**Finance 400 Section 01 (10340)**

*Investment Analysis*

*Fall 2020*

**Instructor**  
Mark Pyles

**Class**  
1:40 – 2:55 TR, Beatty 214

**Office**  
414 Beatty Center

**E-mail**  
PylesM@cofc.edu

**Phone Number**  
843-953-7991 (Office); 843-513-8970 (Cell)

**Office Hours**  
TR: 11:00 – 12:00  
W: 11:00 - 12:00; 1:00 – 3:00

**DESCRIPTION**

This course covers basic investment theory with emphasis given to the analysis of securities, portfolio management and the operation of the securities market.

**PREREQUISITES**

Junior standing, ACCT 203, 204, DSCI 232, FINC 303, ECON 200, 201, MATH 104 or 250

**OBJECTIVES**

**Course Objectives**

Successful completion of this course will entail the student has a working knowledge in:

- types of financial investments
- financial market operations
- debt and equity investment valuation
- portfolio theory
- derivatives trading
- portfolio creation and performance evaluation

**SB Objectives**

Consistent with the goals of the School of Business, this course includes instruction in:

*Communication Skills:* Students will complete numerous written assignments that test their ability to effectively relate their understanding of investment principals. Assignments will require the student to accurately and effectively implement academic materials in simulated real-world situations. Examples include trading explanations accompanying investment activity in simulated trading accounts and written explanations to accompany financial modeling cases in Excel. Successful completion will require a high level of grammatical and expositional ability, as well as an understanding of the business style of writing.

*Quantitative Fluency:* This course requires extensive application of mathematical theory and practice. Students will be required to use standard algebraic calculations to solve realistic financial questions. Students will recognize that a level of quantitative proficiency is necessary to benefit from investment activity, from both the professional and private perspectives.

*Global and Civic Responsibility:* Students will be asked to solve problems related to ethical dilemmas, encapsulated in problems related to the global investment
environment. They will be asked to view issues through difference lenses and
gain an appreciation for the complexities involved in addressing financial
situations in a global economy. Students will learn to trade securities on
exchanges around the world, develop an appreciation for the similarities and
differences relative to domestic investment, and recognize the benefit of
developing a global investment portfolio.

Intellectual Innovation and Creativity: Careful attention will be devoted to
placing students in a position where they must utilize resourcefulness and
creativity in solving problems related to the investing financial assets. Questions
will be asked in ways that require the students to use the materials learned in a
variety of ways, rather than simply requiring repetition of known processes. Such
flexibility in application is a necessity in successfully addressing changing
investment environments. Students will be required to address situations where
changing external parameters are not only possible, but expected.

Synthesis: This course requires knowledge from the associated disciplines of
accounting, economics, math, and statistics. As such, students are expected to
apply a level of proficiency in those subject areas in their understanding of
financial principles and investment applications.

COURSE MATERIALS
Textbook
The text is *Fundamentals of Investments* by Jordan, Miller, and Dolvin, 9/e.

Technology
A basic scientific calculator is required. A financial calculator with functions such as
present value and internal rate of return will also be used periodically throughout the
class. If you buy a new one, I highly recommend the TI BA II Plus. It is inexpensive and
is considered very easy to use.

In addition, each student (pursuant to the new policies) must have access to a laptop with
Excel, which will be used throughout the course.

COURSE POLICIES
Given the unique nature of the current environment and the difficulties that we are all
navigating, the College of Charleston has approved the following statement for including
in all syllabi. The sentiments expressed within provide the framework for how courses
will be administered this semester.

_institutional Syllabus Statement Regarding the Fall 2020 Semester_

The College of Charleston is committed to promoting the health and safety of our
campus community. To that end, all faculty and students must abide by public
health guidelines that include practicing social distancing in the classroom and
elsewhere on campus, following signage indicating the entrance, exit, and traffic
flow in and around campus buildings, wearing a mask or cloth face covering
while in the presence of others, washing or sanitizing hands frequently, sanitizing
individual and shared learning and work spaces, and staying home when sick.
These practices are mandatory. Students will not be allowed to attend class without an appropriate face covering or when showing symptoms of illness.

