

FIN 452 – Investment Analysis

Fall 2018

Class #13842 T,R 9:30-10:45

Class #13999 T,R 11-12:15

Room: BB 2228

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Office Hours: TR 9:00-9:30, 1:00-2:00, and by appointment.

Course Description:

Prerequisites: FIN 352; Grade of “C” or higher in FIN 303; Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam (UDWPE) score of 8 or higher. BUS 302/L are prerequisites for Business majors. Portfolio management and performance evaluation and topics related to pension and other institutional fund management. It includes applications to portfolio benchmarking as well as discussions of alternative investment approaches and products.

Textbook and Calculator:

There is no textbook for the course but it is expected that each student will have access to the portfolio management part of a basic investments textbook. One option is the investments supplement to Welch’s financial management text, which is available online for no cost. It is expected that all students can download information from the internet (including PDF files) and can use Excel for basic financial and mathematical calculations. Students will also need a financial calculator. There is a webpage (<http://www.csun.edu/~jpd45767/452/fin 452.html>) which serves as a guide to the class. You should bookmark it.

Grading:

The course grade is based on two exams, a midterm (40%) and a final (60%). +/- grading will be used. There are no early or makeup exams. You may not enter the classroom 30 minutes after the start of an exam. Each student will be required to make five presentations on ongoing events in financial markets which will serve as the foundation for class discussion.

Other:

Please turn cell phones off or to vibrate. Please do not text-message during class.

COBAE Ethics Statement & CSUN Academic Honesty Policy

The College of Business and Economics at California State University, Northridge, prepares students to be ethical decision makers. The college maintains high standards of ethical conduct that students are expected to maintain throughout their academic and professional careers. Please view the "core values" at <http://www.csun.edu/busecon>.

The CSUN policy on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. A statement of the policy can be found in the CSUN 2006-2008 Catalog, Appendix C, p.536. (URL:<http://www.csun.edu/catalog/>) Any student violating the academic dishonesty policy with respect to any aspect of this class will not receive credit for the course and will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) In-depth study of portfolio management.
- 2) Build knowledge about the workings of financial markets.

Certifications

Career success in investment management typically requires a mix of work experience, education and certification. The basic certification is the SIE exam combined with the Series 7 exam. Most of the topics in the investments sections of those exam are covered in FIN 352.

The CFA is a more advanced certification that focuses in greater detail on financial analysis and investment theory. This class will concentrate on the portfolio management parts of the Level 1 and Level 2 CFA exams. Students interested in taking the Level 1 CFA exam should consult with the Department CFA advisor about the appropriate courses to take.