

FINA4200: INVESTMENTS
An Internet Course for Summer 2026

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 10:00-11:00 am BLB358H

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the fundamentals of investment, with a primary emphasis on equity markets and valuation techniques. Investment is a dynamic blend of theory and practice, and we learn that way. The theoretical foundation is drawn from the textbook and current research in finance, while practical applications connect these concepts to real-world financial markets.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is designed around three main objectives:

1. **Elements of Investments** – Develop the foundational knowledge needed to begin your journey as an investor.
2. **Valuation and Fundamental Analysis** – Build the skills to evaluate stocks and make more informed decisions.
3. **Portfolio Theory & Practice and Derivatives** – Advance your expertise to the level of a sophisticated investor, capable of applying advanced strategies in portfolio management and derivative instruments.

PREREQUISITES:

Prerequisite(s): FINA 3770 with a grade of C or better; ECON 1100 or equivalent; ACCT 2010 or equivalent; MATH 1190 or equivalent, or consent of the department.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Required Text: **Investments**, by Bodie, Kane and Marcus, **13th edition**, Publisher: McGraw-Hill, ISBN 978-1264412662
- Calculator: A calculator is required for this course. **No sharing** of calculators during the exam
- Database and Platform: Bloomberg Terminal, Morningstar Direct
- Suggested Reading: [Yahoo Finance](#), The Wall Street Journal (WSJ).

COMMUNICATION

- **Announcement**: Important updates and notifications will be communicated through Canvas Announcements. It is critical for the students to read these announcements as soon as they are posted.
- **Q&A**: Most course-related questions should be posted in the “General Questions Discussion Area” in Canvas Discussions. If you have a general question about the

course or assignments, please post it there. I, my TA, or one of your classmates will respond. This allows the entire class to benefit from questions and answers in a shared space. You may also want to find a class “buddy” so that you have at least one other student you can contact with questions.

- **Email:** If you have a private question, please contact me through **Canvas email**. I will try to respond within 24 hours on weekdays, usually sooner. Please do not expect a response over the weekend. Canvas email is preferred over direct email because direct messages may get buried among other emails.

GRADING

Homework	10%
Discussion participation	5%
Investment Project (group project): Security Analysis	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Trading Project	5%

Scale

- A = 90 and above (including 90)
- B = 80 – 89.9
- C = 70 – 79.9
- D = 60 – 69.9
- F = 0 – 59.9

I will try to adhere to the above grading scale but I reserve the right to deviate from it. **I don’t negotiate grades. You earn them.** I will not respond to requests for “extra credits”, “special treatment”, “boost”, “bonus” or “curving”. Your grade won’t change because you “need”, or “deserve” better grades.

GRADE APPEALS

All grade appeals must be done **within three days** of the posted grade. I will not look into grades appealed after three days past the date of grade postings for any exam. All appeals of exam grades must be written and emailed to me.

HOMEWORK

- All homework must clearly show **major steps**. Final answers without supporting work will not receive credit.
- Homework must be submitted online through Canvas using either the text entry box or a file upload (Word or excel). Submissions via email, hard copy, or other formats will not be accepted.
- Homework is usually due on the **Monday** following the week of the lecture. Sometimes, multiple homework assignments may be due on the same day. Please refer to the Homework Assignments for specific due dates. Late submissions will **not** be accepted under any circumstances.
- Homework problems are assigned from the end-of-chapter **Problem Sets** or **CFA Problems** in the textbook.

EXAMS

- Exams will cover only lecture material.
- Any missed exam will receive a grade of zero if no legitimate reasons are provided by the student and **approved** by the instructor **before** the exam. When approved, the student can carry the weight of the missed midterm to the final. There will be **no** make up for the final.
- A web camera or a laptop with integrated camera is required for all remote exams. We also require the use of **two cameras** for exams using Respondus Monitor: the primary webcam plus a camera from a mobile device (phone, tablet). The second device must be able to scan a QR code. It is your responsibility to obtain a properly functioning camera for remote exams. Your test score will be invalid without a functioning camera. All remote exams will be administered through Canvas using Respondus Lockdown Browser with Camera option. Respondus Lockdown browser can be downloaded through your Canvas account.

