

Syllabus
FIN 413 Investment Analysis – Fall 2024

Instructor: Rick Learman,
MBA, CPA

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Location: Bell Tower 1422
Time: Mondays 12 PM - 2:50 PM

Office Hours: M 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM (or by
appointment)

Course Description: This upper-level finance course is one of the required courses for completing the finance option or an elective course for a business major. This course will cover portfolio theory and investment analysis in various contexts. Students will learn to link financial theory to investment practice, utilizing real financial data and tools available. Students will also learn about different investment instruments and strategies along with the securities available to the investor. At minimum, students are **expected to dedicate 9-12 hours** on average per week for successful completion of the course. The effort will pay off, and students will come out of the course well-equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge for a financial career.

Prerequisites: FIN 300, working knowledge of algebra, statistics, and Microsoft Excel.

Learning Outcomes Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Understand the purpose and role of mutual funds and investment companies.
2. Explain and apply portfolio theory. Specifically, understand the procedures to build efficient portfolio given the investment opportunity set (1, 5)
3. Describe and implement asset pricing models while understanding their shortfalls (1, 2, 3, 5)
4. Discuss market efficiency and provide examples from the financial markets (1, 5)
5. Analyze bond and stock securities and understand their risks. (1,2,5)
6. Conduct macroeconomic and microeconomic analyses as necessary for effective portfolio allocation. (1, 2, 5)
7. Use the financial statements to evaluate firms for investment purposes. (1, 2, 5)

*Above Learning Outcomes aligns with MVS' Program Learning Outcomes for: 1) Critical thinking, 2) Oral communication, 3) Written Communication, 4) Conduct (Ethics), 5) Competencies in discipline, 6) Collaboration

Course materials:

- I. Textbook: **Required.** Essentials of Investment 10th, 11th, 12th or 2024 release. By Bodie, Kane, Marcus (BKM, McGraw Hill). New or used or rent/buy a hard copy or electronic copy **without** Connect. You can choose to rent or buy any of the above editions. **We may also use case studies which will cost less than \$20 in total per student for the course.**
- II. Accepi: We will be using Accepi for online assignments. You're required to do all the assigned readings, and I may not be able to cover every part of the reading. To assure that you keep up with your reading, this platform will be used to test your reading and problem-solving skills based on the reading.

You'll access the system through Canvas. The first time you do, you'll be asked to **pay \$12.95 by credit card**. You can then start working on the first assignment. Once you've completed the assignment, you can practice the same problem again with new numbers without affecting your overall score. If you have questions, let me know, or please visit <https://accepi.com/support> or contact support@accepi.com.

- III. Microsoft Excel and Word: This course will rely more heavily on Excel than FIN 300. Make sure you are comfortable using basic functionalities on Excel.
- IV. Lecture slides: I will upload the slides on Canvas.
- V. Calculator: **Required**. The same one you had for FIN 300. If you don't have any calculator at all (that supports advanced computations such as exp(), log(), ln(), etc.), please purchase the TI BAII or TI BAII Plus financial calculator. It supports every application and function needed for class. If you already have TI 83, 84, or a similar graphing calculator, purchasing a financial calculator (TI BAII or TI BAII Plus) is still encouraged. However, a graphing calculator does support financial applications **but** just be aware that it will demand some extra work for you to figure out how to use a TI 83 or 84 instead of TI BAII for financial applications, because I will primarily explain the TI BAII keys and functions in class. You will have to consult the tutorials on www.tvmcalcs.com.
- VI. Canvas and CI email: Students must have accesses to course canvas and CSUCI email accounts. **Please turn on the email notification for announcements.**
- VII. Business/Finance/Economic news: **Recommended**. You can find the latest issues of The Wall Street Journal and BusinessWeek at the university library, or find daily business/finance news on websites such as <http://www.bloomberg.com/>, <http://money.cnn.com/>, <http://finance.yahoo.com/>.
- VIII. INVESTOPEDIA Stock Challenge (*Optional: Extra Credits*): The course will feature a stock market simulation. Students will have the chance to manage a portfolio throughout the semester. This is accessed through the web and is free-of-charge. You will receive further instructions as to how to access and goals of the simulation.

