



American University of Ras Al Khaimah

AURAK Syllabus

Course & Instructor Information

Course Title: Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management

Course Code: FNAN 411

Credit Hours: 3.0

Methods of Instruction *(See Syllabus Guide for additional information that should be added here):*

This course uses the face-to-face method of instruction.

Prerequisite course(s) and/or co-requisite courses, if applicable:

STAT 100, FNAN 303

Faculty Name: Haileslasie Tadele Gebremariam

Contact Information and Office Hours:

Building H, Office No. 302E 07 221 0500 Ext: 8768 h.gebremariam@aurak.ac.ae Office Hours: 11:00 am to 12:00 pm (Mon & Tue) or by appointment

Course Description:

This course focuses on analysis and valuation of investment alternatives and strategies. It will mainly focus on classifying investment alternatives, and examining how investors allocate their financial assets and manage their portfolio. The course analyzes modern techniques of portfolio management including evaluating standards for selecting individual securities to include or remove from portfolio. The course also discovers risk-return analysis for portfolio, and portfolio performance measures. The course is practically oriented, but also aims to equip students with conceptual and theoretical background of investment analysis and portfolio management.

Additional Information about the course:

Additional Information about the Course: This course is not an online course. The course uses a face-to-face method of instruction. Students are expected to prepare for and attend all classes to gain full benefit from the

course. Students are expected to attend a three credit hours of lecture a week and they are expected to spend about 9 hours study time per week.

Course Textbooks and Materials:

Course Textbooks and Materials:

- Scott B., S., and Chad, J. Z. (2020). *Fundamentals of Investing*. Global edition, 14th Edition. Pearson Publisher.

Other Resources:

Supplementary Books:

- Bodie, Z., Alex, K. and Marcus, A. (2018). *Essentials of Investments*. 11th Edition. McGraw Hill Publisher.
- Frank K. Reilly, Keith C. Brown and Sandford Leeds (2018). *Analysis of Investments and Management of Portfolios*, 11th Ed, CENGAGE publishing.
- Herbert B., M. (2016). *Investments: An Introduction*, 12th Ed, CENGAGE publishing.
- Michael McMillan, Jerald E. Pinto, Wendy L. Pirie, and Gerhard Van de Venter (2011). *Investments: Principles of Portfolio and Equity Analysis*. CFA Institute.
- John L. Maginn, Donald L. Tuttle, and Dennis W. McLeavey (2007). *Managing Investment Portfolios: A Dynamic Process*, 3rd Edition. CFA Institute

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles:

- [Abadi, R.T.](#) and [Silva, F.](#) (2019). Do fundamental portfolios outperform in the MENA equity markets? *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management*, 12 (2), 265-281. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/IMEFM-07-2018-0230>
- Bley, J. and Saad, M. (2020). An analysis of technical trading rules: The case of MENA markets. *Finance Research Letters* 33, 1-9. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.frl.2019.04.038>
- Mikutowski, M., Kambouris, G. D., & Zaremba, A. (2019). A note on value investing in the UAE stock market. *Journal of Research in Emerging Markets*, 1(2), 33-38. <https://doi.org/10.30585/jrems.v1i2.339>.
- Szczygielski, J. J., Mikutowski, M., & Zaremba, A. (2019). Is there a low-risk anomaly in the UAE stock market?. *Journal of Research in Emerging Markets*, 1(2), 39-44. <https://doi.org/10.30585/jrems.v1i2.348>.
- Ulussever, T., and Demirer, R. (2017). Investor herds and oil prices evidence in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) equity markets. *Central Bank Review* 17, 77-89. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbrev.2017.08.001>

Web Resources:

Central Bank of UAE

<http://www.centralbank.ae/en/index.php>.

