



FIN 5330 - International Investments: International Investments (Sub II- July 06 to Aug 21)

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section 780, CRN 53020

Instructor Information

Rodrigo Hernandez

Email: rodrigo.hernandez@tamiu.edu

Office: TEAMS virtual meeting space

Office Hours:

every Wednesday @ 7:00 pm CT starting 7/8

on the TEAMS virtual meeting space

Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

Additional Course Information

Web Conferences/Synchronous sessions

The instructor will conduct a weekly web conferencing session. Please refer to the Course Schedule for the specific dates and times when each of these webinars will be held. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity for you to ask questions, get more details about specific topics or assignments, as well as give you a chance to interact directly with your instructor and fellow class members. Although attendance is not required, it is strongly recommended that you participate in each webinar. Sessions will be recorded so that you can access them later, if needed. The web conferencing tool, Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, is accessible from the "Course Tools" link. Please refer to these helpful Blackboard Collaborate Ultra resources for more information.

This semester the sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Live Sessions via TEAMS Week 1 – Wednesday 7/8 7:00pm CT
- Live Sessions via TEAMS Week 2 – Wednesday 7/15 7:00pm CT
- Live Sessions via TEAMS Week 3 – Wednesday 7/22 7:00pm CT
- Live Sessions via TEAMS Week 4 – Wednesday 7/29 7:00pm CT
- Live Sessions via TEAMS Week 5 – Wednesday 8/5 7:00pm CT
- Live Sessions via TEAMS Week 6 – Wednesday 8/12 7:00pm CT
- Live Sessions via TEAMS Week 7 – Wednesday 8/19 7:00pm CT

Student Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives

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

- **CO1:** Assess different financial securities.
- **CO2:** Analyze factors that influence international investments, country and industry analysis.
- **CO3:** Trade different financial securities.
- **CO4:** Measure the returns and risks of investing.



- **C05:** Analyze global macroeconomic events.
- **C06:** Evaluate and value stocks.
- **C07:** Create and evaluate diversified portfolios using principles of portfolio theory.
- **C08:** Assess and analyze portfolio performance.
- **C09:** Differentiate, critique, and propose strategies for hedging risks and speculating in the derivatives markets.
- **C010:** Recognize and evaluate cognitive errors and psychological biases in yourself and in others.

Important Dates

Visit the Academic Calendar ([tamui.edu](https://www.tamui.edu/academiccalendar/)) (<https://www.tamui.edu/academiccalendar/>) page to view the term's important dates.

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	INVESTMENTS	Bodie, Kane, and Marcus	9781266836329
Required	• PSYCHOLOGY OF INVESTING	Nofsinger	9781003623939

Grading Criteria

Assessments	Percentage
Homework Assignments (6)	15%
Quiz Assignments (7)	15%
Exams (2)	36%
Meet & Greet Discussion	2%
Weekly Discussions (7)	21%
Stock Trading Simulation	5%
STS Discussions (2)	6%
Total	100%

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	91-100
B	80-90.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
7/6	Investments Introduction Markets and Trading Mutual Funds	Read Ch. 02. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 02 & 03. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 04. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material.	7/12 Discussion #1 – Introduce Yourself – “Meet & Greet” Discussion #2 – Stock Trading Simulation Beginning Discussion Discussion #3 – Week #1 Discussion Assignment Complete homework #1 Complete quiz #1



