



University of
New Haven

Investments

SECTION I: Course Overview

Course Code: FIN310BCN

Subject Area(s): Finance

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: See Below

Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers all the basic financial instruments necessary to understand and implement investment programs. The concepts of Time Value of Money, Financial Statement Analysis and Portfolio construction will be used to analyze different investments. Moreover, you will review the concept of risk/return tradeoff as well as options, futures, and other newer type investments.

Furthermore, this course will help you to understand the complexities and purpose of investments along with its limitations. Overall, the goal is to equip you to better understand financial investments and approaches in relation to business in order to make sound financial management decisions.

This course is an introductory investment course that focuses on practical applications as well as analytical analyses of investment theories. It provides the basic knowledge about financial markets, valuation of investment tools, and different investment strategies. Those who want to start a career as investment professionals or who want to improve their decision-making as individual investors will find this course very useful. Major course topics include: financial markets and instruments, portfolio theory, valuation of equity and fixed-income securities, options and futures.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Study basic theories of Investments concepts and principles applicable in making investment decisions.
- Understand the characteristics of different financial assets such as money market instruments, bonds, and stocks.
- Identify how to apply different valuation models to evaluate fixed income securities and stocks.
- Use different derivative markets to manage their investment risks.
- Develop different analysis, valuation techniques, and portfolio construction.

- Understand the benefit of diversification of holding a portfolio of assets.
- Evaluate the financial position and the performance of one company and compare it with its competitors.

PREREQUISITES

Must have prior coursework in Financial Accounting, Business Finance, Business Statistics, and Principles of Economics

SECTION II: Instructor & Course Details

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

Name:	TBA
Contact Information:	TBA
Term:	SUMMER

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This class will meet once weekly for 150 minutes each time. All students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for the day's class session.

CEA enforces a mandatory attendance policy. You are therefore expected to attend all regularly scheduled class sessions, including any field trips, site visits, guest lectures, etc. that are assigned by the instructor. The table below shows the number of class sessions you may miss before receiving a grade penalty.

ALLOWED ABSENCES - SUMMER TERMS		
Courses Meeting X Day(s) Per Week	Allowed Absences	Automatic Failing Grade at X th Absence
Courses meeting 4 day(s) per week	1 Absence	4 th Absence

For every additional absence beyond the allowed number, your final course grade will drop down to the subsequent letter grade (ex: A+ to A). As a student, you should understand that the grade penalties will apply if you are marked absent due to tardiness or leaving class early. In the table below, you will find the grade penalty associated with each excessive absence up to and including automatic course failure.

ATTENDANCE DOCKING PENALTIES				
Absence	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Penalty	No Penalty	0.5 Grade Docked	1 Grade Docked	Automatic Failure
HIGHEST POSSIBLE GRADE AFTER ATTENDANCE PENALTIES				
Grade	A+	A	A-	F

CEA does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. As such, no documentation is required for missing class. Similarly, excessive absences, and the grade penalty associated with each, will not be excused even if you are able to provide documentation that shows the absence was beyond your control. You should therefore only miss class when truly needed as illness or other unavoidable factors may force you to miss a class session later on in the term.

GRADING & ASSESSMENT

The instructor will assess your progress towards the above-listed learning objectives by using the forms of assessment below. Each of these assessments is weighted and will count towards your final grade. The following section (Assessment Overview) will provide further details for each.

Class Participation	10%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2 (Midterm Assignment)	15%
Assignment 3	15%
Assignment 4	10%
Guest Speaker	15%
Final Assignment	25%

The instructor will calculate your course grades using the CEA Grading Scale shown below. As a CEA student, you should understand that credit transfer decisions—including earned grades for courses taken abroad—are ultimately made by your home institution.