Arab Stock Market Information

<http://www.arab-exchanges.org/Statistics.aspx>

Financial Visualizations

<https://finviz.com/>

Market Watch

<https://www.marketwatch.com/>

Yahoo Finance

<https://finance.yahoo.com/>

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Course Learning Outcomes At the end of this course, students should be able to:	
CLO 1	Demonstrate proficiency in computing the risk and return of individual and portfolio of investments using asset-pricing models.
CLO 2	Evaluate the fair value of Bonds and stocks, and analyze the factors affecting the values.
CLO 3	Apply the market efficiency theories to assess stock market performance.
CLO 4	Apply appropriate investment theories, and techniques relevant to security analysis and portfolio management and evaluate portfolio performance.
CLO 5	Evaluate the structure of derivative markets, the types of securities traded, and the market participants.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Mapping Course to Program Outcomes

Please see the APPENDIX for the Course to Program Learning Outcomes Mapping.

Assessment Activities

The dates for quizzes, exams, and submission of assignments are specified in the schedule. You will be graded in this class based on the number of points you earn for quizzes, exams written assignments, or other activities, including your class participation. Keep track of your scores in Blackboard.

Assessment Activities and Grading Weight	(2) Course Activities / Assignments (Written report and oral presentation) 40%	(1) Quiz (Written test) 10%	(1) Mid-term Exam (Written exam) 25%	(1) Final Exam (Written exam) 25%
CLO 1		X	X	X
CLO 2		X	X	X
CLO 3			X	X
CLO 4	X			X
CLO 5	X			X
Instructor Feedback on Assessments	Instructor will be providing sufficient timely written (or recorded) feedback on student work within 1 to 2 weeks of completion of this assessment to enable students to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities	Instructor will be providing sufficient timely written (or recorded) feedback on student work within 1 week of completion of this assessment to enable students to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities	Instructor will be providing sufficient timely written (or recorded) feedback on student work within 72 hours on completion of this assessment to enable students to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities	Instructor will be providing sufficient timely written (or recorded) feedback on student work within 48 hours of completion of this assessment to enable students to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities

To ensure higher standards of academic integrity, the assignment will be submitted through Blackboard. The SafeAssign will be used to assess the originality of students' submissions. The mid-term and final exam will be closed book exams.

Quizzes (10%): A quiz worth of 10% will be provided on the fifth week of the semester. The quiz will be an open book case study, including four conceptual and quantitative questions. The quiz aims to assess students' conceptual and quantitative skills.

Individual Assignment (25%): The individual assignment will focus on understanding of the application of portfolio investment theories, structure of financial markets, and Ethical issues in investment decision makings. As part of the individual assignment, students are expected to complete a 10 hour online reading on CFA code of ethics and standards of professional conduct and provide a summary report of their learning experience. In addition, students are also expected to write a report on their field trip to Dubai financial market. The assignment aims to assess students' critical thinking and analytical skills.

Group Assignment (15%): The group assignment will focus on social impact through student projects. The project aims to assess students' ability to disseminate knowledge to their community. Students are expected to conduct a workshop on the foundations of investments to a group of 3 – 5 people in their community. A video recording of the workshop and a lecture note/PowerPoint slides should be submitted on Blackboard. The students are also expected to make a 20 minutes presentation to share their journey with their fellow student. The assignment aims to assess students' organizational and teamwork skills.

Midterm (25%): The midterm exam will include chapters covered through the first half of the course. It will comprise of five questions worth 25%. The exam aims to assess students' conceptual, quantitative and analytical skills.

Final Exam (25%): The final exam will cover all topics after the mid-term. It aims to assess students' analytical and quantitative skills. The exam will include five questions that focus on both quantitative and conceptual issues.

Assessment Rubrics:

The assessment instruments with the answer key, marking scheme/ assessment rubric will be included for all assessment instruments for this course in the Course File and uploaded on the Course File Component of the IDAP system.

