



Course Syllabus
Special Graduate Topics in Business Administration:
Security Analysis and Portfolio Management

Dillard College of Business Administration
BUAD 6663 Section 101
Fall Semester, August 24 – December 12, 2026

Contact Information

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Class Hours

Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 am to 12:20 pm, Dillard Building 121/STAR Lab

Course Description

Security valuation and selection; theory and practice of portfolio management including asset allocation, diversification, and portfolio performance evaluation.

Course Prerequisites

Junior standing or above or consent of the chair; FINC 4733. Must earn a C or higher in FINC 4733.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required:

1) Lecture Notes (PowerPoint slides; available through D2L),

- 2) Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management, 12e, by Frank Reilly, Keith Brown, and Sanford Leeds, Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-0357988176 ([Web Link](#) for students choosing the eBook option; we do not need the publisher's MindTap access), and
- 3) Stock-Trak subscription (per team).

Recommended:

The Wall Street Journal.

Other Requirements

Each student should have a calculator capable of calculating the time value of money (a financial or scientific calculator will do) in class. A student is expected to be familiar with the functions of their own calculator.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the Midwestern State University (MSU) D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience technical difficulties, please contact the [MSU Distance Education Office](#). The D2L record of submissions serves as the official record of whether a student meets the submission deadlines in this course.

Course Objective

General Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

- 1) Have the capacity to lead effectively.
- 2) Demonstrate the capability to critically analyze business situations and develop creative solutions to opportunities and problems.
- 3) Demonstrate the capability to integrate knowledge across business disciplines.
- 4) Be able to communicate in a professional business manner.

Course Specific Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have developed the understanding of:

- 1) The importance of an investment policy statement.

- 2) Asset allocation and portfolio diversification.
- 3) Single and multi-factor asset pricing models.
- 4) Common stock valuation and analysis.
- 5) Portfolio performance evaluation.

Grading and Evaluation

Course Grading:

Table 1: Grade Components and Associated Percentage Grades

Component	Percentage
Self-Introduction Video	1%
Midterm Exam	28%
Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC)	6%
Participation	9%
(Team) Analyst Report	28%
(Team) Portfolio Performance and Report	28%
Total	<u>100%</u>

Table 2: Numerical Grade to Letter Grade Conversion

Numerical Grade	Meaning	Letter Grade
90 to 100	Excellent	A
80 to 90	Good	B
70 to 80	Satisfactory	C
60 to 70	Passing	D
Below 60	Failing	F

All grades are firm and nonnegotiable. There is no rounding in grades, and there are no bonus points or extra credits other than the specified grade components at the end of semester. To maintain the fairness to the entire class, the same grading criteria will be applied to every student, and no personal reason will be considered for grading purposes. No grade will be disclosed by email or by phone.

Self-Introduction Video:

Each student in this course is required to prepare a self-introduction video, and submit the one single video file through the Dropbox in D2L (to the folder "Self-Introduction Video" under the "Assessments" and then "Assignments" tabs in D2L). In the video, a student should show their full face, shoulders, and the entire upper arms under proper lighting, state their full name and major(s), and make an introduction of oneself. The video should be no less than 10 seconds but no more than 30 seconds in length. The self-introduction video is worth one point toward the semester grade,

and only videos meeting all of the above requirements will earn the full point. Students who cannot meet all of the requirements because of religious or medical reasons should submit a one-page typed and signed statement requesting an exemption of the requirements to the instructor before the video due date specified below. The approval of the request depends on whether the submitted statement provides the necessary and sufficient information justifying the exemption.

The video is due at **04:30 pm U.S. central time on August 29, 2026 (Saturday)**. Students can submit the video file as soon as the semester begins, and no late submission will be accepted for any reason. *Students contacting the instructor in attempts to make a late submission of the self-introduction video will lose one point in the participation grade.

Exams:

There will be one midterm exam during this semester in the assigned classroom (please see the end of this syllabus for the exam date). The exam will include questions on any covered material, e.g., lecture notes, classroom discussions, and reading assignments. Each student will need a calculator and ScanTron for the exam. The use of cell phones and any form of sharing is not allowed during the exam.