CEA GRADING SCALE			
Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	Percentage Range	Quality Points
A+	9.70 – 10.0	97.0 – 100%	4.00
A	9.40 – 9.69	94.0 – 96.9%	4.00
A-	9.00 – 9.39	90.0 – 93.9%	3.70
B+	8.70 – 8.99	87.0 – 89.9%	3.30
B	8.40 – 8.69	84.0 – 86.9%	3.00
B-	8.00 – 8.39	80.0 – 83.9%	2.70
C+	7.70 – 7.99	77.0 – 79.9%	2.30
C	7.40 – 7.69	74.0 – 76.9%	2.00
C-	7.00 – 7.39	70.0 – 73.9%	1.70
D	6.00 – 6.99	60.0 – 69.9%	1.00
F	0.00 – 5.99	0.00 – 59.9%	0.00
W	Withdrawal	N/A	0.00
INC	Incomplete	N/A	0.00

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This section provides a brief description of each form of assessment listed above. Your course instructor will provide further details and instructions during class time.

Class Participation (10%): Student participation is mandatory for all courses taken at a CEA Study Center. The instructor will use the rubric below when determining your participation grade. All students should

understand that attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively toward the participation grade.

CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADING RUBRIC	
Student Participation Level	Grade
You make major & original contributions that spark discussion, offering critical comments clearly based on readings, research, & theoretical course topics.	A+ (10.0 – 9.70)
You make significant contributions that demonstrate insight as well as knowledge of required readings & independent research.	A/A- (9.69 – 9.00)
You participate voluntarily and make useful contributions that are usually based upon some reflection and familiarity with required readings.	B+/B (8.99 – 8.40)
You make voluntary but infrequent comments that generally reiterate the basic points of the required readings.	B-/C+ (8.39 – 7.70)
You make limited comments only when prompted and do not initiate debate or show a clear awareness of the importance of the readings.	C/C- (7.69 – 7.00)
You very rarely make comments and resist engagement with the subject. You are not prepared for class and/or discussion of course readings.	D (6.99 – 6.00)
You make irrelevant and tangential comments disruptive to class discussion. You are consistently unprepared for class and/or discussion of the course readings.	F (5.99 – 0.00)

Assignment 1 (10%): You are expected to deliver worksheets and solutions to problems about Portfolio Theory. These assignments will be individual assignments. The problems will be chosen by the instructor.

Assignment 2 (15%): You are expected to deliver worksheets and solutions to problems about Security Markets. These assignments will be individual assignments. The problems will be chosen by the instructor.

Assignment 3 (15%): You are expected to deliver worksheets and solutions to problems about Equity Valuation. These assignments will be group assignments. The problems will be chosen by the instructor.

Assignment 4 (10%): You are expected to deliver worksheets and solutions to problems about Derivatives Markets. These assignments will be group assignments. The problems will be chosen by the instructor.

Guest Speaker Session (15%): You are expected to deliver a summary and/or opinion about the guest speaker Session (Guest Speaker Session and to participate during the activity). Attendance will be mandatory. These assignments will be individual assignments.

Final Assignment (25%): You will investigate an important topic analyzed in this course and you will develop a further exploration. Moreover, you will develop a Power Point presentation. You will consider different angles and viewpoints of the issue. Late work will not be admitted **under any circumstances**. These assignments will be group assignments. Examples:

- Comparative study of mutual fund returns and insurance returns.
- An Analysis about a Financial Statement of an organization.
- A Study on financial performance.

REQUIRED READINGS

Reading assignments for this course will come from the required text(s) listed below. All required readings must be completed according to the due date assigned by the course instructor.

- I. **REQUIRED TEXT(S):** You may purchase the required text(s) prior to departure or upon program arrival. The required text(s) are listed below:

Bodie, Kane and Marcus (2017). *Investments*, 10th edition, McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-786167-4 (1080 pp).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **UNH Online Library:** As a CEA student, you will be given access to the online library of CEA's School of Record, the University of New Haven (UNH). You can use this online library to access databases and additional resources while performing research abroad. You may access the UNH online library [here](#) or through your MyCEA Account. You must comply with UNH Policies regarding library usage.
- **CEAClassroom – Moodle:** CEA instructors use Moodle, an interactive virtual learning environment. This web-based platform provides you with constant and direct access to the course syllabus, daily schedule of class lectures and assignments, non-textbook required readings, and additional resources. Moodle includes the normal array of forums, up-loadable and downloadable databases, wikis, and related academic support designed for helping you achieve the learning objectives listed in this syllabus.

