Nashville State Community College  
Business & Applied Arts Division  
Business Program

Master Course Syllabus

This master course syllabus is meant simply as a guide and overview of the course. Each instructor will further clarify their criteria for grading, classroom procedures, attendance, exams and dates, etc. on his/her course syllabus.

Course Title: INVESTMENT BASICS – FIN 2230
Credits  3.0  
Class Hours  3.0

Course Description:

This course introduces the fundamentals of Investments. The approach of this text reflects two central ideas. First, prepare the student as an individual investor or investments manager. Second, a consistent, unified treatment of the four basic types of financial instruments—stocks, bonds, options, and futures—focusing on their characteristics and features, the risks and returns, and the markets in which they trade.
PREREQUISITES: Level 2 placement in Math and Reading.

Instructor Information:
Name:
Email:
Office Phone:
Office Location:
Office Hours:

Textbook and Other Materials:
Reference Materials:  None
Supplies:  None

Course Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. Analyze the differences between different investment instruments including securities, options, and commodities.
2. Describe the concept of analyzing investment opportunities for beginning investors.
3. Define and explain diversity of investment ownership.
4. List and differentiate the different markets for investments.
5. Identify issues related to trading in the securities market including how the markets are
conducted orderly.

6. Explain risk assessment as it relates to different type investments.

**Course Competencies:**
The following are detailed course competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

1. Explain the types of markets, their organization and their function.
2. Determine the different type Indexes and Averages and explain their functions.
3. List the sources of Investment information and evaluate their competencies.
4. Describe economic and government activities that effect business cycles and investment prices.
5. Analyze the types of industry life cycles and their effect on investments.
6. Determine the valuation of individual firms and their relationships to dividend models and Price-Earnings ratios.
7. Locate and present briefs of legal cases.
10. Identify Put and Call Options
11. Critique the commodities and financial futures market.
12. Summarize the advantages and disadvantages of Mutual Funds

The following are general education competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

1. Write clear, well-organized documents.
2. Locate, evaluate, and use multiple sources of information.
3. Apply mathematical concepts to problems and situations.
4. Use critical thinking skills.
5. Use and adapt current technologies.

**Topics to Be Covered:**

1. The Investment Setting
2. Security Markets
3. Participating in the Market
4. Investment Companies: Mutual Funds, Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF’s), Closed-End Funds, and Unit Investment Trusts
5. Economic Activity
6. Industry Analysis
7. Valuation of the Individual Firm
8. A Behavioral Finance and Technical Analysis
9. Bond and Fixed Income Fundamentals
10. Put and Call Options
11. Commodities and Financial Futures
12. International Securities Markets
Course Assessments:
The following performance assessments will be used to demonstrate students’ understanding, knowledge, and skills:

Grading Criteria:
Grading Criteria may vary by instructor. Please refer to the syllabus for your course section for the correct information. This information will be supplied by the instructor at the beginning of the course.

| Grading Scale: |
|---|---|
| A  | 90 - 100 |
| B  | 80 - 89  |
| C  | 70 - 79  |
| D  | 60 – 69  |
| F  | under 60 |

Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Paper
Your assignment is to write a research paper on 2 stocks of your choice.

1. Select two companies, one large cap big board stock and one OTC small cap.
2. Track their movement from January 21 through April 15, 2014.
3. These should be companies that you are interested in investing.

In this paper you should:
1. Investigate and describe each company: Describe what it produces and/or provides as a service?
2. Define its market, existing and potential customers, management strengths and weaknesses, and market share.
3. Analyze each company.
   a. Review their financial ratios
   b. Describe the risk versus reward and personal factors involved
   c. Tell why you would invest in these companies.
4. Track and chart price per share (daily)
5. Watch for and include press releases, filings, and items of interest.
6. At conclusion of the time period relate what happened to the stock and why.
7. Evaluate your results. Were these good or bad investments? Why?
8. Make reference to material that is too voluminous to copy and attach to your paper.
9. Prepare a 5-10 minute presentation of your research paper to deliver to the class. You may use PPT’s, charts, graphs, handouts, flipchart paper, or whatever works best for you to present your material and findings.

The more information you give, the more informed decision you are making, and the better analysis ----- the better the grade.

Make-up procedures for missed assignments and work.
Make-up procedures may vary by instructor. Please refer to the syllabus for your course section for the correct information. This information will be supplied by the instructor at the beginning of the course.

Attendance Policy
A student is expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. Each instructor will formulate an attendance policy and provide it on the course syllabus. Absences are counted from the first scheduled meeting of the class, and it is the responsibility of each student to know the attendance policy of each instructor in whose class he/she is enrolled. If a student is absent from a class, he/she should give an advanced explanation to the instructor. Absences in a course may affect a student’s final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student’s final grade.

Failure to attend class will result in a final course grade of “FA” or “FN” (see explanation below) depending on the individual instructor’s course policy.

FA= failure, attendance-related (unofficial withdrawal) Last recorded date of attendance required.
FN= failure, never attended class (unofficial withdrawal)

It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw from a course/college. Please refer to the most recent Nashville State Community College catalog for information on withdrawing.

Student Communication Channels
It is the student’s responsibility to check NS Online (D2L) and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. NS online (D2L) contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.
Early Warning System
Nashville State Community College has implemented an Early Warning System to notify students via e-mail about academic problems such as poor classroom attendance, poor performance on assignments/tests, poor communication skills, late/missing assignments, and/or lack of classroom participation. Please note that Early Warning Alerts do not affect a student’s academic standing.

ADA Compliance Statement
Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you wish to request any special accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Student Disabilities Office at 615.353.3721.

Classroom Misconduct
Nashville State Community College has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Please consult your Student Handbook for more specific details.

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or in conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.

Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but is not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.).

Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or unattended on campus.

Academic Dishonesty (Honor Code)
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. “Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words (A Writer’s Reference 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else’s work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor’s permission, allowing someone else to copy or use
your work, using someone else’s work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member’s signature.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

**Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event of an inclement weather event, check the Nashville State web site home page at www.nscc.edu for announcements on campus closures. Campus closures will also be announced on local television stations (channels 2, 4, 5, and 17).

When classes are cancelled, an online assignment will be posted in NS Online. Check your NS Online email for a message from your instructor regarding your online assignment requirements. Even though classes may be cancelled, some areas, i.e. Testing Center, may be open. However, you should check before commuting to campus.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of Security are responsible for cancellation decisions during an inclement weather event for the Nashville State main campus and the Southeast campus. Cookeville, Waverly, and Dickson Campus Directors will make class cancellation decisions based on conditions in their respective areas. Decisions about class cancellations are based on actual conditions, not forecasts. The perspective used for making decisions is that of the college as an employer, not as a K-12 institution. Students should use their own best judgment in determining whether to report to campus during inclement weather when classes are not cancelled.

**Course Policy Changes:**

This syllabus is meant simply as a guide and overview of the course. Some items are subject to change or may be revised at the instructor’s discretion. Each instructor will further clarify their criteria for grading, classroom procedures, attendance, exams and dates, etc. on his/her course syllabus.

Your instructor reserves the right to modify course policies during the semester. However, once the semester has begun, the instructor's intent will be to change policies primarily to benefit students as circumstances dictate.