

# Investments Syllabus

[BUSFIN 4229] [SP 2026]

## Course Information

- **Course times and location:** Monday and Wednesday, 12:45 p.m.- 2:05 p.m. in Gerlach 375
- **Credit hours:** 3
- **Mode of delivery:** In Person

## Instructor

- **Name:** Ronnie Weiner
- **Email:** [weiner.221@osu.edu](mailto:weiner.221@osu.edu)
- **Office location:** 301B Fisher Hall
- **Office hours:** By appointment
- **Preferred means of communication:**
  - **My preferred method of communication for questions is email. Please send all emails to [weiner.221](mailto:weiner.221@osu.edu). In the subject line, include BUSFIN 4229. These emails will be directed to a special email address that receives priority over all other emails. If emails do not include BUSFIN 4229, I can't guarantee I will be able to respond within 24 hours.**
  - My class-wide communications will be sent through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check your [notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) ([go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications)) to be sure you receive these messages.

## Course Prerequisites or Concurrently

4211, 4221, and BusMHR 2291 or 2292. Not open to students with credit for or currently enrolled in 4219 or 4239.

## Course Description

This course explores the valuation of forwards, options, forward-based, and option-based financial instruments. While a student may have studied options and/or forwards in other courses, this course examines in detail the analytical methods used to price these securities, and the analytical analysis of arbitrage, hedging, and speculation using these securities.



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# How This Online Course Works

**Mode of delivery:** This course is 100% in-person. There are no required sessions when you must be logged in to Carmen at a scheduled time.

**Pace of online activities:** This course is divided into **weekly modules** that are released one week ahead of time. 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 bylaws on instruction](http://go.osu.edu/credithours) (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around [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) to receive a grade of [C] average.

**Attendance and participation requirements:** Research shows regular participation is one of the highest predictors of success. With that in mind, I have the following expectations for everyone's participation:

- **Attendance is highly recommended:**  
A portion of your exams will consist of information that will only be presented during the lecture. Therefore, attending as many classes as possible is essential for performing well in this course. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss a class, be sure to get the notes from one of your group members. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*.
- **Grading Policy:**  
**There is no extra credit offered.** Graded quizzes will be taken through Carmen on your laptop during class time. If you are not in class in person (limited exceptions for absences may be made on a case-by-case basis) for a graded quiz, you will receive a score of zero for that quiz. All exams are in-person or at the testing center/SLDS. No exceptions.

# Course Materials, Fees and Technologies

## Required Materials and/or Technologies

- McDonald. *Derivatives Market*. 3e, Pearson, ISBN-13: 978-0321543080 (Hardcover)
- Wall Street Journal Student Digital Pack
  - [WSJ.com/OhioState](http://WSJ.com/OhioState) - Free

## Required Equipment

- **Computer:** current Mac (MacOS) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- **Other:** a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication
- **Calculator**

If you do not have access to the technology you need to succeed in this class, review options for technology and internet access at [go.osu.edu/student-tech-access](http://go.osu.edu/student-tech-access).

## Required Software

**Microsoft Office 365:** All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Visit the [installing Office 365](http://go.osu.edu/office365help) (go.osu.edu/office365help) help article for full instructions.

## CarmenCanvas Access

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](http://buckeyepass.osu.edu) (buckeyepass.osu.edu) 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 do each of the following:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](http://go.osu.edu/add-device) (go.osu.edu/add-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.
- [Install the Duo Mobile application](http://go.osu.edu/install-duo) (go.osu.edu/install-duo) on 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 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

## Technology Skills Needed for This Course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- [Navigating CarmenCanvas](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent) (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- [CarmenZoom virtual meetings](https://go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings) (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)
- [Recording a slide presentation with audio narration and recording, editing and uploading video](https://go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide) (go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide)

## Technology Support

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, questions or requests, contact the IT Service Desk, which offers 24-hour support, seven days a week.

- **Self Service and Chat:** [go.osu.edu/it](https://go.osu.edu/it)
- **Phone:** [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357)
- **Email:** [servicedesk@osu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@osu.edu)



# Grading and Faculty Response

## How Your Grade is Calculated

Assignment Category	%
Assignments	20
Group Project	10
Mid-Term	35
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>35</u>
Total	100

See [Course Schedule](#) for due dates.