During the first week of class, CEA academic staff and/or faculty will help you navigate through the many functions and resources Moodle provides. While you may print a hard copy version of the syllabus, you should always check Moodle for the most up-to-date information regarding this course. The instructor will use Moodle to make announcements and updates to the course and/or syllabus. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to all Moodle materials and that you monitor Moodle on a daily basis in case there are any changes made to course assignments or scheduling.

To access Moodle: Please log-in to your MyCEA account using your normal username and password. Click on the "While You're Abroad Tab" and make sure you are under the "Academics" sub-menu. There you will see a link above your schedule that says "View Online Courses" select this link to be taken to your Moodle environment.

- **Online Reference & Research Tools:** The course instructor has identified the resources below to assist you with understanding course topics. You are encouraged to explore these and other avenues of research including the databases available via the UNH online library.
 - Bloomberg (<http://www.bloomberg.com>)
 - Financial Times (www.ft.com)
 - Google Finance (www.google.com/finance)
 - Investopedia (<http://www.investopedia.com>)
 - Marketwatch (<http://www.marketwatch.com>)
 - Wall Street Journal (<http://online.wsj.com>)

COURSE CALENDAR
Investments

SESSION	TOPICS	ACTIVITY	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	<p>Course Introduction: Review Syllabus, Classroom Policies, Mini Cases</p> <p>Elements of Investments: Background & Asset Classes</p>	<p>Course Overview Lecture & Discussion</p>	<p>Bodie, Ch. 1 and 2 (pp. 1-58)</p>
2	<p>Portfolio Theory: Risk & Return</p>	<p>Lecture & Discussion</p>	<p>Bodie, Ch. 5 (pp. 117-167)</p>
3	<p>Portfolio Theory: Efficient Diversification & Capital Asset Pricing</p>	<p>Lecture & Discussion Work on exercises</p>	<p>Bodie, Ch 7. (pp. 205-249)</p>
4	<p>Portfolio Theory: Capital Asset Pricing & Review</p>	<p>Work on Exercises</p>	<p>Bodie, Ch 9. (pp. 291-323) *Submit Assignment 1</p>
5	<p>Guest Speaker</p>	<p>Guest Speaker</p>	<p>Work on Guest Speaker Assignment</p>
6	<p>Security Markets</p>	<p>Lecture & Discussion</p>	<p>Bodie, Ch 3. (pp. 59-91) *Submit Guest Speaker Assignment</p>
7	<p>Mutual Funds & Other Investment Companies</p>	<p>Lecture & Discussion Work on Exercises</p>	<p>Bodie, Ch 4. (pp. 92-116)</p>

8	Debt Securities: Bond Prices & Yields	Lecture & Discussion	Bodie, Ch 14. (pp. 445-486) *Submit Assignment 2
9	Debt Securities: Managing Bond Portfolios	Lecture & Discussion Work on Exercises	Bodie, Ch. 16 (pp. 515-556)
10	Security Analysis: Equity Valuation	Lecture & Discussion	Bodie, Ch. 18 (pp 591.-608)
11	Security Analysis: Equity Valuation	Lecture & Discussion	Bodie, Ch. 18 (pp 609.-634)
12	Security Analysis: Financial Statement Analysis	Lecture & Discussion Work on exercises	Bodie, Ch. 19 (pp. 635-667) *Submit Assignment 3
13	Derivatives Markets: Option Markets	Lecture & Discussion	Bodie, Ch. 20 (pp. 678-721)
14	Derivatives Markets: Option Valuation	Lecture & Discussion Work on exercises	Bodie, Ch. 21 (pp. 722-769) *Submit Assignment 4
15	FINAL PRESENTATIONS		

SECTION III: CEA Academic Policies

The policies listed in this section outline general expectations for CEA students. You should carefully review these policies to ensure success in your courses and during your time abroad. Furthermore, as a participant in the CEA program, you are expected to review and understand all CEA Student Policies, including the academic policies outlined on our website. CEA reserves the right to change, update, revise, or amend existing policies and/or procedures at any time. For the most up to date policies, please review the policies on our website.

Class & Instructor Policies can be found [here](#)

General Academic Policies can be found [here](#)