



**Instructor:**

Name: Royce A. West, CFA  
Department: Finance  
Email: west.47@osu.edu  
Office Hours: upon request

**Class Meeting Schedule:**

Class will meet in person each Monday/Wednesday evening from 5:30-6:50PM in Schoenbaum Hall 209.

**Course Materials / Software:**

Required:

- *Essentials of Investments*, 13<sup>th</sup> edition, by Bodie, Kane, and Marcus
- *Bloomberg Terminal*

Recommended:

- *The Wall Street Journal*
- S&P Capital IQ NetAdvantage
- Macrotrends.net

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to teach the principles of financial decision making and the investment process. The course will cover current market moving events, multiple asset classes, asset allocation, diversification, key player types, the efficient market hypothesis, asset pricing models, active investment management, behavioral finance, and financial regulation.

**Prerequisites:**

Business Finance 3220, Statistical Techniques 2320, Business Analytics 2321, and Research in Finance 2291

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students:

- Gained knowledge of various components of investments and the investment industry, including knowledge of (but not limited to): equity, fixed income, options, futures, mutual funds, ETFs.

## **How This Course Works:**

**Mode of delivery:** All aspects of the class will be delivered live and in person. The class meets twice per week. You should expect to spend 6+ hours per week outside of the classroom on course-related work.

The students will be divided into sector teams. There are eleven sectors in the S&P 500. Each sector team is responsible for tracking trends regarding its sector and communicating sector-specific news to the class. Attendance and class participation will be noted. Additionally, sector teams will work together on the equity portfolio management project (described in the module via Carmen).

We will generally follow the topics and concepts in the book. The course will heavily rely on current market moving news and events. Regular class attendance is expected since material will be covered that is not in the text book (and attendance will be taken).

Solving end of chapter problems is essential for success in the class and are representative of what you might see on an exam or quiz.

**Pace of activities:** This course is divided into **weekly modules** that will be posted in Carmen prior to class. Students are expected to keep pace with weekly deadlines but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

**Credit hours and work expectations:** This is a **3-credit-hour course**. According to [Ohio State policy](#), students should expect around an average of 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example).

**Attendance and participation requirements:** Participation is a vital portion of this class. Students are expected to attend each class session. Attendance and participation will be noted by the instructor. At the beginning of each class, we discuss the previous week's market-related events. Students should be ready to discuss the following: S&P500 performance for the week, top/bottom sector performers, key economic drivers for the week, and key news that drove the market/stocks for the week, and the assigned reading. Be prepared to speak during class. Students will be awarded for class participation.

You are expected to log in to the course in Carmen every week. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*.

## Course technology:

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at [ocio.osu.edu/help/hours](https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours), and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** [ocio.osu.edu/help](https://ocio.osu.edu/help)
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** [servicedesk@osu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@osu.edu)
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Baseline technical skills for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen: for questions about specific functionality, see the [Canvas Student Guide](#).

Required Technology skills specific to this course

- [CarmenZoom virtual meetings](#)
- [Recording a slide presentation with audio narration](#)
- [Recording, editing, and uploading video](#)

Required equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) or landline to use for BuckeyePass authentication

Required software

- [Microsoft Office 365](#): All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft's Student Advantage program. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found [at go.osu.edu/office365help](https://go.osu.edu/office365help).

Carmen access

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](#) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](#) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the [Duo Mobile application](#) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357 (HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

## Grading and Evaluation:

Graded assignments may come in three forms, and students should note the expectations for each in the descriptions of our class assignments below.

- **Independent Work ( 🚫 ):** Strictly non-collaborative, original-individual work. You may discuss this assignment only with your instructor. Discussions with other individuals, either in person or electronically, are strictly prohibited.

- **Collaboration Required (👥):** An explicit expectation for collaboration among students either in-class or outside (i.e. group work).
- **Optional-Collaboration (👥):** Students are permitted, but not required, to discuss the assignment or ideas with each other. However, all submitted work must be one's original and individual creation.

Assignment Name	Points / Weight	Assignment Type
Class Participation	5%	👤
Equity Portfolio Management Project	5%	👥
Stock Research Assignment	5%	👤
Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC)	10%	👤
Quizzes	20%	👤
Midterm	25%	👤
Final	30%	👤
<b>TOTAL COURSE POINTS</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## Course Assignments:

There are 7 major components to the class:

- 1) Participation is a vital portion of this class. Students are expected to attend each live class session. Attendance and participation will be noted by the instructor.
  - a. At the beginning of each class, we discuss the previous week's market-related events. Students should be ready to discuss the following: S&P500 performance for the week, top/bottom sector performers, key economic drivers for the week, and key news that drove the market/stocks for the week, and the assigned reading.
  - b. Be prepared to speak during class. Students will be awarded for class participation.
- 2) Stock Research Project  
This is an individual project. Project requirements are explained in Carmen.
- 3) Equity Portfolio Management Project:  
This is a group project. Groups will be assigned by the instructor. Project guidelines are outlined in Carmen.
- 4) Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC): A self-paced e-learning course that provides a visual introduction to the financial markets. BMC consists of 4 modules – Economics, Currencies, Fixed Income, and Equities – woven together from Bloomberg data, news, analytics, and television. The course is available online. Details found in Carmen.
- 5) Quizzes: There will be 4 quizzes, however, only the highest 3 grades will be used in your final grade (you may drop the lowest quiz score). No quiz extensions or make-up quizzes will be offered. Quizzes will be distributed online on day of class (but will be completed before class).
- 6) Midterm: will be distributed online during class time.
- 7) Final: will be distributed online during finals week.

## Course Schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading	Exam/Quiz/Project
1/12	Meet: In Person Discussion: Course Intro & Intro to Investments	Ch 1	
1/14	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Course Intro & Intro to Investments	Ch 1	
1/19	Martin Luther King Day		NO CLASS
1/21	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Asset Classes, Financial Instruments, asset allocation, Securities Markets	Ch 2, 3	
1/26	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Asset Classes, Financial Instruments, asset allocation, Securities Markets	Ch 2, 3	Stock Research Project
1/28	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: ETFs and Mutual Funds and Equity Portfolio Management Assignment #1	Ch 4	QUIZ 1
2/2	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Risk and Return, Efficient Diversification	Ch 5, 6	
2/4	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Risk and Return, Efficient Diversification	Ch 5, 6	Equity Portfolio Management Assign #1 due
2/9	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: CAPM	Ch 7	
2/11	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: CAPM	Ch 7	
2/16	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: The Efficient Markets Hypothesis	Ch 8	QUIZ 2
2/18	Meet: In Person Guest Speaker: TBD Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: The Efficient Markets Hypothesis	Ch 8	
2/23	Midterm review		
2/25	MIDTERM		online
3/2	First Session Finals - No Class		

3/4	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Equity Valuation and Equity Portfolio Management Assign #2	Ch 13	
3/9	Benchmarks		
3/11	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Behavioral Finance	Ch 9.1	Equity Portfolio Management Assign #2 due
3/16	SPRING BREAK		
3/18	SPRING BREAK		
3/23	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Behavioral Finance	Ch 9.1	
3/25	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Fixed Income Characteristics, FI Securities, Credit Risk and Equity Portfolio Management Assignment #3	Ch 10	QUIZ 3
3/30	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Fixed Income Characteristics, FI Securities, Credit Risk and Equity Portfolio Management Assignment #3	Ch 10	
4/1	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Fixed Income Interest Rate Sensitivity, Duration, Convexity	Ch 11	Equity Portfolio Management Assign #3 due
4/6	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Fixed Income Interest Rate Sensitivity, Duration, Convexity	Ch 11	Bloomberg BMC due
4/8	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Options	Ch 15	QUIZ 4
4/13	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Options	Ch 15	
4/15	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Futures & Forwards	Ch 17	
4/20	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: Futures & Forwards	Ch 17	

4/22	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: International Investing	Ch 19	
4/27	Meet: In Person Students: Talk about the markets Discussion: International Investing	Ch 19	
5/5	FINAL Based on University Schedule 6PM-7:45PM		online

## **Academic integrity:**

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct (<https://trustees.osu.edu/bylaws-and-rules/code>) and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct (<https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct>)

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

## **Disability Services:**

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue

## **Grievances and Solving Problems:**

According to University Policies, if you have a problem with this class, you should seek to resolve the grievance concerning a grade or academic practice by speaking first with the instructor or professor. Then, if necessary, take your case to the department chairperson, associate dean for programs in the college, and to the provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-7-23. Grievances against graduate, research, and teaching assistants should be submitted first to the supervising instructor, then to the chairperson of the assistant's department

## **Safety and health requirements:**

All teaching staff and students are required to comply with and stay up to date on all [University safety and health guidance](#), which includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space and maintaining a safe physical

distance at all times. Non-compliance will be warned first and disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses.

### **COVID-related Accommodation Process**

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's [request process](#), managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Religious Accommodations Policy:**

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the Office of Institutional Equity.

### **Disenrollment:**

Fisher College University Rule 3335-8-33 provides that a student may be disenrolled after the third instructional day of the quarter, the first Friday of the quarter, or the student's second class session of the

course, whichever occurs first, if the student fails to attend the scheduled course without giving prior notification to the instructor.

### **Student Health and Well Being:**

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

### **Copyright:**

© The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.