



Class Hours

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

Contact Information

Instructor: Adam Y.C. Lei, Ph.D., CFA
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Office Hours: Monday, 12:30 pm to 01:30 pm,
Tuesday, 01:00 pm to 02:00 pm,
Wednesday, 12:30 pm to 01:30 pm, and by appointment

Course Materials

Required:

- 1) Lecture Notes (PowerPoint slides; available through D2L), and
- 2) *Essentials of Investments*, 2024 Release, by Zvi Bodie, Alex Kane, and Alan Marcus, McGraw-Hill/Irwin. ISBN: 978-1264937585. [Web Link](#) for students choosing the eBook option (only the textbook is required; we do not need the publisher's Connect access).

Recommended: The Wall Street Journal.

Course Prerequisites

Junior standing or above or consent of the chair; BUAD 3033 and FINC 3733. Must earn a C or higher in FINC 3733.

Course Description

Characteristics and valuation of investment instruments including common stocks, bonds, and options; function and efficiency of securities markets; diversification and portfolio theory.

Course Objective

A. General Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

- 1) Demonstrate problem solving and decision making abilities through the critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information.
- 2) Demonstrate a competency in speaking and writing for common business scenarios.
- 3) Have an understanding of the influence of global and multicultural issues on business activities.

B. Course Specific Learning Goals:

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

- 1) The investment environment in the United States.
- 2) The characteristics and valuation of securities including stocks, bonds and options.
- 3) Asset pricing theories.
- 4) The efficiency of securities markets and its implications.
- 5) Theory and practice of portfolio management.

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 his/her own calculator.

Grading and Evaluation

Course Grading:

Component	Percentage
Self-Introduction Video	1%
Homework Assignments	9%
Midterm Exam I	28%
Midterm Exam II	28%
Final Exam	28%
Participation	6%
Total	<u>100%</u>
Bonus: Course Evaluation	0.5%
Bonus: Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC)	2%

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 his/her full face with proper lighting, state his/her 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 **January 25, 2024 (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.**

Homework Assignments:

On the last page of the PowerPoint slides for each covered chapter, there are the assigned end-of-chapter problems from the textbook that students should practice on. Among the assigned problems, some, but not all, are also designated as homework assignments (e.g., problems 13, 15, 19a, 20 in Chapter 2; also shown on the last page of the chapter PowerPoint slides). *The homework assignments require students to turn in their hand-written solutions for the homework assignment problems for each chapter with the homework assignment through the Dropbox in D2L.* Of the 12 covered chapters, Chapter 1, Chapter 6, and Chapter 8 do not have the homework assignment problems (i.e., those chapters only have the assigned end-of-chapter problems that are not designated as homework assignments, and their solutions do not need to be turned

in). The assignment is worth one point toward the semester grade for each of the remaining 9 chapters, and 9 points in total.

The submission of the homework assignment for *each chapter* should be in *one single PDF file* consisting of photos or scanned images of the *hand-written* solutions (the single PDF file could have multiple pages in it). In a submitted file, the solutions to the assigned problems should be labeled by their original problem numbers, and the final answer to each problem should be circled or otherwise highlighted. *A submission made in a file format other than PDF or in multiple files will not be accepted by D2L, will not be graded, and will have an assignment grade of zero.* Additionally, please make sure that each of the uploaded files is legible but not exceedingly large in size (by adjusting the photo or scan settings). *No email submission of the assignments will be accepted for any reason. Students emailing the assignments to the instructor will lose one point in the participation grade each time such instance occurs.*

The answers to those assigned end-of-chapter problems are also provided in password-protected PDF files (please see the document “Course Map and Instructions,” available on D2L under the content module “Course Information,” for the password). Each student should write his/her own step-by-step solutions to the assigned homework assignment problems with no less detail than provided by the answer keys. By default, students turning in the assignment for a chapter will earn the point associated with the chapter. Assignments that are later found by the instructor to be illegible, contain insufficient details, or skip assigned homework assignment problems will lose the associated points entirely. If two or more students submitted the same *hand-written* solutions for the same assignment, all involved parties will lose the associated point entirely. An assignment that is not *hand-written* will lose the associated point entirely unless the student provides documentation/justification from the Disability Support Services Office in advance.

The assignments are due at 04:30 pm U.S. central time the day before the scheduled Exam with the corresponding coverage. For instance, the assignments for Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5 are due at 04:30 pm on **February 25, 2025 (Tuesday)** before the scheduled Exam I on **February 26, 2025 (Wednesday)** (please see the end of this syllabus for the assignment due dates). Students can submit an assignment as soon as the corresponding coverage becomes available, and no late assignment will be accepted for any reason. *Students contacting the instructor in attempts to submit a late assignment will lose one point in the participation grade each time such instance occurs.*

Exams:

There will be two midterm exams and one final exam during this semester in the assigned classroom. The exams are non-comprehensive, but often the coverage of a later chapter would require the knowledge from earlier chapters. The midterm exams will be held during the regular class hours. The final exam will be held by the university schedule (please see the end of this syllabus for the exam dates). The exams 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 exams. The use of cell phones and any form of sharing is not allowed during the exams.

