



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

MBA 5136, Investments I
Texas A&M University – San Antonio, College of Business
Course Syllabus

Class Meeting Time and Place: M 5:45 PM – 9:30 PM (BLH 155)

Class Duration: 03/02/2026 - 04/03/2026

Instructor:

Dr. Shahil Sharma

Office: BLH 241M

Tel: (210) 784-2379

E-Mail: shahil.sharma@tamusa.edu

Student emails will receive a reply within two business days.

Course Website:

<https://tamusa.blackboard.com>

In-person / Virtual

<https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/7788798907> - Zoom

Office Hours:

M	2:00-5:00 pm (in-person)
R	12:00-3:00 pm (online via zoom)
F	1:00-3:00 pm (online via zoom)

***And by appointment or talk to me before or after class

**** Using regular TAMUSA Email instead of Blackboard message will lead to prompt response.*

Catalog Course Description: Principles governing the proper investment of personal and institutional funds; the characteristics of a sound investment and the analysis of the different securities offered to investors. This course has **experiential learning components**, which basically means that different features of this course (for e.g., case study, trading simulation etc.) qualifies to provide practical hands-on-experience to students. Experiential Learning is an in-built part coursework and students are not expected to do extra work apart from their course work requirements posted in this syllabus.

Course Objectives: The objective of the course is to provide an advanced understanding of the investment processes and the various investment alternatives available. Students will learn practical techniques for analyzing investments and develop a way of thinking about alternatives in the ever-changing securities markets.

Prerequisites: You are required to take the prerequisites prescribed by the Business School, prior to taking this course.

Student Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Obtain an understanding of equity investments and the methods used for determining their valuation and demonstrate such.
- 2) Develop and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the elements of Investments, including the background and issues related to investing and the financial institutions involved in managing and handling investments and investment vehicles.

- 3) Explain the relationship between risk and diversification and returns. Also, demonstrate an understanding of the Capital Asset Pricing model and the parameters involved in using the CAPM.
- 4) Pick and advice regarding mutual funds and other investments vehicles.

The learner outcomes will be assessed by responses to various quiz questions and evaluating the assignments/case studies.

AACSB Assessment: The College of Business is in the process of obtaining an AACSB accreditation. As part of that process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery and retention of the above course outcomes.

COVID-19 Safety Protocol: Due to the current pandemic environment, all university personnel (faculty, students, and staff, etc.) are required to adhere to mandated procedures and guidelines as communicated through university communications. For details and updated information on COVID-19 safety protocol please visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/community-safety-together/index.html>.

Required Materials:

- **Textbook:** *Investment Analysis & Portfolio Management, 11th Edition*, Reilly, Brown, and Leeds. South-Western Cengage Learning. TAMUSA College of Business will provide access to specific chapters and required materials to students via **Cengage MindTap**. Cengage MindTap is a supplemental platform through which students can access e-books, practice assigned numerical problems, take practice quizzes, and take exams. Students can access it through a computer or phone.
- **Blackboard and E-mail:** Materials related to the course will be posted on the Blackboard. I encourage students to regularly check their blackboard announcement page and the university email to stay updated. For all course related communication, you can directly email me at shahil.sharma@tamusa.edu.
- **Excel or Calculator:** A Financial calculator (preferably TI BAII Plus). Mandatories excel use is required. Students can use excel during quizzes and exams.
- **Time:** You are expected to spend 3-5 hours per week on the course. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time may be longer when assignment/exam are due.

Other Recommended / Reading Materials: Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor. I will frequently update you on reading via Blackboard Announcements. I highly encourage students to follow current business news via Wall Street Journal, CNBC, Bloomberg, NY Times, Financial Times, and Business Insider etc. as we will be discussing these in class.

Artificial Intelligence / ML / LLM Usages for Assignments: All assignments must be completed via Blackboard, where they will be checked for plagiarism using available detection tools. Please be aware that there are tools designed to automatically screen submissions for AI-generated content. If your submission is flagged, the instructor will review it carefully and assign a grade based on those findings. **Students may use AI tools for research and idea generation;** however, all work (including writing, analyzing, critical thinking, and designing etc.) must be thoroughly engineered and expressed in

student's own voice and style. While the use of AI is permitted, the final submission must clearly demonstrate student's understanding, critical thinking, and original articulation of the material.

