

**FIN 3244, Section 5**  
**Financial Markets, the Financial System, and Fundamentals of Investing**  
**Summer 2007**

**Instructor:** McKay Price  
**Phone:** 644 – 2038  
**Office Hours:** T,R 11:30 – 12:30  
(& by appointment)

**Office:** 337-C RBB  
**E-Mail:** smp06g@fsu.edu  
**Meeting Times:** MTWRF 12:30 – 1:45 pm,  
**Classroom:** 209 RBA

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

I have three overarching goals for students who take this class. I want you to:

- *Be More Financially And Economically Savvy.* I want you to be able to read, understand, and comment on articles and “expert statements” relating to the economy, the Federal Reserve, financial markets, financial products, and investments.
- *Be More Informed Citizens.* Many of the key issues in political elections on the federal, state, and local levels are related to economics and finance. I want you to be better equipped to analyze how certain proposals and platforms might affect the economy, the business world, and your personal finances.
- *Be More Informed And Successful Investors.* This class is intended to teach you the *basics* of investing. The principles and knowledge you learn in this class will provide a foundation on which you can build with more advanced investment knowledge (FIN 4504, FIN4514, FIN4934, etc...).

**COURSE TEXTBOOK**

Fundamentals of Investing, the Financial System, and Financial Markets, Custom Edition for FSU, (Hubbard, Gitman, and Joehnk)

**STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

Students are responsible for all topics on the accompanying outline and for related material covered in class lectures. Students are evaluated based upon three multiple choice examinations.

I reserve the right to administer a cumulative final, but my intention is that the final exam will NOT be cumulative. It is scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2007 during regular class time, in our regular classroom.

Final Grades will be weighted as follows:

35%	Highest Test Score
35%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Highest Test Score
30%	Lowest Test Score

I generally do not round at the end of the semester. Grading will be on the following percentage scale:

A	92 - 100	C+	78 - 79.9
A-	90 - 91.9	C	72 - 77.9
B+	88 - 89.9	C-	70 - 71.9
B	82 - 87.9	D	60 - 69.9
B-	80 - 81.9	F	Below 60

**HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO STUDY?**

Some students study tirelessly only to be disappointed with a B or a C on the test. Usually this occurs because they spend the majority of their time studying the wrong things. One of the skills that you should develop in college is the ability to distinguish the unimportant from the important and the important from the critical, without embarrassing yourself by asking the dreaded question, “will this be on the test?” The following guidelines will help you do this in my class (and in most other classes):

1. If I spend a disproportionate amount of class time discussing something, there is a very good chance it will appear on a test.
2. If I repeat a point or concept, there is also a very good chance it will appear on the test.
3. If I am painfully explicit in class about a definition or concept, there is a good chance it will appear on the test.

4. If I skip something in class but specifically tell you to read about it in the book, there is a good chance it will appear on the test.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES & INFORMATION**

- I'm not here to wreck anyone's GPA, but many of you will consider the exams to be rather difficult. The class GPA will fall between 2.6 – 2.85. Roughly 5 – 12% of the class will probably get a D or worse.
- Please put forth maximum effort to study and understand a concept on your own before you come to my office and ask me to review it. And please try to see me during the office hours listed above.
- I do not like to offer make-up exams, especially if the student misses a regularly scheduled exam and offers an explanation subsequent to the absence. In certain RARE exceptions *where the student clears the absence with me PRIOR to the regularly scheduled test*, a make up exam may be administered at my discretion. Make up exams will be more difficult than regularly scheduled exams.
- If you are unsatisfied with your performance, discuss the matter during the semester (after the first or second exam). Once the final exam is administered and graded, I do not make grade changes or compromises.
- I RARELY give students points back on tests. If you have disagreements about test questions, however, I will listen to and consider your contention if you approach me *in my office* in a *respectful manner*. My response will depend largely upon your attitude, the level of respect and maturity you manifest, and the validity of your logic.
- All cell phones should be turned off prior to the beginning of class (if you have a legitimate need to have your cell phone on during class, discuss it with me beforehand).
- In order to give my family the time and attention they deserve, I do not check email after 5:00 pm or before 8:00 am on weekdays and do not check email over the weekend.

#### **ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY:**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

#### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center  
97 Woodward Avenue, South  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
[sdrc@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu)  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

## TENTATIVE Daily Schedule

Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Pages	Author	
M	25-Jun	Syllabus/Overview of the Financial System	Syllabus			Financial Markets & Institutions
T	26-Jun	Overview of the Financial System	Chapter 3	All	Hubbard	
W	27-Jun	Transaction and Information Costs	Chapter 11	All	Hubbard	
R	28-Jun	Transaction and Information Costs	Chapter 11	All	Hubbard	
F	29-Jun	What Financial Institutions Do	Chapter 12	All	Hubbard	
M	2-Jul	What Financial Institutions Do	Chapter 12	All	Hubbard	
T	3-Jul	The Banking Industry	Chapter 14	All	Hubbard	
W	4-Jul	NO CLASS				
R	5-Jul	The Banking Industry	Chapter 14	All	Hubbard	
F	6-Jul	The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy	Chapter 19/20	All	Hubbard	
M	9-Jul	The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy	Chapter 19/20	All	Hubbard	
T	10-Jul	The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy	Chapter 19/20	All	Hubbard	
W	11-Jul	<b>EXAM I</b>				
R	12-Jul	Return and Risk/The Investment Environment	Chapter 4	139 -146, 157-160	GJ	
F	13-Jul	The Investment Environment	Chapter 1	All	GJ	
M	16-Jul	Markets and Transactions	Chapter 2	All	GJ	
T	17-Jul	Markets and Transactions	Chapter 2	All	GJ	
W	18-Jul	Markets and Transactions	Chapter 2	All	GJ	
R	19-Jul	Online Information and Investing	Chapter 3	All	GJ	
F	20-Jul	Online Information and Investing	Chapter 3	All	GJ	
M	23-Jul	<b>EXAM II</b>				
T	24-Jul	Fixed Income Investments	Chapter 10	All	GJ	
W	25-Jul	Fixed Income Investments	Chapter 10	All	GJ	
R	26-Jul	Common Stocks	Chapter 6	All	GJ	
F	27-Jul	Common Stocks	Chapter 6	All	GJ	
M	30-Jul	Mutual Funds	Chapter 13	All	GJ	
T	31-Jul	Mutual Funds	Chapter 13	All	GJ	
W	1-Aug	Catch Up/Review/Closing Thoughts				
R	2-Aug	<b>EXAM III</b>				