The exams must be taken as scheduled, and no student will be exempt from any exam. There is no make-up exam in this course after the fact, and students missing an exam at the scheduled time without *prior consent from the instructor* will receive an exam grade of zero for the specific 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 dates 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 specific exam.

Participation:

A student's grade on class participation depends on four factors: 1) Attendance, 2) Performance on raising and answering questions in class, 3) Obedience of class rules and instructions, and 4) Grades on random assignments. There is no guarantee that a student attending every class will automatically receive the full credit on class participation. In addition, a student loses one point in the participation grade for each 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 Undergraduate 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 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 (please see Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog for the definition), 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 reveal disruptive conducts will be given warnings each time such instance occurs. Students with more than two warnings will be dropped from this course with a failing semester grade.

Bonus: Course Evaluation:

At the end of each semester/term, the university emails course evaluation links to students, and students in this course earn the course evaluation bonus credit based on an honor system after they complete the evaluation of this course. *Specifically, a quiz item "Course Evaluation," which asks whether a student has completed the evaluation of this course through the course evaluation link emailed by the university, is available on D2L under the "Assessments" and then "Tests" tabs from 12:00 am U.S. central time on **May 4, 2025 (Sunday)** to 04:30 pm U.S. central time on **May 8, 2025 (Thursday)**. A*

student who has completed the evaluation of this course and answers affirmatively in the quiz would earn the course evaluation credit. The quiz has a continuous 60-minute time limit once it starts, and the time limit cannot be interrupted. The quiz can be answered unlimited times before 04:30 pm on **May 8, 2025 (Thursday)**, but only an affirmative answer will be recorded for the quiz grade. The 04:30 pm quiz deadline applies to any and all students. An unsaved/unsubmitted quiz by the quiz deadline will have a quiz grade of zero. *Please note that students who forgot to do the course evaluation or who did the course evaluation but forgot to complete the quiz will not earn the course evaluation credit. There is no make-up quiz after the quiz ends, and students contacting the instructor in attempts to do a make-up quiz will lose one point in the participation grade.* The course evaluation credit is worth half of one point toward the semester grade.

Bonus: Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC):

The Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) is a library of e-learning course sections that provide 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), Getting Started on the Terminal, 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 who intend to secure the bonus credit should register for the Bloomberg course using their official school email addresses and the class code “**YVT5DL7KQ4**” 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 bonus 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 to the instructor the certificate of completion *before the beginning of class on **May 5, 2025 (Monday)*** will receive the bonus credit.

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) *Video, audio, and image recording other than taking hand-written or typed notes in the classroom is not allowed without the prior consent of the instructor.*
Redistribution of any course material provided by the instructor in any form outside this class constitutes copyright infringement and is prohibited.

Academic Integrity

Students shall follow the “Student Honor Creed” in the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog. A student who commits academic dishonesty is subject to conduct sanctions (please refer to the Midwestern State University Student Handbook for the definitions of Academic Dishonesty, Conduct Sanctions, and Academic Misconduct Procedures).

Americans with Disabilities Act

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 Undergraduate Catalog for details.

Campus Carry Policy

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at [Campus Carry Rules/Policies Web Link](#).

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

Course Content and Outline

I. Elements of Investments

Chapter 1: Investments: Background and Issues

Chapter 2: Asset Classes and Financial Instruments

Chapter 3: Securities Markets

Chapter 4: Mutual Funds and Other Investment Companies

II. Portfolio Theory

Chapter 5: Risk, Return, and the Historical Record

Chapter 6: Efficient Diversification

Chapter 7: Capital Asset Pricing and Arbitrage Pricing Theory

Chapter 8: The Efficient Market Hypothesis

III. Debt Securities

Chapter 10: Bond Prices and Yields

Chapter 11: Managing Bond Portfolios

V. Derivative Markets

Chapter 15: Options Markets

Chapter 16: Option Valuation

Course Schedule

Month	Date	Schedule	Date	Schedule
1	20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	Introduction
	27	Concepts Review & Chapter 1	29	Chapter 1 & 2
2	3	Chapter 2	5	Chapter 2 & 3
	10	Chapter 3	12	Chapter 3 & 4
	17	Chapter 4 & 5	19	Chapter 5
	24	TBA	26	Exam I
3	3	Chapter 6	5	Chapter 6
	10	Spring Break	12	Spring Break
	17	Chapter 6 & 7	19	Chapter 7
	24	Chapter 8	26	Chapter 8 & 10
3/4	31	Chapter 10	2	Chapter 10
4	7	TBA	9	Exam II
	14	Chapter 11	16	Chapter 11
	21	Chapter 15	23	Chapter 15
	28	Chapter 15 & 16	30	Chapter 16
5	5	Chapter 16 (BMC due)	7	TBA

Due Dates

Self-Introduction Video: January 25 (Saturday), 04:30 pm
Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC): May 5 (Monday)
Course Evaluation (Quiz): May 8 (Thursday), 04:30 pm

Homework for Exam I Coverage: February 25 (Tuesday), 04:30 pm
Homework for Exam II Coverage: April 8 (Tuesday), 04:30 pm
Homework for Final Exam Coverage: May 11 (Sunday), 04:30 pm

Exam Dates

Exam I: February 26 (Wednesday)
Exam II: April 9 (Wednesday)
Final Exam: May 12 (Monday), 10:30 am to 12:30 pm