7/13	Economy and Industry Financial Statement Analysis Value Stock Investing	Read Ch. 17. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 19. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 18. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material.	7/19 Complete homework #2 Complete quiz #2 STS make a short sell Discussion #4 – Week #2 Discussion Assignment
7/20	Growth Stock Investing Technical Analysis Bonds	Read Ch. 18. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 12. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 02 & 14. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material.	7/26 Complete homework #3 Complete quiz #3 STS make a stock purchase or sell (limit order and stop order) Discussion #5 – Week #3 Discussion Assignment
7/27	Bond Valuation Portfolio Theory	Read Ch. 14 & 16. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 5 & 7. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material.	8/2 Complete homework #4 Complete quiz #4 STS make a stock purchase to cover Discussion #6 – Week #4 Discussion Assignment Exam 1
8/3	Asset Pricing Assessing Portfolio Performance Market (in)Efficiency	Read Ch. 9 & 10. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 24. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 11. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material.	8/9 Complete homework #5 Complete quiz #5 Discussion #7 – Week #5 Discussion Assignment
8/10	Options Futures	Read Ch. 20 & 21. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material. Read Ch. 22 & 23. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material.	8/16 Complete homework #6 Complete quiz #6 STS make an option purchase Discussion #8 – Week #6 Discussion Assignment
8/17	Psychology of Investing	Read “The Psychology of Investing”, chapters 1, 2, 3, 8. Watch video lecture. Attend (or watch later) the Live Session. Read/watch any optional material.	8/23 Complete quiz #7 STS prepare and submit a report of your results Discussion #10 – Stock Trading Simulation Ending Discussion Discussion #9 – Week #7 Discussion Assignment Exam 2

University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.



COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.

Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

In the classroom, students are expected to listen attentively, participate respectfully, and adhere to established rules. Behavior that interferes with the class lecture may result in disciplinary action, ensuring a productive and respectful learning environment for everyone. Any disputes over academic matters should be addressed calmly and constructively, ideally during designated times such as office hours or after class. If a student does not agree with a decision, they can request a meeting with the instructor to discuss their concerns in more detail. Should further resolution be needed, the student may escalate the matter to the department head or use formal grievance procedures as outlined in the sections below. (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4 (<https://www.tamtu.edu/handbook/article-04.shtml>)).

TAMU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMU student, you are bound by the TAMU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at Student Handbook (<https://www.tamtu.edu/handbook/index.shtml>).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where

an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMIU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.
 - **Caution:** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
 - **Caution:** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."
 - **Caution:** Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMIU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMIU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU E-mail (tamiu.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to SafeZone (<https://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/police/safezone/index.shtml>) for more information.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment. Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not

suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Office of Disability Services for Students located in Student Center 124. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from making accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Office of Disability Services for Students.

For accommodations or assistance with disabilities, contact the Disability Coordinator, Karla Pedraza, at karla.pedraza@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2763, or visit Student Center 124.

Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: [Student Handbook \(https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml\)](https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml)).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. Students who experience or observe alleged or suspected discrimination due to their pregnant/parenting status, should report to the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site, *Report It*, at <https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit/index.shtml>).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Compliance (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodation. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student needs a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.#As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOAs for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule.#Both rules can be found in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.

For parenting-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the Parenting Liaison, Mayra Hernandez, at mghernandez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2265, or visit Student Center 226.

For pregnancy-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the TIX Coordinator, Lorissa Cortez, at lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2857, or visit Killam Library 159.

Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, *ReportIt* (<https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit>) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;



2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar's Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Distance Education Courses

Regular and Substantive Interaction:

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) has issued Regular and Substantive Interaction: Background, Concerns, and Guiding Principles which went into effect on July 1, 2021. Under the new regulations, the U.S. Department of Education requires that all online courses and programs for which students may use Title IV funds (federal financial aid) include regular and substantive interaction between students and their instructors. This ruling applies to both synchronous and asynchronous courses, with the primary focus being asynchronous courses. The Department of Education has the authority to audit courses and programs at institutions, like Texas A&M International University, with online offerings.

Be sure that your course provides for regular and substantive interaction between faculty and students, students and students, and students and content. (C-RAC, OSCQR, QM, SACSCOC, SC)

1. *Regular and substantive instructor-to-student expectations and predictable/scheduled interactions and feedback are present, appropriate for the course length and structure, and are easy to find. (OSCQR, SACSCOC, SC)*



2. Expectations for all course interactions (instructor to student, student to student, student to instructor) are clearly stated and modeled in all course interactions/communication channels. (OSCQR, SACSCOC, SC)

Visit for additional guidance on including Regular and Substantive Interaction: <https://www.tamtu.edu/distance/faculty/regular-and-substantive-interaction.shtml>

Online Courses and On-Campus Meetings

Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter J, Section 2.202 ([https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202)), defines distance education as the formal educational process that occurs when students and instructors are not in the same physical setting for the majority (more than 50%) of instruction. Distance education includes hybrid and 100% online courses and programs as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):

- **Hybrid Course** - A distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations.
- **100-Percent Online Course** - A distance education course in which 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. **Requirements for on-campus or in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, internships/fieldwork, or other non-instructional activities do not exclude a course from this category.**

Course Communication Guidelines (Netiquette)

There are course expectations concerning etiquette or how we should treat each other online. We must consider these values as we communicate with one another. Visit **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' web page on Netiquette** (<http://www.tamtu.edu/distance/students/netiquette.shtml>) for further instruction.

