

**FIN 3244, Section 1**  
**Financial Markets, the Financial System, and Fundamentals of Investing**  
**Summer 2009**

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<b>Office Hours:</b> T,R 10:45 – 12:00 (& by appointment)	<b>Meeting Times:</b> MTWRF 9:30 – 10:45 am
	<b>Classroom:</b> HCB 216

### **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, Second 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.

My intention is that the last exam will NOT be cumulative, and will endeavor to keep it that way to the extent the material allows. The last exam is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2008 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 Score

Final Grades are rounded to one decimal place as shown 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

Extra Credit – Students will have the opportunity to voluntarily participate in our class investment portfolio project. Participation details will be explained in class. Each participant will get 2 percentage points added to their final grade. You’ll notice by examining the grading scale above that this has the ability to move you up to the next half grade if you are reasonably close to the cut off. The extra credit is not designed to move someone from a C to an A, but rather to help you if you end up near the break point for the next grade up. For example, if someone whose final weighted grade is a 76.0 (a C), then the extra credit will boost them to a 78.0 (a C+). **Earning the extra credit is easy**, by design, so as to encourage everyone to participate. (In contrast, the exams will be tough and exam participation is not voluntary.)

## 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.
- Read the assigned chapters in the book. This is by far the most thorough way to prep for exams. I don't expect you to show up for each class having read the material. However, in the past, exam performance and reading have been highly correlated.
- Make-up exams are unfair to your fellow students and I generally don't give them. Missed exams will result in a score of zero for that exam. I strongly frown upon anyone missing exams, especially if the student 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 are different from those administered during class and will be more difficult.
- 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.
- Out of respect for your fellow students, all cell phones should be turned off or set to vibrate prior to the beginning of class.

## 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)  
sdrcc@admin.fsu.edu  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

## TENTATIVE Daily Schedule

Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Pages	Author
<b>M</b>	11-May	Overview of the Financial System	Syllabus		
<b>T</b>	12-May	Overview of the Financial System	Chapter 3	All	Hubbard
<b>W</b>	13-May	Transaction and Information Costs	Chapter 11	All	Hubbard
<b>R</b>	14-May	Transaction and Information Costs	Chapter 11	All	Hubbard
<b>F</b>	15-May	What Financial Institutions Do	Chapter 12	All	Hubbard
<b>M</b>	18-May	What Financial Institutions Do	Chapter 12	All	Hubbard
<b>T</b>	19-May	The Banking Industry	Chapter 14	All	Hubbard
<b>W</b>	20-May	The Banking Industry	Chapter 14	All	Hubbard
<b>R</b>	21-May	<b>EXAM I</b>			
<b>F</b>	22-May	The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy	Chapter 19/20	All	Hubbard
<b>M</b>	25-May	<i>NO CLASS - Memorial Day</i>			
<b>T</b>	26-May	The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy	Chapter 19/20	All	Hubbard
<b>W</b>	27-May	The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy	Chapter 19/20	All	Hubbard
<b>R</b>	28-May	Return and Risk/The Investment Environment	Chapter 4	145-148, 151-154	GJ
<b>F</b>	29-May	The Investment Environment	Chapter 1	All	GJ
<b>M</b>	1-Jun	Markets and Transactions	Chapter 2	All	GJ
<b>T</b>	2-Jun	Markets and Transactions	Chapter 2	All	GJ
<b>W</b>	3-Jun	<b>EXAM II</b>			
<b>R</b>	4-Jun	<i>NO CLASS</i>			
<b>F</b>	5-Jun	<i>NO CLASS</i>			
<b>M</b>	8-Jun	Online Information and Investing	Chapter 3	All	GJ
<b>T</b>	9-Jun	Fixed Income Investments	Chapter 10	All	GJ
<b>W</b>	10-Jun	Fixed Income Investments	Chapter 10	All	GJ
<b>R</b>	11-Jun	Common Stocks	Chapter 6	All	GJ
<b>F</b>	12-Jun	Common Stocks	Chapter 6	All	GJ
<b>M</b>	15-Jun	Mutual Funds	Chapter 13	All	GJ
<b>T</b>	16-Jun	Mutual Funds	Chapter 13	All	GJ
<b>W</b>	17-Jun	Catch Up/Closing Thoughts			
<b>R</b>	18-Jun	<b>EXAM III</b>			