

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Business Administration
Department of General Business and Finance

Course Syllabus - Summer I 2008
FINANCE 486
INVESTMENTS

Considerations for five-week summer courses:

- 1. You are in class every day, with no breaks or study/preparation days in between**
- 2. You are in class for almost two hours per class, not 50 minutes or 75 minutes**
- 3. Quizzes and exams occur frequently, often the day following coverage of test material**
- 4. A commitment to attend every scheduled class is necessary**
- 5. Virtually no time is available to try to "catch up" on material**
- 6. Preparation must occur continually during the course**

Section: MTWTF 10:00 – 11:50 **Building, Room:** SHB 105 **Professor:** Dr. Robert Stretcher(x43308)

Office: SHB 210E **Email:** fin_rhs@shsu.edu **Website:** www.shsu.edu/~fin_rhs

Office Hours:

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	

(other times by appointment)

Required Texts: Essentials of Investments. 7th edition. Bodie, Kane and Marcus, McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2008.
ISBN 978-0-07-340517-9.

Catalog Description: **FIN 486 Investments.** A careful study is made of principles, types and forms of investments; modern investments; supply and demand for funds; characteristics of securities; federal, state, and municipal bonds; analysis of securities; and the movement of security prices. Prerequisite: FIN 367. Credit 3.

Teaching/Learning Strategies: Delivery of course material will be accomplished through lectures and class exercises.

Course Objectives:

- * Gaining factual knowledge.
- * Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories.
- * Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the fields most closely related to the course.

Course Requirements:

Examinations: There will be three regular examinations during Summer I. Exams will contain a conceptual portion in objective and/or written format. A problems portion may also be required, in a format similar to the problems assigned for homework.

Homework: Selected problems and readings will be assigned. Students are expected to complete assigned homework in

a timely manner, prior to their presentation in class. Homework problems are not graded; they are assigned primarily to provide practice in preparation for examinations.

Quizzes: 2-3 times per week, a quiz will be administered at the beginning of class. The objective of the quizzes is to allow students to demonstrate mastery of terminology and mild conceptual material from the advance reading assignment. International finance involves a large number of new terms, and knowing the meaning of the words in advance of the lecture allows much more productive use of class time. These quizzes are also an opportunity for students to assure themselves of high scores on a large portion of the course credit. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Grading System:

Examinations	60%20% each
Quiz Average	<u>40%</u>	
	100%	

Grading Scale: A: 89.5-100 B: 79.5-89.4 C: 69.5-79.4 D: 59.5-69.4 F: below 59.5

Incompletes: The grade of incomplete will be recorded at the end of the semester in the event a student experiences an unavoidable and excused delay in completion of the semester requirements for the course. Prior to the last exam, the student **MUST** submit, in writing, a justification for the incomplete, which is subject to your instructor's approval. *If* accepted, the student must arrange with the instructor a work schedule that will satisfy requirements within a specified time period. Failure to arrange any of these details will result in a regular grade being recorded for the student, reflecting zero credit for any work not performed. *The grade of incomplete is NOT considered for students having academic difficulty meeting course requirements, nor for poor performance in the course.*

Attendance Policy: *Attendance is necessary and expected. If you are unable to commit to taking the class, it is advisable to wait until you are able to make the commitment.* Attendance will be taken at all class meetings. Absence from class, *for any reason* (elective, medical, emergency, etc.), will result in zero credit for missed quizzes: a zero will be recorded for the missed quiz. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a **test** day, you may take the test prior to that test day. Missing class on a test day otherwise earns a zero on the test, unless the absence is unavoidable and falls under documentable extreme situations (hospitalization, death in IMMEDIATE family, etc).

Students are allowed up to three class periods of absences. Beyond the allowed absences, the grade of "F" will be recorded for the student. *Students unable or unwilling to accomplish reasonable attendance (those who will likely exceed the absence limit) are encouraged to enroll during a semester and in a section when they will be able and willing to attend the class.*

Tardiness will count as one-half absence. If a student is tardy, it is *their responsibility* to inform the professor at the end of the class period. Failure to do so will result in the tardy counting as an absence. If you are not able to come to class on time, it is strongly advisable to take the class in another semester when you *will be able* to come to class on time.

Academic Integrity Expectations: An act of academic dishonesty, even a first offense, places the student in jeopardy of severe forms of disciplinary action, including dismissal. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, falsification of information/citations, plagiarism, interference (with another student's work), and aiding others to commit an act of academic dishonesty. In accord with this policy, the instructor will cooperate with administrators in detecting, documenting, and reporting any person committing an act as described above. Avoid even the appearance of cheating. If a student is looking at another student's paper during an exam, it will be assumed that the purpose is to cheat, and documented as such.

Student absences on religious holy days policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence

is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Disabled student policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

This syllabus is valid for Summer I semester 2008. A schedule of topical coverage and semester highlights is available at the class website (www.shsu.edu/~fin_rhs).