

INVESTMENTS MANAGEMENT

FIN 417 002
Spring 2025

Instructor: Jinghua Wang, Ph.D.

Office: 4016 SOM **Phone:** 973-596-6286
(office)

Email: jw78@njit.edu (*the best way to
contact me*)

Class Time & Location:

MW 8:30 am – 9:50 am KUPF 103

Technology: Generative Artificial
Intelligence (AI), Excel & Bloomberg

Prerequisite: FIN 315

Credits: 3 credits

Office Hours on Zoom: Tuesdays &
Thursdays 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm or by
appointment

Office Hours on Campus: Mondays &
Wednesdays 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm or by
appointment

Recall this:

What I hear, I forget.

What I see, I remember.

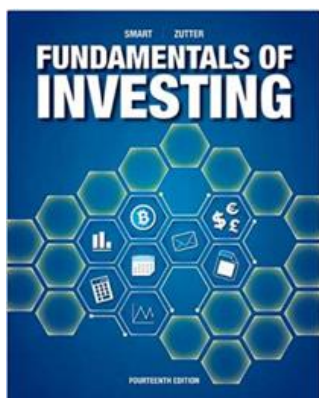
What I do, I understand.

Course Overview

The course is intended to introduce students to key concepts, valuation methods and models and practical issues in investments from an investor's perspective. The course has two main components. First, the course will cover the theories of investments where the students will learn the main ideas proposed in academic literature to construct well-diversified portfolios. Second, the course will provide students the necessary tools to put the theoretical concepts covered in this course into practice.

Required Course Materials

Fundamentals of Investing, Scott Smart and Chad Zutter. Pearson, 14th Edition (ISBN 13: 9780135175217).



Supplemental Book

Investments, By Zvi Bodie, Alex Kane, Alan Marcus

12th Edition, 2021

ISBN10: 1260013839 | ISBN13: 9781260013832

Recommended Reading

Financial Times

When Genius Failed, Roger Lowenstein, Random House

The Big Short, Michael Lewis, W. W. Norton & Company

Too Big to Fail, Andrew Ross Sorkin, Penguin Books

The Wall Street Journal

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

| Course Outcome | AACSB Goal | AACSB Outcome |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the overall investment process and key elements involved in the investment process; | LC 1 Develop an Understanding of Business Concepts and the Technical Knowledge to Solve Business Problems | LO 1.1 Our students will demonstrate the knowledge and application of business fundamentals |
| | | LO 1.2 Our students will demonstrate the ability to solve business problems using current technology |
| | LG 4 - Develop Ethical Reasoning Skills | LO 1 - Our students will demonstrate the ability to identify ethical dilemmas and make decisions grounded in ethical principles |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the various financial instruments; | LC 2 Develop Effective Communication Skills | LO 2.1 Our students will demonstrate the ability to deliver effective presentations enhanced by technology |
| | LC 1 Develop an Understanding of Business Concepts and the Technical Knowledge to Solve Business Problems | LO 1.1 Our students will demonstrate the knowledge and application of business fundamentals |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the role of interest rate and understand the modern portfolio theory; and | LC 1 Develop an Understanding of Business Concepts and the Technical Knowledge to Solve Business Problems | LO 1.1 Our students will demonstrate the knowledge and application of business fundamentals |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply the concept of a risk-return tradeoff in asset allocation. | LC 3 Interact Effectively in Teams | LO 3.1 Our students will demonstrate the ability to understand and use team building behaviors to accomplish group tasks |
| | LG 5 - Acquire Technological Skills | LO 1 - Our students will demonstrate the ability to use technology for effective project management |

Course Website

Please log into CANVAS. The Canvas site is where course materials are posted. Make sure you have an NJIT UCID and password so that you are able to access Canvas. I will use Canvas to post announcements and supplemental materials throughout the semester. **So, please be sure to check the site (canvas.njit.edu) frequently. Please contact helpdesk (973-596-2900) for problems associated with Canvas.**

You will have to take responsibility for spending the appropriate amount of time to learn the material. ***You should expect to spend at least 6-9 hours each week on the course.***

COURSE DELIVERABLES/ FINAL GRADE COMPONENTS

Your grade for this course will be based on the following components:

| Grading Items | Total Points |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Unit Exams | 23% |
| Stock Competition Project | 15% |
| Quizzes | 21% |
| Lesson Discussions | 15% |
| Individual Assignments | 9% |
| Week Review | 5% |
| Class Participation/Attendance | 12% |
| Total | 100% |
| Bonus -Bloomberg Certificate | 5% |