Accommodations/Accessibility Policy

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodation for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodation. For more information, contact the online at **Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS)**, via phone at 956.326.3086 or by visiting the staff at the Student Center, room 118. A link to the Disabilities Services for Students site has also been included under the "Resources" tab inside the course.

Student Support Resources

The University wishes to have all students succeed in their courses. To provide support to our students, an array of services in the areas of technology support, academic support, student support, and accessibility support may be found at the University. For more information, visit the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services page on **University Resources and Support Services**.

Computer/Technology Requirements

[Technology requirements must be listed for the course. Information on how to obtain software for purchase or download should be provided. See the following example. Customize technologies to include those that pertain to your course:]

When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Online students will need regular access to a personal computer that runs on a broadband Internet connection.

It is recommended that you meet the technical requirements listed on the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage (<https://www.tamtu.edu/distance/students/technology-requirements.shtml>) when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

Additional Hardware. For this class, you will need the following additional hardware: *[list any additional required hardware here. Additionally, and if applicable, you may use the following statement:]* Recently purchased laptops may have these built-in web cameras. If you do not have this equipment, it is recommended to purchase a stand-alone webcam, microphone, or a webcam with a built-in microphone from your local electronic store or any online store.

NOTE: Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services may check out available webcams to students on a first-come, first-served basis. To check out a webcam, please stop by Killam Library, Room 259, and request an available webcam.

Additional Software. You will need the following additional software: *[list any additional software required here. Additionally, and if applicable, you may use the following statement:]* TAMTU Students may access online versions of this software through their Dusty Office 365 account at <https://dusty.tamtu.edu/>. This site also provides students access to download the Microsoft suite for educational use. **See instructions for downloading the Microsoft Office suite.**

Note: Students, if you do not own the required hardware or software or do not have access to the Internet, it will be highly challenging for you to make any progress in this class. However, my goal is to assist you in finding solutions and guide you appropriately most of the required materials can either

be found free of charge at TAMU's library, classrooms, and available computer labs. **Visit Media Services' web page on the availability of on-campus computer labs.** In addition, you may also purchase any of these items at any electronics store.

Learning Management System (Blackboard)

Students are provided with an orientation (*eLearning (Blackboard) Student Orientation*) and access to guides on how to use the Blackboard LMS. Guides may be available at **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' Student eLearning Tutorial Videos page** or by contacting the eLearning team at elarning@tamiu.edu.

Minimum Technical Skills Expected

When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Students in distance education should have knowledge of basic computer and Internet skills, as mentioned on the **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage**.

Technical Support Services

Because of the nature of distance education courses, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) computing and information services are vital to the success of online students. This webpage covers contact information for Distance Education Services (Blackboard Support), the OIT Help Desk, and E-mail support: **Technical Support Services**.

Course Evaluation

At the end of this course, students are encouraged to complete a course evaluation that will be distributed to them via email and through a course link.

Accessibility and Privacy Statements on Course Technologies

At Texas A&M International University, we believe that all students should have equal technology opportunities in the classroom. These technologies/sites may also require user data, such as the creation of a username and password. You may find the accessibility and privacy policies of the technologies used in this class on the following pages: **Accessibility Statements and Privacy**

Grading Scale/Schema

Assessment will occur from six categories of student activities; homework (15% of final grade), quizzes (15% of final grade), exams (36% of final grade), stock trading simulation (5% of final grade), the initial "Meet & Greet" discussion (2% of final grade), weekly discussion assignments (21% of final grade), and two discussions about the Stock Trading Simulation (6% of final grade).

The overall grade is a weighted average of scores and not based on the sum of individual points. For that purpose, the gradebook will report scores in percentages and not points.