Students are strongly encouraged to use plagiarism and AI-detection tools before submitting their final work, as these tools can help identify areas that may need revision. **Submissions that show high levels of plagiarism and/or AI-generated content may receive point deductions or be rejected, as appropriate, in order to maintain fairness and uphold academic integrity.**

Course Requirements every student must fulfill to succeed in course:

1. Students should check the Course Calendar, Announcements, and Messages (e-mail) systems in Blackboard on a regular basis.
2. Students should keep current with all course assignments, quizzes, and examinations.
3. If the course uses remote proctoring for exams, students must schedule their exam early in the semester.
4. Students should ask questions and communicate with the instructor either in class, online, offline, or during office hours.
5. For all classwork, exams, quizzes etc., if a student is completing it off-campus, then they are responsible for availability of internet connectivity. Extensions will **not** be granted for the lack of availability of internet connections.
6. Students should remember that online and hybrid courses assume greater responsibility and independent learning skills by the student for their own learning outcomes.
7. For online courses, students should keep current on class recordings, if not attending the live class (either in person or online).
8. For online asynchronous courses, there will be no online class sessions. All materials will be made available through Blackboard or through online links.
9. For online synchronous courses, there will be online class sessions as indicated. Students are expected to attend the online session at the given time. If a student is unable to attend a session, the instructor will make the recording of the session available for the student to view. All materials will be made available through Blackboard or through online links.

Grading Policy: The final course grade will be based on your performance on the quizzes, exams and assignments using the following weights:

Final grades will be based on the following activities:	Due Dates	Points
4 In-class quizzes (1 quiz at the <i>beginning</i> of each class, except the 1 st class)	Every class	30%
4 In-class quizzes (1 quiz at the <i>end</i> of each class)	Every class	30%
Chapter specific homework via MindTap platform	Every class (except, 1 st class)	10%
Group Financial Valuation Case Study	March 27, 2026	20%
Group Stock Track Trading Simulation & Report	March 28, 2026	10%
Total		100%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% ⇒ A; 80 – 89% ⇒ B; 70 – 79% ⇒ C; 60 – 69% ⇒ D; Below 60% ⇒ F.

Quizzes: Student's understanding is accessed using 8 quizzes, i.e., 4 in-class quizzes at the *beginning* of the class (except the 1st class) and 4 in-class quizzes at the *end* of the class. Each quiz is worth 7.5% of the course grade. Quizzes at the *beginning* of the class will be based on prior chapter homework, whereas quizzes at the *end* of the class will be based on class discussions. **There are no exams on this course.**

Cengage MindTap Practice Homework: There are 5 multiple submission practice homework assignments, i.e., students can take these practice HWs as many times as they want. Only the highest among these practice HWs will be counted towards grades. For example, if student tried Chapter 01 HW three times and received 70, 100, and 93 in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd attempts, respectively, only 100 from 2nd attempt will count toward the final grade. There is a dual benefit of completing these **short** chapter specific HWs. First, you can earn up to 10% of the course grade from these multiple submission practice HWs, and second, all questions for quizzes at the beginning of the class will be picked from these HW problems.

Group Financial Valuation Case Study: Summary is provided here, but for detailed instruction please refer to individual project instruction document (uploaded in the Blackboard). For grading purposes, the group project is divided into three required categories. Students are required to submit three different files (excel workbook, word document, and power-point presentation). Students are required to get feedback from the Professor throughout the entire project to prevent any mistakes:

1. **Excel workbook - Financial Modeling Simulation:** Students need to analyze given problems and obtain appropriate solutions to the given problem. This is the most critical step as students need results from this step to support the report writing process and presentation.
2. **Word document – Report:** Students are required to provide answers to questions asked in the project with analytical support. ***Please answer questions in brief, complete, and concise form.*** There is no page requirement.
3. **Power-point – Presentation:** Instructor will let you know if presentation will be done in-class or offline (YouTube link or .mp4 video is required for offline presentation). In-class or video presentation will be decided later by Professor given the time allotment during respective semester. ***Around 8 - 10 minutes of presentation is required.***
4. **Assessment and Feedback:** Students are required to work closely with the instructor. **First**, select a publicly traded firm that issues regular dividends. **Second**, get approval from the instructor so that each group is working on a separate firm. Firm selection is on a first come first served basis. **Third**, students are required to submit a complete project before the final deadline, let's call it "feedback deadline". Project submitted before the feedback deadline will receive instructor comments and feedback for improvements. **Finally**, the group is required to incorporate this feedback and comments to improve their project. If students successfully incorporate all the comments and feedback, this will increase the possibility of securing maximum points available.
Note: Feedback and reflection process can be in-person, live-online (via zoom or web-ex) or offline (via email). However, in the past students preferred in-person or live-online feedback process.

To get full points students are encouraged to show detailed analysis along with sustained and substantive discussion in a project report as per materials covered in this course for a project. More detailed instructions will be uploaded in the Blackboard.

Group Stock Trading Simulation & Report: We will use *Stock-Trak* for Trading Simulation. There are two parts to this simulation, i.e., Trading Simulation and Report.

1. **Trading Simulation:** Groups are required to register at the third-party site provided by Professor. Blackboard announcement email will be sent for registration. CoB will manage access for each group and there is no cost for students. The professor will give basic training on how to start trading securities, but more research is required while picking securities to buy or sell during the simulation. Grades are dependent on the profitability of security portfolio at the end of the competition. **Note: Groups are competing for the top 5 positions** (please see grading policy below). **For Investment-I simulation we will focus on ETFs and common/preferred stocks.** We will focus on *Derivatives (options & futures)* and *Mutual Funds* trading in Investment-II.

Other important conditions:

- a) Use your group name while registering on the *Stock-Trak* platform. **Email your group name and name of group participants to the Professor.**
- b) Total paper money provided to each group is \$1,000,000.
- c) Actively trade, i.e., sell overvalued securities and buy undervalued securities. Again, it's free money and you have got nothing to lose, instead you will gain significant trading experience.

Grade Rules for Trading Simulation:

- a) The top 3 groups will receive **100 points**.
 - b) Not within the top 3 but with a positive return will receive **90 points**.
 - c) Negative or break-even will receive **80 points**.
 - d) At least 50 trading records (buy and/or sell positions) are needed, i.e., 25 round trip trading.
 - e) To get credit for the course please perform both transactions (buy and sell). Just buying and holding securities in your portfolio will not suffice the requirement.
2. **Word document – Report:** Students are required to submit a report. Please prepare a brief 1 to 2-page(s) report about your trading experience. Document all securities bought and sold during the simulation. Please write and explain about your trading strategy and experience (explain both losing and winning positions).
 3. **Assessment and Feedback:** In this simulation students are required to use their experience learned during the course. Frequent tips and trading strategies will be shared during class meetings. Feedback will be provided for the final report submitted by students. **Note:** Feedback and reflection process can be in-person, live-online (via web-ex) or offline (via email). However, in the past students preferred in-person or live (via zoom or web-ex) feedback process.

Make up and Late Assignment/exam/quiz policy: As a rule, make-up or late submission will NOT be offered or accepted for any missed assignments/quizzes. Late submissions or make-up may be accepted/administered only in extraordinary circumstances such as an excused official university

activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation either before or within a few days of the missed assignment/quiz.

Class conducts and civility code: Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. Attendance may be made at the beginning or the end of the class.
2. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
3. Students must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes and provide it to the instructor, if necessary. Keep your own copies of all computer files and e-mails till the final grade is received.
4. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.
5. Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose not related to class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned OFF and headphones removed.
6. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor well in advance of the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
7. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to a student's e-mail messages and voice messages **within 24 - 48 hours** during weekdays (Monday-Friday).
8. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date and time. The submission window may close or be marked late, even if late by one second.

Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Class attendance and Participation: A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work, and frequent or persistent absences may result in a failing grade. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. The course covers a lot of material, and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Class participation is highly encouraged as it makes the class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions, participate in class discussions and problem solving, and visit/contact the instructor during office hours in case of questions or concerns. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned.