## Descriptions of Major Course Assignments

### Class Reflection

**Description:** In order to provide the best experience possible, I ask for feedback twice a semester. The feedback from the class reflection assignment will be implemented when possible.

### Group Portfolio Management Simulation

**Description:** You will be placed into groups and assigned to a Derivatives Board. As part of your group work, your board will compete against the other boards in the class. The purpose of this project is to give you hands-on experience constructing and managing a portfolio of derivatives-based investments. The full assignment will be posted on Carmen early in the semester.

### Quizzes

**Description:** The in-class quizzes will be given before the start of each new chapter. The purpose of these quizzes is to prepare you for before the start of class, which is essential for this material. All quizzes will be five points and on the major topics of PowerPoint. **FROM THE POWERPOINTS ONLY, NON-HIGHLIGHTED SLIDES!** The quizzes will also comprise part of your mid-term and final exams. The dates for the quizzes are dependent on the progress we are making in class but are intended to be before the start of each new chapter. **If you can't be there on a quiz day, please email me, and we will make arrangements. On the date of your make-up, please print and present your email in order to make-up the quiz. Otherwise, there won't be any make-up quizzes.**



## Mid-Term and Final Exam

**Description:** Exams are closed-book, in-person, and require a LockDown browser. Absences from exams will only be excused for the most serious of reasons and documented by an appropriately accredited professional (i.e., a medical doctor). If there is an issue with the date and time of the final exam (ie, 3 exams in one day), please let me know in ADVANCE and I will try to accommodate that.

**Academic integrity and collaboration:** [Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow [MLA/APA/Chicago etc.] style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.

## Use of AI

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered programs, including but not limited to ChatGPT, for course assignments must be first discussed and permitted by the faculty instructor. The scope of use may range from not permitted (with exception of AI-powered search engines such as Google, Bing, etc.) to a broader spectrum of allowed applications. When AI-powered programs are permitted, and used by students, the scope of use and content must be specified and referenced by students accordingly. Students are expected to be aware of the shortcomings of use of AI-powered programs, including risk of academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism; etc.).

## Testing Policy

*There are no make-ups for quizzes. Missed quizzes will be recorded as a “0”. Missed exams can only be made-up in extreme cases (e.g., death of family member, personal hospitalization, etc.) with proper documentation (e.g., a physician’s note, ER paperwork, obituary, etc.). Each decision of potentially allowing a make-up exam is made by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, you **MUST** contact the instructor (insert instructor’s email) as soon as you know of a potential problem or conflict with an exam date. Alternative methods (e.g., oral exam, essay) of testing may be used for make-up exams. If you are experiencing an extreme situation or emergency, please attempt to notify the instructor (insert instructor’ email) email ASAP.*



## Late Assignments

Please refer to Carmen for due dates. Due dates are set to help you stay on pace and to allow timely feedback that will help you complete subsequent assignments.

## Instructor Feedback and Response Time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. Remember that you can call [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) at any time if you have a technical problem.

- **Preferred contact method:** If you have a question, please contact me first through my Ohio State email address, [weiner.221@osu.edu](mailto:weiner.221@osu.edu). On days when class is in session at the university, I will try to reply to emails within 24 hours.
- **Class announcements:** I will send all important class-wide messages through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check [your notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) ([go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications)) to ensure you receive these messages.
- **Grading and feedback:** For assignments submitted before the due date, I will try to provide feedback and grades within **seven days**. Assignments submitted after the due date may have reduced feedback, and grades may take longer to be posted.

## Grading Scale

93–100: A  
 90–92.9: A-  
 87–89.9: B+  
 83–86.9: B  
 80–82.9: B-  
 77–79.9: C+  
 73–76.9: C  
 70–72.9: C-  
 67–69.9: D+  
 60–66.9: D  
 Below 60: E

In keeping with Fisher College policy, I strive to have the average GPA for the course in the following range:

*UG Business Core Classes*

*2.7 – 3.0*

## Other Course Policies

# Discussion and Communication Guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions, as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online. I will provide specific guidance for discussions on controversial or personal topics.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

## Academic Integrity Policy

See [Descriptions of Major Course Assignments](#) for specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

## Ohio State's Academic Integrity Policy

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](http://studentconduct.osu.edu) (studentconduct.osu.edu), 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* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic 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.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- [Committee on Academic Misconduct](http://go.osu.edu/coam) (go.osu.edu/coam)
- [Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions) (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- [Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules) (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

## Copyright for Instructional Materials

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.

## Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at [equity.osu.edu](http://equity.osu.edu),
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or email [equity@osu.edu](mailto:equity@osu.edu)

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

## Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, [on-demand mental health resources](https://go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) (go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) are available. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at [614- 292-5766](tel:6142925766). **24-hour emergency help** is available through the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org) (suicidepreventionlifeline.org) or by calling [1-800-273-8255\(TALK\)](tel:18002738255). [The Ohio State Wellness app](https://go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) (go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) is also a great resource.



# Accessibility Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

## Requesting Accommodations

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.

If you are isolating while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, please let me know immediately. Those testing positive for COVID-19 should refer to the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes site](#) for resources. Beyond five days of the required COVID-19 isolation period, I may rely on Student Life Disability Services to establish further reasonable accommodations.

## Disability Services Contact Information

- Phone: [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307)
- Website: [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu)
- Email: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu)
- In person: [Baker Hall 098, 113 W. 12th Avenue](#)

## Accessibility of Course Technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations as early as possible.

- [CarmenCanvas accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility) ([go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility))
- Streaming audio and video
- [CarmenZoom accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility) ([go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility))

## Course Schedule: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date	Chapter	Topic	Activities
Monday, January 12, 2026	Introduction	Syllabus	
Wednesday, January 14, 2026	Chapter 1 Lecture	Introduction to Derivatives	CH1Q
Monday, January 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Day (No Class)		
Wednesday, January 21, 2026	Chapter 1 Lab	CH1 MATH	Derivatives Board Report (DBR)
Monday, January 26, 2026	Chapter 2/12.2 Lecture	Introduction to Forwards and Options/Greeks	CH2Q
Wednesday, January 28, 2026	Chapter 2/12.2 Lecture	CH2/12.3 MATH	DBR, S&P Top 10 Greeks Funding
Monday, February 2, 2026	Chapter 3 Lecture	Insurance, Collars, and Other Strategies	CH3Q
Wednesday, February 4, 2026	Chapter 3 Lab	CH3 MATH	DBR
Monday, February 9, 2026	Chapter 5 Lecture	Financial Futures and Forwards	CH5Q, Futures Contracts
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	Chapter 5 Lab	CH5 MATH	DBR, 1st Futures Funding (FF)
Monday, February 16, 2026	Chapter 6 Lecture	Commodity Forwards and Futures	CH6Q, Commodity Contracts
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	Chapter 6 Lab	CH6 MATH	DBR
Monday, February 23, 2026	Math Review		CH1, 2, 12.2, 3, 5 Math Review
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	MT Review		2nd FF, Kahoot
Monday, March 2, 2026	Mid-Term		
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Chapter 7 Lecture	Interest Rate Forwards and Futures	CH7Q Treasury Contracts
Monday, March 9, 2026	Chapter 7 Lab	CH7 Math	DBR
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Final Funding	Final Options and Futures Portfolio Funding	FFF
Monday, March 16, 2026	Spring Break		
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Spring Break		
Monday, March 23, 2026	Chapter 9	Parity and Other Option Relationships	CH9Q
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	Chapter 9 Lab	CH9 MATH	DBR
Monday, March 30, 2026	Chapter 10.1/10.2 Lecture	Binomial Option Pricing: Basic	
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	Chapter 10.1/10.2 Lab	CH10.1/10.2 MATH	DBR
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Chapter 11 Lecture	Binomial Option Pricing: Selected	CH11Q
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	Chapter 11 Lab	CH11 MATH	DRB
Monday, April 13, 2026	Chapter 12.1/12.2 Lecture	Black-Scholes Formula	
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	Chapter 12.1/12.2 Lab	CH12.1/12.2 MATH	DBR
Monday, April 20, 2026	Project Results	DB Presentations	Final Derivatives Board Report
Wednesday, April 22, 2026	Math Review		CH7, 9, 10.1/10.2, 11, 12.1/12.5 Math Review
Monday, April 27, 2026	Final Review		Kahoot