Homework & Quizzes

There are 6 homework assignments (15% of final grade), and 7 quiz assignments (15% of final grade). Each homework score is weighted 2.5% of the final grade, and each quiz score 2.14% of the final grade. All the assignments will be administered through the Connect homework management system. After you submit the assignments, you will receive immediate feedback on your score; however, the solution will only be provided after the assignments are closed. After receiving feedback from your first attempt, you can choose to re-take the assignment two more times, but you will be assessed a 7% point deduction in each additional attempt. The Connect homework system contains practice problems that are similar to those assigned in the homework. You will receive detailed feedback on your practice attempts and there is no limit to the number of times you can practice. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these practice questions before attempting the homework.

The six homework assignments assess the quantitative material in the class. Assignments are to be submitted by 11:59 pm Central Time on Sunday of the week assigned unless otherwise specified on the Course Schedule. Quizzes focus more on concepts than quantitative material.

Exams

There will be two exams; each exam score is worth 20% of the final grade. They will be in Connect.

Discussions

There are ten discussion assignments (29% of final grade). The first graded discussion, "Greet & Meet", is worth 2% of the overall grade. In this discussion, you will post a brief introduction of yourself and comment on two other introductions.

Then, the seven weekly discussions are each worth 3% of the overall grade. You must have one initial response to the original discussion question and one reply to a student response. Weekly discussion topics will be posted each Monday at 8 a.m. Central Time for conclusion each Friday at 8 p.m. Central Time. At the end of the week, I will post a summary of the responses and provide additional comments to contribute to the topic discussion.



Postings (responses) should be a minimum of one paragraph and must follow proper grammar (correct punctuation, capitalization, spelling, etc.). Responses should be limited to no more than three paragraphs.

Finally, two discussions related to the stock trading simulation, each worth 3% of the overall grade. The first discussion will include a first post during the first week of classes, "STS Beginning Discussion". In this first post, you will describe and elaborate on your portfolio plans and goals for this assignment. Then, at the end of the course, after all trades have been made successfully in the Investopedia Stock Simulator, each student should go back and analyze each of their transactions, identifying whether the student was successful in achieving their goals through their transactions and reflecting on things that could have been done differently. In each discussion, you must have one initial post and one reply to another student post.

All these discussions will occur in the relevant forum located under "Discussion Forum." Only those posts completed on time will be considered for full credit.

Stock Trading Simulation (STS)

The project consists of making many required trades throughout the term (5% of final grade). My goal for you is to experience some investing without risking real-world money! In addition, there is a discussion forum link on the Discussion Board for you to exchange trading ideas with other students. Please refer to the Course Schedule for the specific dates by when each of these steps should be completed. The grading of this assignment is at the end of the course (end of module/week 7) when it is totally completed.

Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

The appropriate way to address the instructor is any of the following ways: address your professor by appropriate title and last name, such as "Prof. Hernandez" or "Dr. Hernandez." Similarly, instead of concluding with "Sent from my iPhone" or nothing at all, include a signature, such as "Best" or "Sincerely," followed by your name.

Course Messages/Emails

The preferred method of contacting me is through my TAMIU email address, which I check daily Monday through Friday. I will respond within 48 hours of receiving emails. Please do not resend your email if 48 hours have not passed

In case of emergencies (for example during exams), you can also call me at (479) 200-5228.

Announcements

Students will receive regular (weekly) announcements that include reminders and information pertinent to the course, for example, the material related to the weekly live conference sessions (video - MP4 file and additional files -Excel and PPT), reminders of deadlines, clarifications, etc.

Assignments and Assessments

All assignments (homework and quizzes) and exams will be submitted and graded in Connect. Instant feedback is provided for quiz assignments. For homework assignments and exams, you will receive the score at submission but full feedback after the deadlines. For discussions and the stock trading simulation report, the turnaround time will be within (around) 72 hours after the deadlines.

Course Structure

This course includes international investment theory and practice. The theory is provided through textbook and supplemental readings, video lectures, and professor-led web conferencing sessions. The practice is done through Investopedia trading and portfolio development, homework assignments, and online discussions. Additional assessments are conducted through weekly assignments.

