



## Dillard College of Business Administration

SYALLABUS: FINC 5933 Student Managed Investment Fund I  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 AM to 12:20 PM Dillard Building 178  
Fall 2025

### Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Qian Li, CFA, Professor of Finance  
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### Course Materials

- Required Textbook: Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management, 12e, by Frank Reilly and Keith Brown, Cengage Learning, ISBN: 9780357988176
- Recommended reading:
  - The Intelligent Investor: The Definitive Book on Value Investing. A Book of Practical Counsel (Revised Edition), by Benjamin Graham and Jason Zweig, Collins Business, ISBN: 0060555661
  - A Random Walk Down Wall Street: The Time-Tested Strategy for Successful Investing, 10e, by Burton G. Malkiel, W. W. Norton & Company, ISBN: 0393340740
  - The Wall Street Journal
  - The Economist
  - The Bloomberg BusinessWeek (Free access from Bloomberg Terminal)
- D2L  
We will make extensive use of Desire2Learn (D2L) this semester. Make sure that you have access to this course on D2L. From D2L you will see many important materials such as course syllabus, lecture notes and announcements. If you have problem accessing D2L, please refer to the [help page](#) about your login information.

### Course Prerequisite(s)

FINC 4733 with a grade of B or higher or consent of the instructor, and consent of the Graduate Coordinator.

## Learning Goals

### 1. DCOBA Graduate Program General Learning Goals

GLG1: Our students will exhibit the characteristics of leadership.

Objective: Our graduates will have the capacity to lead effectively.

In this class students will work as a team to operate the fund, make investment decisions, and deliver performance reports. Graduate students are expected to lead the whole team to ensure smooth and effective operation of the fund. Grades are partially based on student's ability to work in a team and lead the team.

GLG4: Our students will integrate knowledge across business disciplines.

Objective: Our graduates will demonstrate the capability to integrate knowledge across business disciplines.

In this class students will integrate their knowledge in various areas such as economics, management, business strategy, accounting as well as investment to analyze a company and conduct reasonable valuation for the company. Grades are partially based on the quality of students' analysis.

GLG5: Our students will communicate at a professional level.

Objective: Our graduates will be able to communicate in a professional business manner.

In this class students will write reports and make oral presentations based on their research on specific sectors/industries and individual companies/stocks. Students will also deliver a formal report about the fund performance to the college at the end of the semester. Students will be graded on the quality of their writing and the effectiveness of their presentations.

### 2. Course Specific Learning Goals

This course provides an opportunity for students to participate in the management of DCOBA's Student Managed Security Trading and Research (STAR) Fund. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Explain the importance of an Investment Policy Statement.
- 2) Carry out common stock valuation and selection.
- 3) Determine asset allocation and diversification in a portfolio context.
- 4) Summarize and evaluate portfolio performance.

## Grading and Evaluation

Evaluation of student performance will be conducted by means of written reports, presentations, and participation in fund operation and management.

### 1. Analyst Report and Presentation

Students are required to complete an analyst report individually or in a two-person group for one stock they select to add to the fund portfolio and present the report to the entire class on the scheduled date. Students should have a one-on-one meeting with the instructor during the week before the scheduled presentation date to discuss the stock of choice and get feedback on their research.

Students are required to submit their analyst report, including all supporting materials, and the presentation file to D2L Dropbox by 10:30 AM on the scheduled presentation day.

Graduate students enrolled in FINC 5933/5943 will be graded with a higher standard for the quality of their research, writing, and presentation delivery.

### 2. Stock Follow-up

Students will track the performance of assigned stocks in the SMIF portfolio, and report to the class about important information of the stocks, such as market development, earning release updates, mergers and acquisitions, and revised outlook, etc. Students then needs to make recommendations regarding whether to continue to hold an existing stock, to sell an existing stock, or to set new parameters such as target price and/or stop loss price on an existing stock. The actual adjustments of the holdings of the Fund will be based on recommendations accepted by the class and the instructor. Students are required to submit their follow-up reports to D2L Dropbox by 11:30 AM on the scheduled presentation date.

Graduate students enrolled in FINC 5933/5943 will be graded with a higher standard for the quality of their research and presentation delivery.

### 3. Market briefing

SMIF students will form a two-person group to deliver a weekly market and economy briefing to the class. During the presentation the team will:

- Follow up with the economy and financial markets and provide the class with the most updated market information
- Explain the impact of market trend and economy news on SMIF performance

Students are required to submit their market and economy update reports to D2L Dropbox by 10:30 AM on their scheduled presentation day. Grades will depend on the quality of the report, the presentation delivery, and the extent to which students demonstrate due diligence in conducting and analyzing market research.

Graduate students enrolled in FINC 5933/5943 will be graded with a higher standard for the quality of their research and presentation delivery.

#### 4. Portfolio Performance Report and Presentation

SMIF Students are required to work as a team to prepare a performance evaluation report of the fund portfolio at the end of the semester. A formal presentation on fund management and performance will be delivered by the class to the SMIF stakeholders at the end of the semester. Grade will depend on the quality of the written report and the presentation. Late submission of the written report or failure to deliver the presentation will not be accepted and will automatically result in a grade of zero for all students.

