



Dillard College of Business Administration
SYALLABUS: FINC 5943, Student Managed Investment Fund

Tuesday 7:00 PM to 9:50 PM

Dillard Building 121

Spring Semester 2021

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Qian Li, CFA, Associate Professor in Finance
Office: Dillard Building 205
Office hours: Tuesday 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM, 5 PM – 7 PM; Wednesday 2 PM – 3 PM;
Thursday 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
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Course Materials

- Required Textbook: *Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management*, 11e, by Frank Reilly and Keith Brown, South-Western, ISBN: 978-1305262997
- Recommended reading list:
 - 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

• 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.

- Computer, Software, and Internet

Students are required to have access to a computer capable of playing videos files, opening PDF files, and using Microsoft Office Suite. MSU students can have free access to Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access, through the [Microsoft website](#). If you run into any problem with the Office Suite, please contact [MSU IT Department](#) for help

A reliable broadband internet connection is required for downloading and viewing course materials and conducting online meetings when necessary. Students are also required to have a computer/tablet equipped with a Webcam for online meetings and presentations.

No technical problem at a student's end will be considered or excused for grading purposes.

Course Prerequisite(s)

FINC 4733 or FINC 5733 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 and presentation 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

Each student enrolled in FINC 5943 is required to prepare an analyst report for one stock he/she selects for the fund portfolio and present the report to the entire class on the scheduled date. Students are required to submit their analyst reports, including all supporting materials, to the instructor AND all SMIF members by 5:00 PM on the scheduled presentation date.

Graduate students enrolled in FINC 5933/5943 will be graded by 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. Each student 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.

3. Fund Operation and Management Tasks

SMIF students need to take responsibilities in the fund management. FINC 5943 students are expected to work as Senior Analysts or Economists. The responsibilities include:

- Follow up with the economy and financial markets and provide the class each week with most updated market information

- Communicate with the class about the outlook of the economy, industries and financial markets.
- Discuss the sectors of interest and make recommendations to the fund on new investment opportunities that could enhance or diversify the portfolio
- Ensure the understanding and use of appropriate valuation models by all fund members.

Grade will depend on the performance in fulfilling assigned tasks.

4. Portfolio Performance Report and Presentation

SMIF Students are required to work as a team to prepare a performance evaluation report for the fund portfolio at the end of the semester. Grade will depend on the quality of the written report.

5. Team Collaboration and Participation

The fund operates as a team and it's very important that team members collaborate effectively and smoothly together to achieve the group goals. During 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 member. Failure to submit the peer review feedback form by the deadline will result in a 5-point deduction in the team participation grade.

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	20%
Holdings Follow-ups	30%
Individual Task	15%
Final Presentation and	20%
Team Participation	15%
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

Attendance and Classroom Policy

1. Please follow the University's social distancing and [face covering requirements](#) during face-to-face class meetings. Due to the Covid-19 situation, email and Zoom meeting are the preferred ways to communicate with the professor out of class. Instructions on Zoom meetings will be provided on D2L. Please also follow the social distancing and mask requirements during any face-to-face office meetings.
2. This class follows [Midwestern State University 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. 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.
3. Students are expected to attend every class, including analyst presentations. Absence from class meetings can result in a lower grade by at least one grade level. When attending classes, especially when making presentations or attending guest lectures, please dress appropriately. You can refer to this [Forbes article](#) for some guideline.
4. No food or beverage is allowed in the classroom. This is a college policy.
5. Redistribution of any course material provided by the instructor in any form outside this class is strictly prohibited
6. Lower Grade: I reserve 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. Failure to strictly adhere to MSU Covid19 classroom behavioral policies and procedures.
 - B. Unpreparedness in class when called upon, or,
 - C. A negative, rude, unreasonably argumentative, or inattentive attitude in class, or,
 - D. Repeatedly disrupting the class for any reason, or,
 - E. Repeatedly leaving and returning to your class seat during class, or,
 - F. Not showing respect for fellow classmates' questions, opinions, or class presentations, or,
 - G. Violation of use of electronic devices or food and drink policies listed above, or
 - H. Repeated tardiness to class or,
 - I. 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".

This course follows Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog regarding to the Academic Dishonesty policy:

A grade of F given for academic dishonesty will be computed in the grade point average even if permission is granted for the course to be repeated. Additional college and program policies regarding academic dishonesty will apply.

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 [Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog](#) for details.

Campus Carry statement

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 campus carry policy webpage](#).

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 is a guide for the course—not a “contract”—and is subject to change. Syllabus changes will be communicated in class or by email.

Course Schedule

Table 3: Major topics and activities planned for each class session.

Week	Date	Plan
1	1/12/2021	Course Overview; Fund Investment Policy Statement Discussion
2	1/19/2021	Economists Presentation: Market and Economy briefing; Portfolio Evaluation Analyst Presentation: SMIF Holdings Overview; 4943/5943: BOS portfolio evaluation; 4933/5933: Bloomberg training; Intro for BOS evaluation
3	1/26/2021	Market and Economy briefing. 4933/5933: BOS portfolio evaluation; Analyst report overview.
4	2/2/2021	Market and Economy briefing. Introduction and Discussion on Macroeconomic Analysis. Senior Analyst Presentation: Global Economy and Market Outlook
5	2/9/2021	Market and Economy briefing; Introduction and Discussion on Sector/Industry Analysis; 4943/5943: Sector/Industry Analysis presentation;
6	2/16/2021	Market and Economy briefing. Company/Equity Analysis
7	2/23/2021	Market and Economy Briefing; 4943/5943: Analyst report presentation; Analyst report discussion
8	3/2/2021	MOS Presentation
9	3/9/2021	Market and Economy briefing; Portfolio Evaluation Analyst Presentation: SMIF Performance
10	3/16/2021	Analyst report Prep
11	3/23/2021	4933/5933: Analyst report presentation
12	3/30/2021	Market and Economy briefing. Introduction and Discussion on equity portfolio management strategies.
13	4/6/2021	Market and Economy briefing. Introduction and Discussion on portfolio performance evaluation.
14	4/13/2021	Market and Economy briefing; Guest Lecture; Fund evaluation analyst: SMIF Holding and Performance
15	4/20/2021	Market and Economy briefing. EOS portfolio evaluation. Fund performance report overview.
16	4/27/2021	Fund Performance Report Due (no class meeting)