Course Grade Composition:

	Maximum Points	% Course Grade
Attendance, In-Class Participation. In-Class Assignments	250	25%
Accepi, Canvas Assignments	350	35%
Exam 1	200	20%
Exam 2	200	20%
	1000	100%

The course will follow the university's A-F grade guidelines.

Late assignments will not be accepted unless otherwise provided for within the assignment.

I. Accepi and Canvas Assignments (35%)

The online questions based on the textbook reading will check your understanding of the concepts and help you practice some basic problems. This platform will be used to help you practice a variety of problems. You'll access the system through Canvas. The first time you do, you'll be asked to pay \$9.95 (much more cost efficient than comparable platforms, like McGraw Hill Plus!, which costs more than \$100) by credit card. You can then start working on the first assignment. Once you've completed the assignment, you can practice the same problem again with new numbers without affecting your overall score. If you encounter any technical issues, let me know, or please visit accept.com/support or contact support@accepi.com.

The course may include other assignments in Canvas that will count as part of this grade.

II. Attendance/Participation/In-Class Assignments and Case Studies (25%)

Attendance and participation are key to student learning. Students may miss 1 class without grade impact. Participation grading will focus on both the quantity and quality of participation in class. There will be an element of instructor subjectivity related to participation grading.

In-class assignments are meant for you to learn to apply concepts and tools learned in class to practice using real financial data and resources and Excel. More detailed instructions will be provided for each assignment.

We will use the internet for some of our in-class assignments. Students should be prepared to access the internet during class whether by using a laptop, tablet, phone or other device brought to the classroom.

III. Exams (40%)

There will be two non-cumulative midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. How to study for the exams: review everything on the lecture slides at minimum, do all the assigned reading to supplement your understanding of the concepts discussed in class, memorize the key terms, do all the concept check problems (solutions provided at the end of chapter), practice the Accepi

questions.

Please **schedule an appointment at least 10 days in advance** if you cannot take the exam on the designated date. If you fail to notify me at least 10 days in advance, you agree that you forfeit the right to take the make-up exam. If a sudden illness prevents you from taking it on time, you *must* bring me a doctor's note from the university clinic visitation.

Final Exam Date and Time: Monday Dec 9, 10:30AM-12:30PM

Topics to be Covered by Week (refer to Bodie text, 2024 release, earlier versions may have different chapter numbers):

Live Session	Where class is held	Meeting Date	Bodie Chapters Covered (2024 Release)***	Topics
1	Bell Tower 1422	26-Aug	22	Course Introduction and Overview, Investing and the Investing Process, Asset Classes and Financial Instruments
2	Holiday*	2-Sep		
3	Asynch**	9-Sep	3, 4	Security Markets, Mutual Funds & Other Investment Companies,
4	Bell Tower 1422	16-Sep	5,6	Risk & Return, Efficient diversification
5	Bell Tower 1422	23-Sep	7	CAPM and APT, Intro to Investopedia Extra Credit
6	Bell Tower 1422	30-Sep	8	The efficient market hypothesis
7	Bell Tower 1422	7-Oct	9	Behavioral finance; mid-term exam prep
8	Bell Tower 1422	14-Oct	--	Mid-term Exam
9	Bell Tower 1422	21-Oct	10	Bond prices and yields
10	Bell Tower 1422	28-Oct	11	Managing bond portfolios
11	Bell Tower 1422	4-Nov	12	Macroeconomic and industry analysis
12	Holiday*	11-Nov	13	Equity Valuation
13	Bell Tower 1422	18-Nov	18	Evaluating Investment Performance
14	Bell Tower 1422	25-Nov	14	Financial Statement Analysis
15	Bell Tower 1422	2-Dec	--	Final Exam Prep
16	Bell Tower 1422	9-Dec	--	Final Exam 10:30am - 12:30pm

*Academic Holidays - no class will be held this day.

