

SYLLABUS

FIN621 -- Investments
Bldg: Kelce Room: 203
2:00-3:15 T/TH
Fall 2007

Dr. Kevin Bracker
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Course Description: Investments. 3 hours. Functions and operations of security markets: problems of planning and managing investing programs for various types of investors. Prerequisite: ECON 326 Business Finance or permission of instructor, and junior standing. May be taken for honors.

Office hours: MWF 9:30 -10:50
MW 2:00-3:00
T/TH 9:45-11:45
and by appointment

Text: Hirt, Geoffrey A. and Stanley B. Block. Fundamentals of Investment Management, 8th Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2006. (Note – this same book will be used for ECON624 Security Analysis and Portfolio Management)

Calculator: **Required.** Should be a financial calculator that includes NPV and IRR features. The HP10B, TI BAI+, and LeWorld Financial Calculators are all examples of such a calculator.

Grading:	Midterm Exam	150
	Final Exam	150
	Stock-Track Project	75
	Stock Analyst Report	100
	Value Line Project	25
	Spreadsheet Projects	50
	Quizzes	75
	Participation	50

The final grades will be determined as follows*:

607 - 675	A
540 - 606	B
472 - 539	C
405 - 471	D
0 - 404	F

*The instructor reserves the right to add unannounced quizzes if the class does not appear to be prepared or if I do not feel that participation is adequate. This will change the point breakdown slightly (although the percent breakdown will remain unchanged).

Please note that your final grade is **NOT** open for negotiation. Your grade will be determined by the points you earn during the semester and will not be influenced by the grade you need for graduation or to maintain academic standing.

Exams: The exams will be designed to test the student over ALL material that has been covered up to that time. If you can not attend the exam for a valid reason **AND** I am notified in advance you will be allowed to take a make-up exam. Exams will consist of point take-home portion and an in-class portion. Students will be allowed a single 5" x 7" (or smaller) note card (front and back) during the exam.

Homework: Homework will be assigned on a regular basis, but will not be collected. This homework is essential to performing well in this class. In order to get the most from the homework assignments, it should be completed before we go over the solutions in class. The homework may be collected for points if the instructor feels that students are not giving adequate attention to this homework.

Quizzes: There will be four announced quizzes during the semester at 25 points each. Your top three quiz scores will be used for determining your quiz grade. The lowest score will be dropped. **There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.**

Stock-Trak Project: This is a stock trading simulation detailed on a separate handout.

Stock Analyst Report: This is a group project (3-4 students per group), which will require students to prepare a professional quality stock analyst report for a particular firm. This report will include general economic analysis, industry analysis, and firm analysis and include risk and valuation analysis. More details of this project will be presented on a separate handout.

Spreadsheet Projects: There are two group projects (3-4 students per group) based on developing and using spreadsheets as a financial analysis tool. More details on these projects will be presented on a separate handout.

Value Line Project: Details of this project will be presented on a separate handout.

Participation: This is an upper level class and as such participation is expected. Participation includes attending class on a regular basis, taking part in class discussions, taking part in Blackboard discussion forums, answering questions in class, and asking questions in class. Please note that merely attending class is not participation. As mentioned earlier, I reserve the right to add pop quizzes if class participation is not adequate.

Academic Honesty: Cheating in any form (including plagiarism) will not be tolerated.

Course Outline:

- A. Introduction to Investments (Chs. 1-4)
- B. Analysis and Valuation of Equity Securities – Part I (Chs. 5-6)

EXAM I

- C. Analysis and Valuation of Equity Securities – Part II (Chs. 7-8)
- C. Issues in Efficient Markets (Chs. 9-10)
- D. Introduction to Fixed-Income Securities (Chs. 11-12)

FINAL EXAM (Thursday, December 13th, 2:00 – 3:50)