The exam must be taken as scheduled, and no student will be exempt from the exam. There is no make-up exam in this course after the fact, and students missing the exam at the scheduled time without prior consent from the instructor will receive an exam grade of zero for the exam. Students with valid excuses or authorized absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities (please see Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog for the definition) should make prior arrangements with the instructor to take the exam at an alternative time. A valid excuse for exam purposes is defined as an unforeseeable, proved, and documented event that requires the student's presence in a place other than the classroom during the exam time, and such event is deemed acceptable by the instructor. Misreading, forgetting, or inattention to the exam date and time specified in the syllabus will not be considered a valid excuse for a missed exam. No illness-related excuses will be accepted unless a student has a doctor's note or is a hospital inpatient during the scheduled exam time. In the case of a valid excuse, the instructor must be notified of the excuse before the scheduled exam time and the document justifying the excuse must be turned to the instructor within one week from the exam. A student failing to notify the instructor the excuse before the scheduled exam time or not providing the document justifying the excuse in time will receive an exam grade of zero for the exam.

Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC):

The Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) is a library of e-learning course sections that provides an introduction to the financial markets. The three required BMC course sections for the bonus credit are: Core Concepts (includes four modules – Economic Indicators, Currencies, Fixed Income, Equities), Terminal Basics, and Portfolio Management. These sections are approximately 16-hour long in total and are available through the Bloomberg terminal at BCER <GO>. For further information, please refer to the documents related to BMC, available on D2L under the content module “Course Information.”

Students should register for the Bloomberg course using their official school email addresses and the class code “**FGP4C5BVTW**” without the quotation marks (at no cost through the Bloomberg terminal by using the Bloomberg function <BCER>). Students who register without using the class code will not receive the credit. The sections can then be completed over time through the Bloomberg terminal by using the same <BCER> function to enter into the course. Once all the modules are completed, a certificate of completion will be available for download. Only students who register with the class code and email the certificate of completion to the instructor before **the beginning of class on November 16 (Monday)** will receive the credit.

Participation:

A student’s grade on class participation depends on five factors: 1) Attendance, 2) Performance on raising and answering questions in class, 3) Obedience of class rules and instructions, 4) Grades on random assignments, and 5) Contribution to team-based grade components. There is no guarantee that a student attending every class will automatically receive the full credit on class participation. Students who do not actively contribute to the team-based grade components as defined later may lose up to six points in the participation grade. In addition, a student loses one point in the participation grade for each attempted violation of class rules and instructions. It is a student’s responsibility to know the class rules and instructions.

Class Attendance, Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog
Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student’s grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in

writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. An instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

For the record keeping purpose, each class period a roll sheet will be passed through the class and each student will need to sign on the roll sheet. Signing any other student's name on the roll sheet is considered as an act of disruptive conduct in this course. Inconsistent signature styles on the roll sheet will be deemed as evidence against a student's attendance.

Instructor Drop, Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog

An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 9 weeks of a long semester, the first 4 1/2 weeks of an 8 week part-of-term, the first 6 weeks of a 10 week summer term, or the 12th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.

Students who miss more than one third of the class periods without valid excuses will be dropped from this course with a failing semester grade. A valid excuse for participation purposes is defined as an authorized absence due to required participation in university-sponsored activities, or an unforeseeable, proved, and documented event that requires the student's presence in a place other than the classroom during the class period, and such event is deemed acceptable by the instructor. In the case of an excused absence, the instructor must be notified of the excuse and the document justifying the absence must be turned to the instructor, both within one week from the absence.

Students who fail to meet class assignments, show indifferent attitudes, or commit disruptive conduct will be given warnings through their official MSU email accounts each time such instance occurs. Students with more than two warnings will be dropped from this course with a failing semester grade.

Team-Based Grade Components:

Students are required to form teams of three members in this course to prepare the analyst report and the portfolio performance evaluation report.

Team Formation

If the class size at the beginning of the second week of class (for the class size to stabilize) is not a multiple of three, then at most $N = \text{Remainder of (class size/3)}$ teams can have four members. The composition of a team cannot be changed once the team is formed, and each team is at its own risk that its members 1) may later withdraw or be dropped from this class during the semester; 2) might not contribute evenly to the team-based grade components. Each team should choose its members wisely and is held responsible for its own formation and any consequence that may follow. The team formation deadline is **August 31 (Monday)** at the beginning of class. Each team should email its list of team members to the instructor for the official record on or before the deadline. Students who are not in a team by the deadline will form teams of one member, and those students will face a grade penalty on failing to meet the team formation deadline. Individual teams will be evaluated on the same basis regardless of team size, and students in the same team will receive the same grade on the team-based grade components regardless of their responsibilities within the team. The formation of team is on a first come, first served basis.

Portfolio Construction and Presentation

Each team is required to construct an equity portfolio (no leveraged security is allowed) through Stock-Trak over the course of this semester, with no less than 15 domestic stocks accounting for 90% or more of the portfolio value on the market close of **November 20 (Friday)**. At the beginning of each Monday class, starting **September 14 (Monday)**, each team will present its stock selection, portfolio performance, and other related issues to the entire class. The performance of the portfolio from **August 30 (Sunday)** to the market close on **November 20 (Friday)** is subject to an evaluation and contributes to the team-based grade under Portfolio Performance and Report.

