

Course Description/Objective:

Introduction to basic investment principles, including markets, stocks (aka equities), bonds (aka fixed-income debt instruments), mutual funds (aka investment companies), insurance products, interpretation of financial statements and other financial data and information, brokerage accounts, and the relationship of economic and political conditions to investing.

Course Content:

Investment environments, risks and returns, mutual funds, stocks, bonds, markets and transactions, investment strategies and tools, portfolio management and asset allocation, options and futures contracts, real estate and other investment alternatives.

Course Materials:

Required: [*Introduction to Investments: A Free Manual for Building Wealth*](#), Paiano, 2025, Free-to-read textbook, [Mobile-friendly version](#)
Notebook, Calculator/spreadsheet, Dedication, Organization, Motivation, Hard work, Discipline, *Jokes!*

Attendance and Lateness:

Do not miss class! Your grade depends on it. *Do not come late to lecture!* It is disrespectful to your fellow students. *You are responsible for all information covered in class.* Everything covered in class is recorded on the website. This is not a valid excuse: “*But I was absent that class.*” If you can’t make it to the campus, login to <https://wonderprofessor.com/zoom> as we will be live-streaming and recording the class sessions. If you get behind, please, please, please *contact me as soon as possible!* Southwestern has many student success resources available.

Grading:

The course grade will be based upon class participation, homework and individual and group assignments, short quizzes, exams, and a comprehensive final examination. The required format and documentation will be defined by the instructor. All work will be graded and returned as quickly as possible. *Any work turned in after its due date will be automatically penalized at least ten percent unless prior consent of the instructor is obtained.* Academic dishonesty of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, footnotes, or appropriate documentation. *Please do your own work!* **Do Not Submit AI Results Without Checking Them First!** Grades will be assigned as follows:

A – 90% of points	Exams:	69%	Bonus assignments: 5%
B – 80%	Assignments:	23%	
C – 70%	Discussions:	7%	
D – 60%	<u>Short quizzes:</u>	<u>1%</u>	
F – less than 60%	Total:	100%	

Time Requirements:

The Southwestern College catalog indicates that for every one college unit, three hours should be set aside for learning. Therefore, you should plan to spend approximately nine hours per week. The actual time spent varies from individual to individual. The best rule of thumb is to set aside at least *one hour each day* for Introduction to Investments. Pick a time during the day that is good for you and study each day. Do not try to do all the studying, reading, listening, watching, etc. and work on one day. That is not learning. Learning requires repetition.

Accommodations:

Southwestern College recommends that students with disabilities or specific learning needs contact their professors during the first two weeks of class to discuss academic accommodations. If you believe that you may have a disability and would like more information, you are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services (DSS) at 619-482-6512 (voice), 619-207-4480 (video phone), or email at DSS@swccd.edu. Alternate forms of this syllabus and other course materials are available upon request. With the transition to an online format, we have made every effort to make this course accessible to all students. If you encounter a problem accessing anything in this course, please email me immediately so that we can support you. You may also contact Disability Support Services at dss@swccd.edu.

Academic Success Center Referral:

To further your success, reinforce concepts, and achieve the stated learning objectives for this course, I refer you to the Academic Success Center learning assistance services. Upon request for tutorial services, you will be automatically enrolled in NC 3, Supervised Tutoring, a free non-credit course that does not appear on your transcripts. Services are located in the ASC (420), the Writing Center (420D), the Reading Center (420), Math Center (426), the Library/LRC Interdisciplinary Tutoring Lab, MESA, specialized on campus school tutoring labs, the HEC, and the SYEC. Online learning materials and Online Writing Lab (OWL) are available at <https://www.swccd.edu/student-support/labs/academic-success-center.aspx>.

Instructor Availability:

Office: Room 25-115 - Part-time Faculty Office
Office hours: **Face-to-face and Office: See class website**
Online Office: <https://WonderProfessor.com/zoom>
Work phone: 619-421-6700x5692 (doesn't work – use email)
E-mail: fpaiano@swccd.edu (24-hour response, Mon-Fri)
Home page: www.WonderProfessor.com
Class website: www.WonderProfessor.com/123

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to create a portfolio of five to twenty stocks and explain their rationales for making their choices. Students will be able to calculate at least 10 financial statistics of two individual companies and then compare and contrast the two individual companies resulting in a recommendation to choose one company, both companies, or neither company for their portfolio.

Work-based Learning:

Work-based Learning is very cool! We should have at least one extra credit bonus work-based learning assignments. Check out the long format syllabus for more info.

The following course schedule is subject to change as the course progresses. If you have any suggestions about the course material, please feel free to tell me personally or interject them into the discussions. We will attempt to cover all this material but our emphasis is always placed on everyone understanding and using what is covered. However, I will make every attempt to satisfy those students who are anxious to move ahead on their own with extra assignments. ***If you get behind, please contact me as soon as possible for extra assistance.*** We want you to succeed!

Wk	Dates	Topics	Chap	Exam
1	Aug 26 - 28	Part 1: Introduction – Introductions & Welcome; Getting Started; Introduction, Overview, and Risk versus Return – <i>What is an Investment?</i>	1	
2	Sep 2 - 4	Overview of the Investment Universe, Security Types, Risk versus Return Short-term Securities	1	
3	Sep 9 - 11	Mutual Funds: Investments for the Masses	2	
4	Sep 16 - 18	Mutual Funds: Investments for the Masses (<i>continued</i>)	2	#1*
5	Sep 23 - 25	Part 2: Stocks Introduction to Stocks	3	
6	Sep 30 - Oct 2	Introduction to Stocks (<i>continued</i>)	3	
7	Oct 7 - 9	Fundamental Analysis: Valuation Models	4	
8	Oct 14 - 16	Fundamental Analysis: Valuation Models (<i>continued</i>)	4	#2*
9	Oct 21 - 23	Fundamental Analysis: Financial Statements & Ratio Analysis	5	
10	Oct 28 - 30	Market Efficiency: “ <i>Who Can Beat the Market?</i> ” Technical Analysis: Reading Squiggles on a Computer Screen	6 7	#3*
11	Nov 4 - 6	Part 3: Bonds – Interest Rates and Bond Valuation Introduction to Bonds Government Bonds, Municipal Bonds, Corporate Bonds	8	
12	Nov 13	Bond Yields and Valuation Hybrid Securities: Preferred Stock and Convertible Securities	9 10	
13	Nov 18 - 20	Part 4: Portfolio Management Portfolio Diversification and Asset Allocation Mutual Funds Revisited	11	#4*
14	Nov 25	Part 5: Speculating (also known as Trading, better described as Gambling) Options Contracts (aka Options) Futures Contracts (aka Futures) Buying on Margin Accounts and Selling Short Precious Metals, Art, and Collectibles Cryptocurrencies and NFTs	12 13 14 15 16	
15	Dec 2 - 4	Part 6: Miscellaneous Topics in Investing including Real Estate Real Estate and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) Brokerages, Account Types, and Annuities Starting a Business: The Ultimate Investment	17 18 19	
16	Dec 11	Final Exam: To be announced		Final

* Always check www.WonderProfessor.com/123 or the Canvas announcements for the dates of the next exam.