Grading Scale

The grading system and scale for AURAK, as established by the Board of Trustees, is as follows:

AURAK Grading System and Scale		
Grade	Percentage Scores	Grade Points
A	95-100	4.00
A-	90-94	3.70
B+	86-89	3.30
B	83-85	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	76-79	2.30
C	73-75	2.00
C-	70-72	1.70
D+	66-69	1.30
D	60-65	1.00

F	0-59	0.00
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An "S" grade reflects satisfactory, or passing, work in a course (i.e., equivalent to grade of C or higher for graduate students). A "U" grade reflects unsatisfactory, or failing, work in a course. S/U will have no effect on the GPA.

Weekly Course Information

Schedule of Course Topics, Required Reading, and Assignments and Assessments (Including scheduling of laboratory, studio, external visit, and other non-classroom meeting sessions, as appropriate)				
Week	Topic	Required Readings	Assignment, Assessment (with grade weighting) & Due Date	Mapping of CLOs to Assessments
1	The Investment Environment	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.1		1,2
2	Securities market and transactions I	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.2		1,2
3	Securities market and transactions II	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.2 In class discussion on the functions of Dubai Financial market		1,2
4	Risk and Return	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.4		1,2
5	Market Efficiency and Behavioral Finance	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.9	Quiz (Case study based open book test) 10% (24/09/2024)	1,2,3
6	Common stocks	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.6		1,2,3
7	Analyzing common stocks	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap. 7		1,2,3

8	Stock valuation	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.8	Mid-term Written exam 25% (17/10/2024)	1,2,3
9	Modern portfolio concepts	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.5		2, 4
10	Fixed-Income Securities	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.10	Individual Assignment 25% Release date: 20/09/2024 Submission date: 03/11/2024	2
11	Bond valuation	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.11		2
12	Mutual Funds and Exchange-Traded Funds	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.12		1,2,3,4
13	Managing Your Own Portfolio	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.13		2, 4
14	Futures Markets and Securities	Scott and Chad (2019), Chap.15 Case study discussion on the financial market environment in the UAE	Group Assignment 15% Release date: 06/10/2024 Submission date: 30/11/2024	5
15	Review	All readings after the mid-term		2,4,5
16	Final Exam	All readings after the mid-term	Final Exam 25% TBA	1,2,3,4,5

The course syllabus will be contextualized for UAE content wherever necessary.

Previous semester recommendations:

Based on the Fall 2023 DASPA recommendations, in-class practice questions and home take assignments to evaluate the fair value of Bonds, analyze the factors affecting the values, and identify the types of securities traded and the market participant will be provided to students to ensure that CLO 2 & 5 are met in the future.

Attendance Policy

Regular student attendance and class participation are essential for students to meet course expectations and to succeed in their studies. The following are benefits associated with attending classes:

- Opportunity to participate in active learning
- Opportunity to demonstrate preparation for class
- Opportunity to engage with the faculty member teaching the course, classmates, and the course material

The following are requirements of the university's attendance policy:

- Students must provide a satisfactory reason for being absent from class, to the course instructor, in advance of missing a class.
- Students must observe protocols for online course attendance (e.g., having camera turned on).
- Students must arrive on time for class and must not depart early from the class. Persistent late arrival at, or early departure from, class meetings may result in being counted as absent from class.

If students fail to attend 20% of the scheduled classes for the semester the following will be the consequence:

- Students will receive a notice that they have been withdrawn from the course, receiving a grade of either W or F (or U).
- W if the 20% absence is reached prior to the deadline for withdrawing from a course with a grade of W.
- F (or U) if the 20% absence is reached after the deadline for withdrawing from a course with a grade of W.

Accommodations for Students of Determination

Students of determination may find they require additional support, services, or considerations. AURAK will endeavor to support students of determination of those with special needs where resources are available. Accommodations will be provided, for students with verified needs, allowing equal access to educational facilities, programs, services, and activities at AURAK. Accommodations are never applied retroactively – only students who have previously requested and have been approved for supporting accommodations can have them apply to a given academic semester/course. Students needing support must make the request from the Office of Support Services located in Building D.