Stock-Trak Information

"Stock-Trak is the web's most realistic and the most comprehensive stock market simulation for college business students worldwide. ... Students gain first-hand, real world knowledge of how the markets work, how to place orders, practice theories and strategies learned in class, and compete with their classmates. ...Each year over 1,100 professors and their 60,000+ students use StockTrak.com in their finance, business, economics, and/or

accounting classes. In the U.S., over 80% of the top Business Schools use StockTrak.com."

Class name/code: "MSUTEXAS-FINC4833-Fall2026"

[Stock-Trak Registration Web Link](#)

Service level: Silver

Maximum number of trades: 300

Registration start date: 08/24/2026

Trading start/end dates: 08/30/2026 to 11/20/2026 (order placement starting 08/30/2026)

There is a cost of \$33.95 per account that each team needs to pay individually during the account registration. Each team should establish only one account in the name of one of the team members. All members in a team, however, should share the cost of establishing the account.

Simulation parameters:

Initial cash balance: \$1,000,000

Interest rate earned on cash: 3%

Allowable investments: U.S. equity excluding leveraged securities

Minimum stock price for buying: \$1.00

No margin trading, no short selling, and no day trading

Position limit: Each security no more than 10% of portfolio value

Commission: \$0.00

Performance benchmark: S&P 500 total return index (Bloomberg: SPXT)

Analyst Report:

Each team is required to prepare an analyst report making a buy recommendation for a stock held in its investment portfolio, and present the report to the entire class on the scheduled date. All students, presenting or not, are required to dress professionally during the presentations. Students missing the presentations without a valid excuse will lose one point in the participation grade for each instance of absence during the specific class periods. Students not dressing professionally will lose half of one point in the participation grade for each instance during the specific class periods. Each team should identify the stock for its analyst report as soon as possible, and email the stock selection to the instructor for the official record, no later than **October 21 (Wednesday)**. No two teams can select the same stock, and the selection is on a first come, first served basis. Each team should submit its analyst report, which should be original and self-explanatory, in hard copy to the instructor on the last day scheduled for the analyst report presentation, i.e., **November 18 (Wednesday)**, at the beginning of class.

The entire team is held accountable for the content of the analyst report it submits. In addition, each team should submit the Word file for the report, the supporting Excel files (including at least one file for the financial statements from Bloomberg and one file for the intrinsic value calculation), and the presentation PowerPoint slides through the D2L Dropbox by the same deadline. Please note that the intrinsic value calculation should be based on the Excel template provided by this course. Reports using any other unsanctioned templates, including those prepared/used in other courses, will not be accepted in this course. Please also note that the analyst report is a semester-long project. A team waiting until the middle or the end of semester to start the project is at its own peril.

The submitted report is subject to the following format requirements:

- 1) Margin: 1 inch
- 2) Font size: 12
- 3) Font: Times New Roman
- 4) Line spacing: Double
- 5) Page number: Included (excluding cover and summary pages)
- 6) Page limits: Minimum 15 pages and maximum 25 pages (excluding cover and summary pages)
- 7) One-side printing in "normal" mode. No print in "draft" mode will be accepted.

The analyst report grade for the semester depends on the overall quality of the presentation and the written report, especially on writing, content, and justification, evaluated by the holistic rubric using the instructor's professional judgment.

Portfolio Performance and Report:

Each team is required to prepare a performance evaluation report for its investment portfolio from **August 30 (Sunday)** to the market close of **November 20 (Friday)**, and present the report to the entire class on the scheduled date. All students, presenting or not, are required to dress professionally during the presentations. Students missing the presentations without a valid excuse will lose one point in the participation grade for each instance of absence during the specific class periods. Students not dressing professionally will lose half of one point in the participation grade for each instance during the specific class periods. Each team should submit its performance report, which should be original and self-explanatory, in hard copy to the instructor on the last day scheduled for the performance report presentation, i.e., **December 2 (Wednesday)**, at the beginning of class.

The entire team is held accountable for the content of the performance report it submits. In addition, each team should submit the Word file for the report, the supporting Excel file(s), and the presentation PowerPoint slides through the D2L Dropbox by the same deadline. Please also note that the portfolio performance and report is a semester-long project. A team waiting until the middle or the end of semester to start the project is at its own peril.

The submitted report is subject to the same format requirements as the analyst report. The portfolio performance and report grade for the semester depends on the performance ranking of the simulated portfolio, and the overall quality of the presentation and the written report, especially on writing, content, and justification, evaluated by the holistic rubric using the instructor's professional judgment.

