation, and application of equity, fixed income, and derivative securities.
5. The student will gain an understanding of ‘risk’ as it relates to different classes of investment securities and how it impacts personal investment decisions.

Course Structure

The course is broken down into 8 weekly segments designed to provide the student with both theory and practical application of a variety of investment strategies within a modern portfolio. Topics include Markets and Transactions; Risk and Return; Time Value of Money; Modern Portfolio Concepts; Stocks and Valuation; Fixed-Income and Valuation; Mutual Funds and ETF’s; Portfolio Management; and, Derivative Securities. Learning activities include the following:

1. PowerPoint -- Presentations provide the student with an overview of weekly lessons.

2. Readings – Students are assigned weekly readings from the textbook. Readings are required to support students in developing the knowledge and skill needed to apply the key concepts, principles, analysis and computational techniques of this course. Students need to complete the readings to adequately prepare for class assignments/activities.
Students are encouraged to pursue further research within OTIS (Online Trading and Investment Simulator).

3. Dynamic Study Modules (DSM) – Question sets assigned and available in the Pearson finance lab homework section. (Additionally, they can be accessed from the main course page of the lab for further practice. But they should initially be completed in the homework assignment section.) These are great memory refreshers after reading the corresponding textbook chapter and significantly enhance knowledge retention. They are pre-requisites to the quizzes for each chapter, meaning the chapter DSM must be completed with a score of 80% or better before the quiz will open and be available for completion. **0 points towards grade but unlock the quiz for same chapter.**

4. Quizzes - Administered in the Pearson finance lab for each chapter to test student knowledge of key concepts associated with the fundamentals of Investing. Each quiz has 9 question. Two attempts are allowed, with a 30-minute time limit for each (only best attempt is counted for grading). **9 points per quiz.**

5. Lab Assignments (problems) – Administered in the Pearson finance lab for each chapter to give students practice with the fundamental concepts, analysis and computational techniques. Two attempts given with no set time limit. Students will also receive automated feedback while working the problems. **2 point per question; number of questions varies by assignment.**

6. OTIS (Online Trading and Investment Simulator) – Weekly exercises via the OTIS website. Students will complete fifteen trading activities during the course. This simulation will guide students through a multi-step process to create a well-diversified portfolio of investment securities. Although the money invested will be fictitious, the concepts learned and theories tested will be real. **10 points per assignment.**

**OTIS ASSIGNMENTS ARE IN LIEU OF MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS** **NO MID-TERM OR FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN**

**Grading**

Standard final grading scale will be used (see below). The textbook contains 16 chapters, and all will be covered. The textbook will be emphasized heavily in Lab Quizzes (one per chapter) and homework assignments. The course uses a weighted average grading policy. **Quizzes are weighted 20% of the final grade, homework assignments (problems) are weighted 35%, and OTIS assignments are weighted 45%.**

90 – 100% = A  
80 – 89% = B  
70 – 79% = C  
60 – 69% = D  
<60% = F
A very small ‘curve’ to final grades may be applied at instructor’s discretion and is not guaranteed.

**Assignment Schedule**

Weekly assignments are broken down for you in the Assignment Schedule and Due Dates module in MyCourses. Please print the document out and use it as your Quick Reference Guide to the course. You should reference this frequently to make sure you are submitting your work on time and are prepared for Quizzes and Assignments.

**Late Assignment Policy**

There are no rights/allowances for exceptions to meeting the deadlines unless students have an official documented excuse (i.e. family death, doctor’s note, etc.). Please note that computer problems, sickness, travel, and lack of planning do not constitute an excuse for not making a deadline. This may mean you will have to use computers on campus or somewhere other than your home, or submit an assignment to the instructor’s college e-mail account if MyCourses is down (should the need arise). Again, there will be no exceptions to this rule, so be sure to view all of the content and expectations within each weekly Module to confirm you can meet them for proper completion of this course.

**Attendance Policy**

Participation in the course is essential to avoid being withdrawn for non-attendance. It includes completing and submitting ALL assignments on time and taking part in all other course communications in a timely manner. The Assignment Schedule and Due Dates document provides an overview of all assignments and due dates for this course, which are required for active participation.

Excused absences, of course, will not count against you. However, students must contact the professor to make appropriate arrangements and provide supporting documentation accordingly. Advance notice should be given to the instructor whenever possible to arrange for alternatives.

Lack of attendance can result in students being administratively withdrawn. Students are given a ‘W’ grade in the course if consecutive issues occur in Weeks 1 and 2, and a ‘WF’ for insufficient attendance/participation through the 60% point of the course (see last date to withdraw in the SPC academic calendar to avoid this issue as it can result in serious financial aid and GPA consequences). If you are in your third attempt at completing a course, you will be given a ‘WF’ grade at any point in the term if you fail to meet attendance requirements.

Failing to complete multiple OTIS assignments prior to the 60% course attendance deadline may result in the student being withdrawn with a grade of ‘WF’.
**Academic Integrity**

Academic honesty and plagiarism fall under the Academic Honesty Policy of the college. The College of Business has a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty and if the student is in violation, an “F” in the course can be applied.

Understand that not properly giving credit to the sources used in your work, even when paraphrasing, is considered plagiarism and can result in not only a zero for that assignment, but an "F" in the course. Also, turning in coursework originating from a past or current student, or someone other than you, is also a direct violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. Review the policy here: [https://go.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/](https://go.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/)

Assignments in this course are to be completed *individually*. Contact your professor with questions regarding course content or assignment instructions.

**Student Support**

To review additional college policies, visit the MyCourses Support & Student Services Hub on the MyCourses Home page. Additional information available includes MyCourses help, attendance policies, student expectations, student safety, disability resources, and more.