Due to social distancing requirements, the number of students allowed in the classroom at one time is significantly reduced. As a result, most in-person courses will include a variety of online and technology enhanced components to ensure continuity of learning for each student throughout the semester. These strategies will vary by course section and students are advised to read each syllabus carefully. Faculty have planned each course to enable all students, whether they are in the classroom or working remotely, to be fully engaged in the learning experience. Before the drop/add deadline, students should decide whether the course plan on the syllabus matches their own circumstance. All faculty will use OAKS to facilitate student access to the course syllabus, course materials, and the gradebook. The College of Charleston’s standard grading system is in effect.

There is a possibility that the semester will be disrupted by weather or the pandemic. Every course syllabus will include a plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning in the event in-person classes must be suspended. Regardless of the method of instruction, all courses will move online for one week after Thanksgiving. Final exams will be administered online. Therefore, all students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

The College anticipates that some members of the community will fall ill or test positive for the coronavirus, and then be required to quarantine thereby missing class, assignments, and assessments. Faculty are expected to provide reasonable accommodations as determined by the content, level, and expectations of their courses for students who become ill or indicate a need to isolate themselves. To the extent possible, arrangements will be made for students with COVID-19 related absences to continue in the class. Faculty are encouraged to make explicit in their syllabus what sorts of accommodations students can expect with respect to missed course meetings, assignments, and assessments. However, students should be aware that extended absences for any reason cannot be accommodated in every course. Missed assignments and assessments may result in poor or failing grades. If a student is absent from class for an extended period, a withdrawal (W) before the deadline should be strongly considered. In all cases, assigning course grades is the responsibility of the instructor consistent with the grading policy published on the syllabus.

Attendance Policy
Under normal circumstances it is unquestionably expected that each student attend and participate in all class periods, with the exception of College-supported excused absences. However, the current semester is far from normal in terms of circumstances provided. There is no WA grade, and absence memos will not be used. This course will rely upon an honor-based system where I will assume you make the best efforts possible to attend and participate in the course (whether in person or on-line). In turn, I ask that you please promptly and clearly communicate with me any issues regarding your
attendance and/or your participation in the course. I will trust that your explanations for any missed classes are honest and truthful, and will work with you to the degree possible to make up any work missed. The entirety of the course materials will be available on OAKS, just in case we do have to move entirely online at any point, or if any enrolled students need to access any and all parts of the course remotely as it progresses.

In the end, it simply boils down to mutual respect and trust and I will do my part if you will do yours.

More specifically, the course will be conducted entirely virtually during the first three weeks, and then shift to a hybrid format until Thanksgiving break, after which it will again become solely virtual for the duration of the semester. Given social distancing requirements of the classroom we are assigned, only one-fourth of you can be in the room at one time, thus I will divide the roster into Groups A, B, C, and D. Each group will only be able to physically attend on the assigned dates (see the schedule at the end for details). If you cannot or do not feel comfortable attending in-person classes, I ask that you communicate with me as soon and frequently as possible. Again, I will remain as flexible as possible throughout, as long as effort and respect is present on your behalf as well. All Exams will be done virtually.

Honor Code
Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission--is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.
Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at [http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php](http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php).

**Students with Disabilities**
The College will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed. For more information, you may visit the disability services website: [http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/).

**OAKS**
OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted.

**Continuity of Learning**
Due to social distancing requirements, this class will include a variety of online and technology enhanced components to reinforce continuity of learning for all enrolled students. Before the drop/add deadline, students should decide whether the course plan on the syllabus matches their own circumstances.

*During the course of class, in response to the development of COVID-19, the course delivery mode could be switched among face-to-face, online, or hybrid. The students need to make sure that their study will not be interrupted by the change of the delivery mode.*

**Recording of Classes (via ZOOM)**
Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

**Inclement Weather, Pandemic, or Substantial Interruption of Instruction**
If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Exams**
There will be two non-cumulative midterm exams and a non-cumulative final worth 100 points each. The first two exams are given during the regular class period on the dates given in the schedule below. The date and time of the final exam follows the College
Final Exam Schedule. All three exams will be administered virtually, and students will be expected to complete the test via Zoom monitoring.

_Homework_
Homework will be assigned at the end of every chapter. The assignments will not be graded as part of your final grade, but it is highly recommended that you complete them as they will provide a good indication of what you need to know for the tests. Answers to the homework will also be provided as a study aide for quizzes and tests.