Other Course Policies

- 1) Please bring a calculator to class.
- 2) It is obviously in a student's best interests to attend class regularly.
- 3) Students are expected to read the class material before and after the scheduled classes.
- 4) Announcements not made in class will be posted online through D2L. Students have the responsibility to check the postings and class material regularly.
- 5) Students who need to leave the classroom early and will not be back for that class period should notify the instructor before the class starts. Arriving late and leaving early without prior instructor acknowledgement are considered as acts of disruptive conduct in this course.
- 6) Redistribution, including uploading to any AI or large language models, of any material provided by this course in any form constitutes copyright infringement and is prohibited.
- 7) Any document that students prepare for this class and submitted to the instructor will become a permanent record of this course. Those documents and records may serve as examples for future students anonymously.

Recording Classes

*Recording classes is generally prohibited without the instructor's explicit permission. Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the instructor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate,

students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Inclement Weather Policy

This course follows the University's decision on campus closure due to inclement weather. Changes in scheduled course content and activities due to inclement weather, if any, will be announced on D2L. Students have the responsibility to check the D2L postings during such weather events.

Academic Integrity

Students shall follow the "Student Honor Creed" in the Midwestern State University Student Handbook. A student who commits academic dishonesty is subject to academic sanctions (please refer to the Midwestern State University Student Handbook for the definitions of Academic Dishonesty and the Academic Dishonesty Procedure).

Appeal of Course Grade

The only two bases on which a student can legitimately appeal a course grade and/or suspension from an academic program are: 1) The student has not been evaluated according to the same criteria as his or her classmates, OR 2) An error has been made in grading and/or posting. Please see the [MSU Graduate Catalog](#) for the procedure to initiate an appeal after the semester ends and the semester course grade is posted.

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

This course follows the University policies and guidelines suggested by the Disability Support Services Office for qualified students. Students are referred to the Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog for details.

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the [MSU Office of Student Affairs](#): Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

Change of Schedule and Refund/Repayment Policy

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from the University may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs.

University Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State University are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which

prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on university property or at university-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Texas Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, please visit the University's [Campus Carry webpage](#) and refer to the [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, please visit the University's [MSUReady – Active Shooter webpage](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” available at the University's [Police Department webpage](#) and on [Youtube](#).

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for this course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

References

Midwestern State University [Student Handbook Web Link](#)
Midwestern State University [Graduate Catalog Web Link](#)

Course Content and Outline

The Investment Background

Chapter 2: Asset Allocation and Security Selection

Developments in Investment Theory

Chapter 6: An Introduction to Portfolio Management

Chapter 7: Asset Pricing Models

Valuation and Management of Common Stocks

Chapter 8: Equity Valuation

Chapter 9: The Top-Down Approach to Market, Industry, and Company Analysis

Chapter 11: Equity Portfolio Management Strategies

Specification and Evaluation of Asset Management

Chapter 18: Evaluation of Portfolio Performance

Course Schedule

Table 3: Course Dates and Scheduled Content/Activities

Month	Date	Schedule	Date	Schedule
8	24	Introduction	26	Chapter 2
8/9	31	Chapter 2 (Team formation due)	2	Chapter 6
9	7	Labor Day	9	Chapter 6
9	14	Chapter 7	16	Chapter 7
9	21	Chapter 8	23	Chapter 8
9	28	Midterm Exam	30	TBA
10	5	Bloomberg (STAR Lab)	7	Bloomberg (STAR Lab)
10	12	Analyst report (Ch 9)	14	Analyst report (Ch 9)
10	19	Analyst report (Ch 9)	21	Analyst report (Ch 9)
10	26	Performance Evaluation (Ch 11)	28	Performance Evaluation (Ch 11)
11	2	Performance Evaluation (Ch 18)	4	Performance Evaluation (Ch 18)
11	9	Bloomberg (STAR Lab)	11	Bloomberg (STAR Lab)
11	16	Analyst Report Presentation (BMC Certificate due)	18	Analyst Report Presentation (Analyst Report due)
11	23	Bloomberg (STAR Lab)	25	Thanksgiving
12	30	Performance Report Presentation	2	Performance Report Presentation (Performance Report due)

Due Dates

Self-Introduction Video: August 29 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
 Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC): November 16 (Monday), 11:00 am
 Analyst Report: November 18 (Wednesday), 11:00 am
 Portfolio Performance Evaluation Report:
 December 2 (Wednesday), 11:00 am

Exam Date

Midterm Exam: September 28 (Monday)