**This class will be held asynchronously, further details to follow

***Earlier book editions may feature different chapter numbers

Letter Grade: Course letter grade will be determined based on the percentage of your points out of 1000. The “ABCDF” grading system will be used with the addition of “+” or “-“ to any grade except “F.”

Course Policies

A. **No late assignments will be accepted.** If you will not be able to turn in an assignment on time due to a special circumstance, **please notify me immediately.** Special permissions for late coursework may be granted due to illness, injury, or family emergencies. However, **a 10 percent grade deduction per day will apply to all late assignments that are accepted.**

B. Cheating and Plagiarism: This course will adhere to CSUCI's academic dishonesty policy. "CI values academic integrity and will not tolerate acts of academic dishonesty. If a student commits an act of academic dishonesty in a course, the faculty member shall handle the incident based on applicable campus procedures. " A student will automatically **fail** the class due to academic dishonesty.

C. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Cal State Channel Islands is committed to equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The purpose of Disability Accommodations and Support Services is to assist students with disabilities to realize their academic and personal potential. Students with disabilities needing accommodation are required to contact the Disability Program office at (805) 437-3331. All requests for accommodations need appropriate advance notice by the student to avoid a delay in services. Please discuss approved accommodations with faculty.

Instructor Communication Policy

1. Please contact me by emailing me at richard.learman@csuci.edu. **It is your responsibility to check your CSUCI email account and Canvas regularly for announcements and additional information.**
2. All email communications outside of Canvas should have the following subject heading: FIN413, followed by a brief summary of your issue or concern. I will respond to emails within 48 hours, weekends and university holidays excluded.
3. If you encounter technical issues when working on your online quizzes or other assignments, please email the University Help desk at helpdesk@csuci.edu and copy me on the email. Your email should briefly and succinctly describe the problem. **Note: There are no IT technicians to help you over the weekends.** To avoid disruptive last-minute technical glitches, **please don't wait until the last minute to work on your assignments.**

*Source: <http://blogs.lsc.edu/expectations/netiquette-guidelines/>

Technical Support

If you run into technical problems during this course, you should do the following:

1. Clear your browser's cache
2. Try a different browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, or Chrome)
3. Shut down and restart your computer
4. Contact the University Help desk helpdesk@csuci.edu or 805-437-8552

Note: Information contained in this syllabus, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change without advance notice. Topics and assignments and their timing listed under the tentative course schedule may be adjusted during the semester depending on the pace and needs of the class.

Our Class Disruption Plan

Disruption?

Yes! A disruption means you, me, or all of us cannot participate in 'class as usual' for a reason we could not predict at the beginning of the semester. After COVID-19, we are well aware that disruption can happen fast. While we hope to avoid any closures due to COVID related reasons, let's face it, disruption happens every semester. You may get sick, I may get sick, or campus may close due to a wildfire - this is California afterall. Life happens! Our goal as a learning community is to do our best to keep teaching and learning with as little interruption as possible. This page explains what you can expect from me and what I expect from you when facing disruption - small or big!

If I am 'out'

If for any reason I have to be absent unexpectedly for at least a week or longer, I will make sure to announce it as soon as I can through Canvas announcements. I will most likely have some materials for you to work on, such that you know what to do without my immediate instruction. Please keep an eye out for all the announcements I send out.

If you are 'out'

If you know ahead of time you're going to be absent for a certain length of time, then let me know, such that I can provide directions as to how to keep pace and stick with the course without falling too behind.

If your absence is not expected (due to illness, family emergency, etc), then contact me when you can, at your earliest convenience. In case of illness, if you can keep the doctor's note from your illness, then it'd help. Once you return and resume work, contact me such that I can provide directions as you how to catch up.

If Campus Closes

If all of campus closes, which has happened at least once over the last three or more academic years, I will communicate to you through the Canvas announcements, which will arrive in your email inbox.