

Texas A&M University-San Antonio
College of Business, Department of Accounting and Finance

FINC 4341: Financial Markets and Institutions

A. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Tests: There will one mid-term and one comprehensive final exams. Tests will consist of Multiple Choice/True False examinations as well as a written component including assigned problems.
- Homework: will help students provide the basis for understanding concepts and calculations required in this course.
- Comprehensive project: groups of two students will evaluate market data at the beginning of the term. They will compare the same variables near the end of the term and explain the reasons for the changes applying the concepts learned throughout the course.
- Term paper about a financial markets and institutions topic (instructor topic approval needed).
- The final course grade will be based on student performance on quizzes, exams and assignments using the following weights: Mid-term exam 15%; Final exam 15%; Term paper 20%; Comprehensive project 20%; In-class assignments, discussion boards, and homework 30%. The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% ⇒ A; 80 – 89% ⇒ B; 70 – 79% ⇒ C; 60 – 69% ⇒ D; Below 60% ⇒ F.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the functioning of financial markets and institutions.
2. Understand the functioning of the Federal Reserve System.
3. Recognize the determination of interest rates
4. Understand the operation of debt securities markets in the U.S.
5. Recognize how equity markets work and the importance of derivative security markets

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- The role of financial markets and institutions
- The functions of the Federal Reserve
- Structure and determination of interest rates
- Monetary policy
- Money markets and bond markets
- Bond valuation and risk
- Mortgage markets
- Stock valuation, stock risks, and investor monitoring
- Options markets
- Financial regulation and conflicts of interest in the financial industry

D. REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED READINGS

(REQUIRED)

Financial Markets and Institutions, 13th Edition, 2021, Madura, Jeff. SouthWestern Cengage Learning, Mason, OH. EBook and MindTap for homework management required.

(RECOMMENDED) Students should also keep current with business news in publications such as The Wall Street Journal, Business Week, The Economist and other business journals. Bloomberg TV, Nightly Business Report on NPR and the Saturday morning Fox News Channel Business shows also provide interesting insight into investment and current business topics.