



## **FIN 270 Introduction to Investments**

**Summer 2024**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:**TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course provides a comprehensive understanding of investment principles, portfolio management strategies, securities market regulations, and practical valuation techniques for stocks and bonds. Through a blend of theory and real-world applications, students develop analytical skills to make informed investment decisions and construct diversified portfolios.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Apply diverse methods for investment analysis across asset classes with quantitative and qualitative techniques;
2. Understand stock and bond market mechanisms, including trading dynamics and market influences;
3. Interpret government regulations on securities markets and their implications for investors and trading practices;
4. Utilize valuation techniques to assess common stocks, fixed income securities, and alternative investments.

### **PREREQUISITES**

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FIN 106 Financial Management

### **GRADING**

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Assignments	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Required Texts:

Zvi Bodie, Alex Kane and Alan Marcus, *Investments*, 12th Ed, McGrawHil, 2020.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: The Investment Environment Topic 2: Asset Classes and Financial Instruments Topic 3: Mutual Funds and Other Investment Companies Topic 4: Risk, Return, and the Historical Record <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#1
Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Capital Allocation to Risky Assets Topic 6: Efficient Diversification Topic 7: The Capital Asset Pricing Model Topic 8: Arbitrage Pricing Theory and Multifactor Models of Risk and Return <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#2



Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: The Efficient Market Hypothesis Topic 10: Behavioral Finance and Technical Analysis Topic 11: Empirical Evidence on Security Returns Topic 12: Fixed-Income Securities <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#1 Assignment 1
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Bond Prices and Yields Topic 14: Security Analysis Topic 15: Macroeconomic and Industry Analysis Topic 16: Equity Valuation Models <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#2 Assignment 2
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Financial Statement Analysis Topic 18: Options, Futures, and Other Derivatives Topic 19: International Diversification Topic 20: Hedge Funds <b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

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1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.



## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a



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learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.