_Class Participation_
There will be 25 points available for class participation. While there is certainly a degree of subjectivity to this, I will use the following in evaluating your participation: attendance (both in person and virtually), the amount of time spent reviewing the online materials, participation in online and in-person discussions pertaining to the materials, and your ability to stay up-to-date with the schedule.

_Projects_
There will be two required projects during the course of the class. These will be Excel-based and demonstrate application of materials taught in the course, using real world data. Each will be introduced approximately 2 weeks before they are due. Each project will be worth 50 points.

_Investment Simulation_
StockTrak is an online investment simulation, where students can buy and sell securities just as you do in the real world. The investment time period is approximately 12 weeks, beginning September 14th and ending December 4th.

As we move throughout the course, students will be required to trade the financial assets as they are covered. To complete the overall requirements, the student must do each of the following during that time period:

- Open a Stock-Trak account (free with new textbook, approximately $30 without).
- Make at least one transaction in each security area covered, which includes:
  1. Buy at least one bond (corporate or government).
  2. Buy at least one stock.
  3. Short sell at least one stock.
  4. Buy at least one option (call or put).
  5. Write at least one option (call or put).
  6. Buy or sell at least one futures contract.
  7. Buy at least one mutual fund.
- Be willing to discuss (as part of participation score) their activities either in person or virtually via video.
- Students will complete two write-ups, one approximately mid-way through the simulation and the other at completion. Each will include the following:
  1. Title page with name, date, course, etc.
  2. A portfolio printout from Stock-Trak.
3. A 5-page summary of your investment experience, including your successes, failures and strategies. *more detail will be provided as to assignment requirements*

Each write-up is worth 25 points. In addition, any student whose portfolio’s ending value is above its beginning value will earn 2 extra points, and any student whose portfolio has a return greater than the S&P500 will earn an additional 3 points. Thus, the total point potential for this extra credit is 5 points.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 * 100 pts. each)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects (2 * 50 pts. each)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock-Trak</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Letter grades are assigned as follows:

- **A** = 90% - 100% (425-475 pts.)
- **B** = 80% - 89% (378-424 pts.)
- **C** = 70% - 79% (330-377 pts.)
- **D** = 60% - 69% (283-329 pts.)
- **F** = below 60% (below 283 pts.)
Tentative Class Schedule:

Aug. 25*  1  A brief history of risk and return
Aug. 27*  1  A brief history of risk and return
Sept. 1*  2  Buying and selling securities
Sept. 3*  2  Buying and selling securities (continued)
Sept. 8*  3  Security types
Sept. 10* 5  The stock market
Sept. 15  6  Common stock valuation
Sept. 17  6  Common stock valuation (continued)
Sept. 22  6  Common stock valuation (continued)
Sept. 24*  Exam  EXAM #1: Chps. 1-3, 5, 6
Sept. 29  9  Interest Rates
Oct. 1  10  Bond prices and yields
Oct. 6  10  Bond prices and yields (continued)
Oct. 8  15  Stock options
Oct. 13  15  Stock options (continued)
Oct. 15  16  Option valuation
Oct. 20  16  Option valuation (continued)
Oct. 22  14  Futures contracts
Oct. 27*  Exam  EXAM #2: Chps 9, 10, 14-16
Oct. 29  4  Mutual funds
Nov. 3 -  Election day (no class)
Nov. 5  11  Diversification and asset allocation
Nov. 10  11  Diversification and asset allocation (continued)
Nov. 12  12  Risk, return, and the SML
Nov. 17  12  Risk, return, and the SML (continued)
Nov. 19  13  Performance evaluation and risk mgmt.
Nov. 24*  13  Performance evaluation and risk mgmt. (cont’d)
Nov. 26 -  Thanksgiving break (no class)
Dec. 1*  7/8  Market efficiency and behavioral finance
Dec. 3*  7/8  Market efficiency and behavioral finance (cont’d)
Dec. 8 (1:00)  Exam  FINAL EXAM: Chps. 4, 11-13, 7, 8

*represents a virtual learning day, where no students will be in the classroom

Due to social distancing requirements for this classroom, only ¼ of the class can be in the room at the same time. Thus, you will be assigned to one of four groups, either Group A, Group B, Group C, or Group D. Thus, for scheduling purposes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>9/15, 10/1, 10/15, 11/5, 11/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>9/17, 10/6, 10/20, 11/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>9/22, 10/8, 10/22, 11/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group D</td>
<td>9/29, 10/13, 10/29, 11/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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