The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important and may vary considerably based on student background. However, a **minimum** of two hours of work outside the class is expected for everyone hour of class period per week. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Day	Topics
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Week 1	F	Introduction/Syllabus Chapter 1: The Investment Setting	
		5:45 – 6:00 pm	The Investment Setting
		6:00 – 7:30 pm	Current event / topic discussion + Ch. 01
		7:30 – 8:00 pm	Break
		8:00 – 9:15 pm	Ch. 01 + Problem solving + Case study help
		9:15 – 9:30 pm	Quiz on today's lecture
Week 2	F	Chapter 2: Asset allocation and Security Selection	
		5:45 – 6:00 pm	Quiz on assigned HWs from MindTap
		6:00 – 7:30 pm	Current event / topic discussion + Ch. 02
		7:30 – 8:00 pm	Break
		8:00 – 9:15 pm	Ch. 02 + Problem solving + Case study help
		9:15 – 9:30 pm	Quiz on today's lecture
Week 3	F	Chapter 3: Organization & Functioning of Markets	
		5:45 – 6:00 pm	Quiz on assigned HWs from MindTap
		6:00 – 7:30 pm	Current event / topic discussion + Ch. 03
		7:30 – 8:00 pm	Break
		8:00 – 9:15 pm	Ch. 03 + Problem solving + Case Study help
		9:15 – 9:30 pm	Quiz on today's lecture
Week 4	F	Chapter 5: Efficient Capital Markets & Technical Analysis	
		5:45 – 6:00 pm	Quiz on assigned HWs from MindTap
		6:00 – 7:30 pm	Current event / topic discussion + Ch. 05
		7:30 – 8:00 pm	Break
		8:00 – 9:15 pm	Ch. 05 + Problem solving + Case Study help
		9:15 – 9:30 pm	Quiz on today's lecture
Week 5	F	Chapter 6: An Intro to Portfolio Management	
		5:45 – 6:00 pm	Quiz on assigned HWs from MindTap
		6:00 – 7:30 pm	Current event / topic discussion + Ch. 06
		7:30 – 8:00 pm	Break
		8:00 – 9:15 pm	Ch. 06 + Problem solving + Case Study help
		9:15 – 9:30 pm	Quiz on today's lecture

Course Revisions: Any revisions to this tentative syllabus will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Course Drop Policy

You may drop the course with an automatic grade of W on or before the date listed in the academic calendar at www.tamusa.edu. The last date to drop a course or withdraw from the University is also indicated in the academic calendar on the university website (www.tamusa.edu). If you wish to drop the

class, you must submit the necessary paperwork to the proper authority. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which includes class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. The faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving Federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have his/her aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of his/her federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center can be contacted by email at: Student.Success@tamusa.edu or by phone at (210) 784-1307, or by visiting its web page from www.tamusa.edu.

Jaguar Tutoring Center

The Tutoring Center at Texas A&M University–San Antonio provides academic assistance to students in TAMU-SA's schools of Business, Education, and Arts and Sciences. Literacy tutors help students develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, plan, draft, and revise their papers. Business tutors provide individual assistance in statistics, accounting, and math. The goal of TAMU-SA tutors is to empower students to succeed academically. The tutoring center can be contacted by email at: Tutoring@tamusa.edu or by phone at: (210) 784-1332, or by visiting its web page from www.tamusa.edu.

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have a Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation for their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

Academic Misconduct Policy

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. Students are expected to do their own course work. Simple cases of first offense cheating or plagiarism by an individual student may be handled by the instructor after consultation with the department chair. The student is usually confronted with evidence in private and advised of the penalty to be assessed. The evidence will be retained for at least one full year. For more serious cases, such as those involving repeated offenses, conspiracy with other students or the theft and selling of examination questions, a report should be made by the instructor via the department chair and college dean to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Academic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the instructor **SHALL** reports any form of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Both parties (provider and copier) will be held responsible for the misconduct. Please review the Student Handbook for a complete description of the process. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from a grade of F on the paper or in the course to expulsion from the University.

Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please she/he should contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student term papers, and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Posting of any class work or discussion on publicly accessible forums or on social media is not permissible.

Key dates for current semester: Please refer to complete TAMUSA academic calendar for important dates, which is available at: <https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-calendar/>