The scale used for grading (**NO curve**) is as follows:

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| A | 90% - 100% |
| B+ | 85% - 89% |
| B | 80% - 84% |
| C+ | 75% - 79% |
| C | 70% - 74% |
| D | 60% - 69% |
| F | Below 60% |

Attendance/Class Participation

In-class participation are credited. You are encouraged to raise questions, answer questions, and discuss topics. According to the [NJIT campus health and wellness](#), should your health or other circumstances change, negatively impacting your ability to succeed in our class, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can work together to connect you to support resources and work through possible options.

Preparing for Classes

This course requires substantial individual study and preparation. To better understand the course materials, it is strongly advised that students review textbook readings and slides after finishing a chapter and prepare for the next chapter prior to when the material is scheduled.

Lesson Quizzes

You will complete the quiz at the end of each chapter. The Quiz must be completed by midnight of Sunday of the week when we cover the chapter. Please log into Canvas for the assignments and due dates. The lowest score of the quiz will be dropped.

Unit Exams

You will have three exams during the semester. All exams and quizzes are to be completed individually. Consulting others on individual quizzes and exams is prohibited. Please demonstrate your dedication to academic integrity. The lowest exam score will be dropped. Please mark your calendar for these important exam dates!

Individual Assignments

You will complete three individual assignments. Please submit your assignments in Word or Excel in Canvas. You are required to show your own efforts on three individual assignments. According to the academic integrity, **your submissions will be assessed using Turnitin to verify originality.** A lower similarity rate will indicate the originality of your work. **Any assignment with a high similarity rate will be returned without grading.**

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Stock Competition Project

The purpose of the project is to enhance students' understanding and practical experience in investment analysis. It aims to improve your quantitative and qualitative skills in managing investments. You will invest the virtual amount of \$10,000 in the stock market to practice your knowledge and develop essential investment skills derived from the real business world. The stock competition runs from **March 10 to April 1**. After the competition finished, you will need to create a PowerPoint presentation. You are required to present your work in class and also upload it to Canvas for discussion with other students. Detailed requirements for the project will be announced in class.

Lesson Discussions

Lesson discussion postings are required of all students. Actively participating in all discussions is one of the best ways to help build a sense of community and collaboration. There will be a weekly topic that will be related to the course content or something that extends the course information to current financial market. You must participate in these weekly discussions.

Your initial responses should be a minimum of 50 words and must be posted by **Friday at 11:55 pm**. So other students have time to read your post. You will also respond to at least one post from other students in the open discussion thread. These responses must be a minimum of 20 words. The second post must be posted by **Sunday at 11:55 pm**. So, you need to have two posts each week. Late posts are not accepted.

Week Review

At the end of each week, you will write a brief review to summarize and reflect on your learning experiences. Use this section to highlight the key aspects of the week's classroom learning that are significant to you. Please refrain from including personal anecdotes in this section. The length of the weekly review should not exceed ten lines.

Guideline for Using Generative AI

Generative AI tools are not a real person but simulates human communication with users. AI tools like ChatGPT have been pre-trained on vast amounts of information. Users can benefit from these powerful tools to handle various tasks across different subjects. However, AI tools can sometimes produce plausible-sounding but incorrect information, which may mislead users in their decision-making.

Please keep in mind that it is the user's responsibility to conduct due diligence to verify the accuracy of outputs. It is recommended that users cross-reference ChatGPT's outputs with other sources and select the most suitable result. This class provides guideline intended to help students use ChatGPT as a tool to support and enhance the learning objectives. The detailed guideline for using AI will be announced in class.

Student use of AI is permitted in this course for certain assignments and activities. **It is not permitted to be used in the following assignments**, as doing so would undermine student learning and achievement of course learning outcomes: **Exams, Quizzes, and Individual Assignments**. Additionally, if and when students use AI in this course, the AI must be cited as is shown within the [NJIT Library AI citation page](#) for AI. If you have any questions or concerns about AI technology use in this class, please reach out to your instructor prior to submitting any assignments.

