

FIN 6930: Special Topics in Investment Analysis & Management

Course Objective: This course is designed to prepare you for taking the CFA exams. It is not geared toward any specific exam. Rather, it is designed to cover those topics often missing or new to CFA candidates.

Course Description: The first part of the course will focus on (1) ethics and GIPS, and (2) the accounting treatment of some of the more advanced topics in that area. These are not difficult to learn, but do require a significant amount of time to master. The first mid-term exam will cover these topics. The second part of the course focuses on select topics in professional money management. The concepts will be familiar to most business/finance students. But the application may be new. The final exam will cover these topics.

Prerequisites: You are required to be an MSF student or a senior finance major, having completed both the Debt and Equity classes (or equivalents). Any exceptions to this will require an extensive discussion of background to ensure that you can keep up with this course.

Textbooks: (1) Standards of Practice Handbook, 9th Ed., and Global Investment Performance Standards. (2) Intermediate Accounting by Kieso, Weygandt, and Warfield (ISBN-10: 0471749559). (3) Advanced Accounting by Beams, Clement, Anthony, and Lowensohn (ISBN-10: 0136033970). (4) Managing Investment Portfolios by Maginn, Tuttle, Pinto, and McLeavey (ISBN-13: 9780470080146)

I will try to arrange a course packet with the required readings. Otherwise, you will need to purchase this material (or similar).

Calculator Required: A financial calculator - defined as one with bond valuation, net present value (NPV), and internal rate of return (IRR) functions - is a necessity for the finance core. Two candidates are the HP 10B (about \$35) and the HP 17B (about \$90). Calculators are required for the quizzes; be sure to have fresh or back-up batteries.

Assignments: Each student will be assigned to one topic. For that topic, you must prepare a PowerPoint presentation and a summary for the other class members.

Examinations: 2 exams will take place in the regularly scheduled class. They will be closed book, closed notes, but you may use a formula sheet.

Grading: Graded Assignments (20%); Exams (40% each).