Other Relevant Policies

A. Academic Integrity

The Honor Code

The American University of Ras Al Khaimah strongly supports the concept of academic integrity and expects students and all other members of the AURAK community to be honest in all academic endeavors. The AURAK Honor Code can be found in the AURAK Student Handbook.

The role of the Honor Code and associated Academic Integrity Policy is to protect the academic integrity of the university, encourage consistent ethical behavior among students, and foster a climate of honorable academic achievement. The Honor Code is an integral part of university life and students are responsible, therefore, for understanding and abiding by the code's provisions. While a student's commitment to honesty and personal integrity is assumed and expected, this Code and associated policy and procedures provides clarity of expectations.

Expectations

Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic fraud are unacceptable; they are serious violations of university policy. AURAK expects all students to be familiar with university policies on academic integrity. The university will not accept a claim of ignorance – either of the policy itself or of what constitutes academic fraud – as a valid defense against such a charge.

Violations of Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity constitute academic fraud. Academic fraud consists of any actions that serves to undermine the integrity of the academic process or that gives the student an unfair advantage, including:

- Inspecting, duplicating or distributing test materials without authorization.
- Cheating, attempting to cheat, or assisting others to cheat – relevant here is the prohibition on being in possession of a mobile telephone or similar electronic device during a test or examination. In case such devices are found with a student, the student will be deemed to have attempted to cheat and will be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Academic Integrity Policy.
- Altering work after it has been submitted for a grade.
- Plagiarizing.
- Using or attempting to use anything that constitutes unauthorized assistance. **PLEASE NOTE:** Faculty members may prohibit the use of generative AI, including though not limited to, generative AI such as Open AI ChatGPT and Canva, in completing assignments. When such prohibitions have been communicated by the faculty member, incorporating information from such sources into your assignment submission will be treated as a serious violation of academic integrity expectations.
- Fabricating, falsifying, distorting, or inventing any information, documentation, or citation.

Plagiarism

One of the most common violations of academic integrity is plagiarism. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. However, since each student is responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism, unintentional plagiarism is as unacceptable as intentional plagiarism and thus will bring the same penalties.

Plagiarism – submitting the work of others as one’s own - is a serious offense. This includes submitting work obtained from AI writers such as Open AI Chat GPT, as well as other forms of generative AI. In the academic world, plagiarism is theft. Information from sources – whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized – must be given credit through specific citations. When a student paraphrases a work, it is still necessary to cite the original source, even when the information has been provided by generative AI writers and/or sources. Merely rearranging a sentence or changing a few words is not sufficient. The citation style should be appropriate for the discipline and should clearly indicate the beginning and ending of the referenced material. All sources used in the preparation of an academic paper must also be listed with full bibliographic details at the end of the paper, as appropriate in the discipline. **PLEASE NOTE:** Faculty members may prohibit the use of generative AI in completing assignments.

When such prohibitions have been communicated by the faculty member, incorporating information from such sources into your assignment submission will be treated as a serious violation of academic integrity expectations.

While plagiarism detection software can assist identifying plagiarism, there is no “percentage of matching content” threshold for determining that content in a written assignment has been plagiarized. Indeed, the presentation of a single striking phrase originally written by another without attribution to the original source can constitute plagiarism, even though the percentage of matching content found by plagiarism-checking software might be very small.

Faculty and Student Expectations

- Every student, faculty member, and administrator is responsible for upholding the highest standards of academic integrity. Every member of the AURAK community shall honor the spirit of this policy by refusing to tolerate academic fraud.
- It is the responsibility of the instructor to provide students with additional guidelines for what constitutes “authorized” and “unauthorized” assistance.
- It is the responsibility of every student to see clarification if in doubt about what constitutes “authorized” and “unauthorized” assistance. In cases involving collaborative work, all students within the collaborative group may be help responsible for violating the code if any member of the group receives, accepts, or utilizes “unauthorized” assistance.
- Students are required to obtain permission prior to submitting work, any part of which was previously or will be submitted in another course. The instructor has the option of accepting, rejecting, or requiring modification of the content of previously or simultaneously submitted work.