Activities and assignments:

- Read the textbook and supplemental readings assigned.
- Watch the video lectures and supplemental videos
- Participate in the weekly professor online sessions.
- Join the Investopedia trading game created for the course, trade, and discuss.
- Complete weekly homework and take weekly quizzes.
- Participate in weekly discussion assignments.
- Take exams.

Readings

Each module has a series of assigned readings from the textbooks and published articles. The reading materials from the books are closely linked with the video lectures.



Video Lectures

Each topic has a series of video lectures. A PDF file of the PowerPoint slides presented in each video is provided for note taking while viewing these lectures. Additional on-line optional videos will be provided as supplemental.

Homework & Quizzes

There are 6 homework assignments, and 7 quiz assignments. All the assignments will be administered through the Connect homework management system. The Connect homework system contains practice problems that are similar those assigned in the homework. You will receive detailed feedback on your practice attempts and there is no limit to the number of times you can practice. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these practice questions before attempting the homework.

The six homework assignments assess the quantitative material in the class. Assignments are to be submitted by 11:59pm Central Time on Sunday of the week assigned unless otherwise specified on the Course Schedule. Quizzes focus more on concepts than quantitative material.

Exams

There will be two exams. They will be in Connect.

Discussion Activities

There are ten discussion assignments.

Discussion #1: "Greet & Meet".

In this discussion, you will post a brief introduction of yourself. Your introduction may include the following aspects: i) What can you tell us about yourself, about your background, your family, your work, your interests or hobbies? ii) Do you have any experience in business problem analysis? Explain; iii) What are you hoping to learn from this course? iv) whether you are involved in the markets, what platform or broker do you use? Once you have made your original post and you comment on two other students' intro you will have completed your first assignment in the course.

Discussion #2 - STS Beginning Discussion

Before you make any trades within the Investopedia Stock Simulator please elaborate on your portfolio plans and goals for this assignment. For instance, are you looking to create a portfolio that is: i) well-diversified globally (i.e. you will invest in Domestic and International securities); ii) highest growth and profit potential from start-to-finish (you want to be ranked as #1); iii) high or low level of risk assessment. Please identify your course of action for this assignment.

Discussions #3 through #9 "Weekly Discussions".

Weekly discussion topics will be posted each Monday at 8 a.m. central time for conclusion each Friday at 8 p.m. central time. You must have one initial response to the original discussion question and one reply to a student response. At the end of the week, I will post a summary of the responses as well as provide additional comments to add to the topic discussion. Postings (responses) should be a minimum of one paragraph and must follow proper grammar (correct punctuation, capitalization, spelling, etc.). Responses should be limited to no more than three paragraphs.

Discussion #10 - STS Ending Discussions

After all trades have been made successfully in the Investopedia Stock Simulator each student should go back and analyze each of their transactions. Please identify whether you were successful in achieving your goals through your transactions. If so, could you have enhanced your opportunities even further? If not, how could you have improved. Do you feel that you made the appropriate trades? Looking back would you make the same trades again.

These discussions will occur in the relevant forum located under "Discussion Forum" and each discussion will also be located in the appropriate week folder.

Netiquette:

Just as in a physical classroom, a good discussion in an online classroom depends on everyone feeling safe and respected. Here are a few tips for creating an educational and enjoyable discussion space:

- It is difficult to "read" emotion in online discussions – be clear, use emoticons or concisely express your feelings (e.g., "ha, ha")
- Use of all capitals sends the message that YOU ARE SHOUTING!
- Give positive feedback ("good idea, thanks"), be polite, and avoid hostile or curt comments, stereotypes, and labels.
- Apply the same standards you would follow in a face-to-face classroom discussion.



- Maintain a sense of dignity and decorum (an online class is not the same as your Facebook account or your email).
- Argue not with emotion but with knowledge, facts, authority, and reason.

Netiquette, or network etiquette, is concerned with the "proper" way to communicate in an online environment. Consider the following "rules," adapted from Virginia Shea's *The Core Rules of Netiquette* (<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>), whenever you communicate in the virtual world.

