
FINN 4133 001
Advanced Investments
Spring 2017
KIMP Room 0305 – MW 3:05PM-4:20PM

Instructor: Tim Riley
Office: WCOB 343D – Email: tbriley@uark.edu – Web: Blackboard
Office Hours: MTW 1:00PM-2:00PM, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Qing Yan
Email: qingyan@email.uark.edu

Course Overview and Objectives

FIN 4133 is an advanced course on investments. The course will focus on the characteristics, valuation, and use of options, futures, and other derivatives. By the end of the course, you should have the following skills and knowledge: (1) understand the risks and potential rewards offered by derivatives, (2) be familiar with techniques used to price derivatives, and (3) know how to formulate investment strategies using derivatives.

Required materials

1) Textbook

Options, Futures, and Other Derivatives, 9/e
John C. Hull
ISBN: 0133456315

2) Lecture Notes

Lecture notes for each class will be posted on Blackboard. They are designed as a general guide to the in-class discussion. The lecture notes contain *intentional* gaps that can be filled during the course of class. Most problems are set-up in the notes, but not worked out (that will be done in class). I strongly recommend printing the lecture notes for upcoming classes in advance.

3) Calculator

A financial calculator is recommended. The Texas Instruments BA II Plus (or Plus Professional) is the easiest to obtain and has only a small learning curve.

Classroom conduct

Your college education should help you prepare for a professional career. As such, my expectation is for you to come to class on time, be prepared, and participate. This class will be administered in a business-like manner. Unless absolutely necessary, do not eat

during class (drinks are fine). *Refrain from the use of cell phones and computers for non-academic purposes.* Repeated violations of this policy will result in your removal from that day's class.

Attendance Policy

I do not take attendance. However, the choice to not regularly attend class is a serious mistake for the vast majority of students. In general, I recommend borrowing a classmate's notes to fill in lecture note gaps if you are absent.

Homework

Throughout the course, I will provide problem sets based on the course material. I will not grade the problem sets, but will provide solutions. The problem sets are strictly voluntary, but it is very doubtful you will succeed in the course without putting a thoughtful effort into their completion.

Academic Dishonest

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You are required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which can be found at honesty.uark.edu/policy.

Inclement weather

If the university is open, class could still be cancelled due to inclement weather. I will announce any cancellations on Blackboard. If weather appears to be a concern, you should check Blackboard before leaving for class. More generally, I encourage you to use common sense when making travel decisions since barriers will vary from person-to-person.

Accommodations due to disability

University of Arkansas *Academic Policy Series 1520.10* requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact me privately *at the beginning of the semester* to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for any accommodations through the Center for Educational Access (call 479-575-3104 or visit cea.uark.edu for more information on the registration procedures).

Grading

There will be four exams worth 100 points each. The exams are designed to be non-comprehensive (i.e., covering only the material since the prior exam), but the material

builds upon itself. Any material covered at any point during the course is “fair game” for any exam to the extent it is relevant to the current material.

No make-up exams will be given except for documented absences excused by University policy. If possible, students should notify the instructor and provide proper documentation before the exam if the exam will be missed.

I do not curve individual exams. If necessary, I will apply a curve to the overall grade at the end of the semester. I do not negotiate over course grades privately.

Grade	Total Points
A	360-400
B	320-359
C	280-319
D	240-279
F	Less than 240

Tentative Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule for the class. The material covered on each exam will depend on the material covered up to that point.

Date	Event
Wednesday, January 18	Syllabus
Monday, January 23	
Wednesday, January 25	
Monday, January 30	
Wednesday, February 1	Chapters 1-3
Monday, February 6	
Wednesday, February 8	
Monday, February 13	Exam #1
Wednesday, February 15	
Monday, February 20	
Wednesday, February 22	
Monday, February 27	Chapters 4-6
Wednesday, March 1	
Monday, March 6	
Wednesday, March 8	
Monday, March 13	Exam #2
Wednesday, March 15	
Monday, March 27	
Wednesday, March 29	
Monday, April 3	Chapters 10-12
Wednesday, April 5	
Monday, April 10	
Wednesday, April 12	
Monday, April 17	Exam #3
Wednesday, April 19	
Monday, April 24	
Wednesday, April 26	Chapters 7-9
Monday, May 1	
Wednesday, May 3	
Wednesday, May 10 (3:00PM to 5:00PM)	Exam #4