#### 5. Team Collaboration and Participation

The fund operates as a team and it's very important that team members collaborate effectively together to achieve the group goals. While students are expected to attend very class, attending each class or meeting does not guarantee that the student will receive the full credits on team collaboration and participation. At the end of the semester a peer review will be conducted to evaluate individual member's participation and collaboration. Grade will be based on the peer review result, student's attendance, and the instructor's evaluation about the student's teamwork participation and class participation.

Failure to submit the peer review feedback form by the deadline will result in a 5-point deduction in the team participation grade. Graduate students are expected to take more leadership responsibilities in the fund and will be graded by a higher standard for their teamwork effort and participation.

#### 6. Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) Certificate

Students need to use the Bloomberg Professional service extensively to collect data and information for their analysis. FINC 5933 students are required to complete the BMC e-learning modules and obtain the BMC certificate. A PDF copy of the BMC Certificate is required to be submitted to D2L Dropbox before the set deadline. Failure to obtain or submit the certificate before the deadline will result in a grade of zero.

Table 1 and Table 2 below illustrate the grade components and the grading standard.  
Table 1: Points allocated to each grading element.

Element	Points
Analyst Report	25%
Holdings Follow-ups	30% (10% each)
Fund Management Task	10%
Final Report and Presentation	20%
Teamwork and Participation	10%
BMC Certificate	5%
Total	100%

Table 2: Grading Standard

Grade	Points
A	90 or greater
B	80 to 89.99
C	70 to 79.99
D	60 to 69.99
F	Lower than 60

### Other Class Policies

1. Students are expected to attend every class. Attendance will be recorded for each class. Only absences due to the following situations can be excused: *Religious holy day, active military, police, or firefighter assignment, jury duty, university authorized absences, approved academic activities, and medical emergency for yourself or your immediate family member.*

For more information about authorized absences, excused absences defined by state regulations, and the required documentations, please refer to the [Registrar](#) section in the university catalog.

For absences due to religious holy day, military/policy/firefighter/jury duty, or person emergencies, please contact the [Dean of Students](#) office. The Dean of Students will process student requests and notify the instructor. Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the college dean or Athletic Director and the Provost. Absences due to academically related activities such as class field trips or student conferences require a written notification from the faculty member who sponsors or organizes the activities. Missing any class without any approval from the instructor or relevant university offices will be considered an unexcused absence, which will affect the Team Collaboration and Participation grade or result in a grade of zero for any presentation missed.

2. This class follows [MSU Graduate Catalog](#) regarding to the Instructor Drop policy:

*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.*

3. When attending classes, especially when making presentations or attending guest lectures, please dress appropriately.
4. Students are expected to deliver presentations in person. Submitting a presentation file does NOT count as delivering a presentation.
5. All assignments need to be submitted to the right Dropbox in D2L. Email submission will not be graded and will automatically receive a grade of zero.
6. No food or beverage is allowed in the classroom. This is a college policy.

7. Redistribution of any course material provided by the instructor in any form outside this class is strictly prohibited.
8. During the classes, please refrain yourself from using the computers in the STAR Lab or your personal device to access your personal email, social media, or any websites that are unrelated to the class activities.
9. Lower Grade: The instructor reserves the right to lower any student's final grade by up to two letter grades (i.e., A to C, C to F) for:
  - A. Unpreparedness in class, or,
  - B. A negative, rude, unreasonably argumentative, or inattentive attitude in class, or,
  - C. Repeatedly disrupting the class for any reason, or,
  - D. Repeatedly leaving and returning to your class seat during class, or,
  - E. Repeated tardiness to class or,
  - F. Being disrespectful for fellow classmates' questions, opinions, or presentations, or,
  - G. Violation of use of electronic devices or food and drink policies listed above, or,
  - H. Redistributing course material provided by the instructor in any form outside this class

### **Academic Integrity**

With regard to academic honesty, students are referred to the [Student Honor Creed](#), including the following statements:

*We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not on entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibilities for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests with each individual student.*

Academic dishonesty such as cheating, lying, collusion, and plagiarism will be taken seriously and will be investigated. The minimum penalty is an "F" in this course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action, which may result in expulsion from the University.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

If a student has an established disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act and would like to request accommodation, that student should see me as soon as possible (preferably within the first two weeks of the semester). This class follows the guidelines suggested by [Office of Disabilities Support Services](#) for students who qualify for disability services. Please see [MSU Graduate Catalog](#) for details.

### **Professionalism**

The faculty, staff, and students of the Dillard College of Business Administration are committed to being a "professional" in our words, conduct, and actions. The qualities of a professional include:

- A commitment to the development of specialized knowledge
- Competency in analytical, oral and written communication skills
- Self-discipline
- Reliability
- Honesty and integrity
- Trustworthiness
- Timeliness
- Accountability for words and actions
- Respect for others and other cultures
- Politeness and good manners
- A professional image (professionals look professional)
- An awareness of their environment and adaptability to different settings
- Confidence without arrogance
- A commitment to giving back to your community

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus serves as a guide for the course—not a “contract”—and are subject to change. Syllabus and schedule changes will be communicated in class, on D2L, or by email.