Rule 1: Remember the Human

When communicating electronically, whether through email, instant message, discussion post, text, or some other method, practice the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Remember, your written words are read by real people, all deserving of respectful communication. Before you press "send" or "submit," ask yourself, "Would I be okay with this if someone else had written it?"

Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life

While it can be argued that standards of behavior may be different in the virtual world, they certainly should not be lower. You should do your best to act within the laws and ethical manners of society whenever you inhabit "cyberspace." Would you behave rudely to someone face-to-face? On most occasions, no. Neither should you behave this way in the virtual world.

Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace

"Netiquette varies from domain to domain." (Shea, 1994) Depending on where you are in the virtual world, the same written communication can be acceptable in one area, where it might be considered inappropriate in another. What you text to a friend may not be appropriate in an email to a classmate or colleague. Can you think of another example?

Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth

Electronic communication takes time: time to read and time in which to respond. Most people today lead busy lives, just like you do, and don't have time to read or respond to frivolous emails or discussion posts. As a virtual world communicator, it is your responsibility to make sure that the time spent reading your words isn't wasted. Make your written communication meaningful and to the point, without extraneous text or superfluous graphics or attachments that may take forever to download.

Rule 5: Make yourself look good online

One of the best things about the virtual world is the lack of judgment associated with your physical appearance, sound of your voice, or the clothes you wear (unless you post a video of yourself singing Karaoke in a clown outfit.) You will, however, be judged by the quality of your writing, so keep the following tips in mind:

Always check for spelling and grammar errors

Know what you're talking about and state it clearly

Be pleasant and polite

Rule 6: Share expert knowledge

The Internet offers its users many benefits; one is the ease in which information can be shared or accessed and in fact, this "information sharing" capability is one of the reasons the Internet was founded. So in the spirit of the Internet's "founding fathers," share what you know! When you post a question and receive intelligent answers, share the results with others. Are you an expert at something? Post resources and references about your subject matter. Recently expanded your knowledge about a subject that might be of interest to others? Share that as well.

Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control

What is meant by "flaming" and "flame wars?" "Flaming is what people do when they express a strongly held opinion without holding back any emotion." (Shea, 1994). As an example, think of the kinds of passionate comments you might read on a sports blog. While "flaming" is not necessarily forbidden in virtual communication, "flame wars," when two or three people exchange angry posts between one another, must be controlled or the camaraderie of the group could be compromised. Don't feed the flames; extinguish them by guiding the discussion back to a more productive direction.

Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy

Depending on what you are reading in the virtual world, be it an online class discussion forum, Facebook page, or an email, you may be exposed to some private or personal information that needs to be handled with care. Perhaps someone is sharing some medical news about a loved one or discussing a situation at work. What do you think would happen if this information "got into the wrong hands?" Embarrassment? Hurt feelings? Loss



of a job? Just as you expect others to respect your privacy, so should you respect the privacy of others. Be sure to err on the side of caution when deciding to discuss or not to discuss virtual communication.

Rule 9: Don't abuse your power

Just like in face-to-face situations, there are people in cyberspace who have more "power" than others. They have more expertise in technology or they have years of experience in a particular skill or subject matter. Maybe it's you who possesses all of this knowledge and power! Just remember: knowing more than others do or having more power than others may have does not give you the right to take advantage of anyone. Think of Rule 1: Remember the human.

Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes

Not everyone has the same amount of experience working in the virtual world. And not everyone knows the rules of netiquette. At some point, you will see a stupid question, read an unnecessarily long response, or encounter misspelled words; when this happens, practice kindness and forgiveness as you would hope someone would do if you had committed the same offense. If it's a minor "offense," you might want to let it slide. If you feel compelled to respond to a mistake, do so in a private email rather than a public forum.

Stock Trading Simulation (STS)

The project consists of making many required trades throughout the term. Feel free to trade as much as you like! Have fun with it! My goal for you is to experience some investing without risking real-world money! In addition, there is a discussion forum link on the Discussion Board for you to exchange trading ideas with other students. Please refer to the Course Schedule for the specific dates by when each of these steps should be completed.

The simulation is run as a free game in the Wall Street Survivor game simulation webpage. For the registration use this link:

<http://app.wallstreetsurvivor.com/members/register?admin=7352948&session=371619>

Password: Messi10