Tips for Better Grades

Grades are a reflection of the level of understanding of course content. Therefore, to achieve the grade of A or B in this class expect to:

- Participate 100% of the weeks. During each week new content is introduced, explained and then applied for better understanding.
- Turn in all course deliverables in a timely and professional manner.
- Ask any and all questions in Canvas or email me.
- Take the bonus assignment! ☺

With less preparation and participation expect the grade of C or lower.

Classroom Policies

Success in business depends on the combined performance of the professional team, not the self-centered interests of one individual. Similarly, a good learning environment is collectively created and requires the contribution of ALL students within the class. To maximize classroom learning:

- **Engage in learning.** Actively contribute to discussion, exercises, and projects.
- **Show respect.** Be respectful of others' thoughts and ideas.
- **Attendance Policy.** Classroom attendance is required. You will also need to be present in the Canvas classroom each week.
- **Cellphone Policy.** Don't use your cellphone in the classroom, except for class activities.

Email Etiquette

- Put the course name **FIN 417 - XXX** in the subject line.
- Identify the subject of the e-mail with a brief but descriptive summary of the topic: include a proper salutation (e.g. Dr. Wang), and the assignment details such as the title, homework, or test.
- Conclude the e-mail message with a proper closing (e.g. Regards, Sincerely) and your full name.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. If you are in need of accommodations due to a disability please contact Scott Janz (oars@njit.edu), Associate Director of the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services (OARS), Kupfrian Hall 201, to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the OARS

authorizing your accommodations will be required. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively. Go to the web site <http://www.njit.edu/counseling/services/disabilities.php> for more information. If you wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please discuss the matter with me at the earliest possible time.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing, and sabotaging another's work.

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. ***Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.*** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

Expected Class Schedule

Please note that this is a tentative schedule. I reserve the right to adjust if necessary and new version will be announced and posted in Canvas. You are responsible for knowing what is in the latest version.

| Lesson | Description |
|------------------|--|
| | Syllabus Quiz by Sunday, 26 Jan |
| Lesson 1 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz and Week Review due by Sunday, 2 Feb |
| Lesson 2 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz, Individual Assignment and Week Review due by Sunday, 9 Feb |
| Lesson 3 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz and Week Review due by Sunday, 16 Feb |
| | Unit 1 Exam due by Sunday, 23 February |
| Lesson 4 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz and Week Review due by Sunday, 2 March |
| Lesson 5 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz, Individual Assignment and Week Review due by Sunday, 9 March |
| | Stock Competition Begins from Monday, 10 March |
| Lesson 6 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz and Week Review due by Sunday, 16 March |
| | Spring Break (No Classes) |
| | Unit 2 Exam due by Sunday, 30 March |
| | Wellness Day, 3 April |
| Lesson 7 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz, Individual Assignment and Week Review due by Sunday, 6 April |
| Lesson 8 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz and Week Review due by Sunday, 13 April |
| | Stock Competition Ends on Friday, 11 April |
| Lesson 9 | Reading, Discussion, Quiz and Week Review due by Sunday, 20 April |
| | Posting the PowerPoint of the Stock Competition Project by Sunday, 25 April |
| | Unit 3 Exam due by Sunday, 27 April |
| | Discussion of Stock Competition due by Sunday, 4 May |
| Lesson 10 | Reading, Discussion and Week Review due by Sunday, 4 May |
| Lesson 11 | Reading, Discussion and Week Review due by Sunday, 7 May |
| | Submit the Project PowerPoint for Grading by Thursday, 8 May |
| Lesson 12 | Reading, Discussion and Week Review due by Wednesday 11 May |

Notes:

1. All assignments are due at midnight EST.
2. Upon the progress of the class, the instructor reserves the right to change the class schedule.
3. Jan. 27th: Last day to drop a class.
4. April 7th: Last day to withdraw from a class without a refund.
5. More information about the deadlines:
<https://www.njit.edu/registrar/calendars>

How to join the virtual office hours on Zoom:

Jinghua Wang is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Jinghua Wang's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://njit-edu.zoom.us/j/2544674165?pwd=ODFxRjhFVDdGcmZjNGRIUENFcU51dz09>

Meeting ID: 254 467 4165

Passcode: 621034

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,2544674165#,,, *621034# US

+13092053325,,2544674165#,,, *621034# US

Dial by your location

- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US

Meeting ID: 254 467 4165

Passcode: 621034

Find your local number: <https://njit-edu.zoom.us/j/2544674165>

Join by SIP

- 2544674165@zoomcrc.com