A student who suspects that a violation of academic integrity has occurred should report the violation to the dean or to the Office of the Provost. In this report, the student should describe any action taken, such as talking with the person involved or with a faculty or staff member. Every effort will be made to preserve the anonymity of the student reporting the incident;

Possible penalties for academic fraud include: Formal warning, Reduction in grade for the assignment, Reduction in the grade for the course, A failing grade for the assignment, A failing grade (F) in the course, and/or Dismissal or Expulsion from the University.

Please refer to the relevant section in the *Student Handbook* and ensure a clear understanding of the provisions of the University Honor Code and the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

B. Concerns about grades or other course matters.

Students are responsible for their learning experiences. If you are concerned about a class matter, first discuss it with the instructor. If the matter is not resolved, the next step is to meet with the Chair of the department in which the course is taught. If you still have a concern, meet with the Dean of the school in which the course is taught. The matter is likely to be resolved before it reaches that point, but if it is not, then visit the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. Students who decide to “jump to the top” will be referred “back” to the appropriate next step.

C. Assignments

University policy is that assignments are due on the date indicated when the assignment is made. Instructors may refuse to accept late assignments or lower the grade that would be otherwise given.

D. Mobile Phones

All mobile phones and other communication devices should be turned off before entering the classroom. Students may NOT have mobile telephone or other electronic devices in their possession while completing examinations. Any violation will be deemed as having attempted to cheat.

E. Diversity and the Use of English

English is the common language of the AURAK campus for everyone. It is the only language to be used in the classroom. AURAK brings together students and faculty from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which is one of the strengths of the university. This diversity provides an opportunity to share our different experiences and enlarge our understanding of the world.

APPENDIX

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) : BS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Program Learning Outcomes At the completion of the program, students should be able to:	
PLO 1	PLO1: Critically expand on the basic principles of economics, accounting, finance, management, information systems, marketing and operations in the context of a global economy.
PLO 2	PLO2: Apply concepts and theories of ethics and social responsibility to practical business dilemmas, recognizing the implications of management decisions for the interests of key internal and external stakeholders.
PLO 3	PLO3: Demonstrate competency in presentation and writing skills using the latest business communication tools.
PLO 4	PLO4: Effectively work in teams and take the lead in team initiatives.
PLO 5	PLO5: Engage in critical self-analysis and professional reflection about potential roles in a business context.
PLO 6	PLO6: Evaluate business situations and critique managerial decisions, using financial statements, statistical tools, and other appropriate methods to organize, analyze and present data.
PLO 7	FMLO 1: Assess the salience to specific decision scenarios of the structures and regulatory frameworks encompassing financial institutions and markets.
PLO 8	FMLO 2: Evaluate, aggregate and synthesize knowledge relating to financial operations from diverse sources for the benefit of the organization.
PLO 9	FMLO 3: Formulate and craft effective solutions to finance-related business problems, based on sound application of underlying financial principles.

Mapping Course to Program Learning Outcomes : BS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The learning outcomes of this course contribute to meeting one or more of the program learning outcomes as shown below, with the contribution designated as “high”, “medium”, or “low”:									
	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6	PLO 7	PLO 8	PLO 9
CLO 1	<i>high</i>			<i>high</i>	<i>medium</i>	<i>high</i>			<i>high</i>
CLO 2	<i>medium</i>	<i>medium</i>			<i>medium</i>	<i>high</i>		<i>medium</i>	<i>high</i>
CLO 3	<i>medium</i>	<i>medium</i>	<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>			<i>high</i>	

CLO 4		<i>medium</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>high</i>	<i>medium</i>	<i>high</i>		<i>high</i>	<i>high</i>
CLO 5	<i>high</i>				<i>medium</i>	<i>high</i>			<i>high</i>