DISCUSSIONS

We will have online discussions, scheduled for most weeks. Topics and requirements for these discussions are available on Canvas under the "Discussions" section. Some discussions will be graded, while others will not. Regardless of grading, your active participation is crucial for achieving the desired learning outcomes in this course. You will learn from the professor, the real market, and also from your peers.

LIVE ZOOM Q&A SESSIONS

- My TA will host a live Q&A and review session on Zoom ([Zoom ID 878 8407 4222](#), [Passcode 42002026](#)) every [Monday at 7:00 pm](#), for about 30 minutes, starting [May 25th](#). See course outline for exact days of live session. This live session is optional except for live final project presentation ([Tuesday June 16th](#) [Same Zoom ID 878 8407 4222](#)).

SOME KEY DATES

- New Modules available on Monday
- Homework due next Monday

DROPPING THE COURSE

Students wishing to drop a class should visit the Registrar's website for assistance:

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class>

There are different procedures depending on whether the class is dropped before or after the census date for the term.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties include a grade of "F" in the course. You will find the policy and procedures at

<http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>

If I suspect that you have engaged in academic dishonesty, I will deal with the situation as outlined in the University Policy shown above. You will be allowed to remain in the class during the entire time that the academic misconduct accusation is being investigated, adjudicated, and appealed. As noted above, the maximum academic penalty that can be assessed by an instructor is an F in the course. However, university officials use the academic misconduct information to decide if other misconduct sanctions are then to be applied, and the student has separate rights to appeal those decisions, remaining in the class until all appeals are exhausted.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The SPOT survey will be made available during **weeks 13 and 14** of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

EAGLE CONNECT ACCOUNT

All students should activate and regularly check their EagleConnect (e-mail) account. EagleConnect is used for official communication from the University to students. Many important announcements for the University and College are sent to students via EagleConnect. For information about EagleConnect, including how to activate an account and how to have EagleConnect forwarded to another e-mail address, visit <https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES FOR BUSINESS LEADERSHIP BUILDING:

- **Severe Weather** In the event of severe weather, all building occupants should immediately seek shelter in the designated shelter-in-place area in the building. If unable to safely move to the designated shelter-in-place area, seek shelter in a windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building. All building occupants should take shelter in rooms 055, 070, 090, and the restrooms on the basement level or in rooms 170, 155, and restrooms 122, 182 or 183 on the first floor.
- **Bomb Threat/Fire** In the event of a bomb threat or fire in the building, all building occupants should immediately evacuate the building using the nearest exit. Once outside, proceed to the designated assembly area. If unable to safely move to the designated assembly area, contact one or more members of your department or unit to let them know you are safe and inform them of your whereabouts. Persons with mobility impairments who are unable to safely exit the building should move to a designated area of refuge and await assistance from emergency responders. All building occupants should immediately evacuate the building and proceed to the south side of Crumley Hall in the grassy area, west of parking lot 24.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Content	Topic	Chap	Homework
Week 1.1	The Investment Environment and Major Investment Issues	I: Elements of Investments	1	
Week 1.2	How Securities are Traded		3	Problem Set:9a,14,16 Due 5/25
Week 1.3	Equity Valuation	II: Valuation and Fundamental Analysis	18	
Week 2.1	Equity Valuation-Application		18	Problem Set:7,9,14,20a,23a,b Due 6/1
Week 2.2	Macroeconomic and Industry Analysis		17	
Week 2.3	Financial Statement Analysis		19	
Week 3.1	Midterm Exam (Chapter 1,3,17,18,19) On June 1, Mon			
Week 3.2	Risk and Return	III: Portfolio Theory and Practice	5	Chapter5(CFA Problems: 3, 4, 5,7) Due 6/8
Week 3.3	Capital Allocation to Risky Assets		6	Chapter 6(Problem sets 13, 14, 17, 18) Due 6/8
Week 4.1	Diversification		7	Chapter 7 (CFA 12a, b) Due 6/15
Week 4.2	The Capital Asset Pricing Model		9	Chapter 9 (Problem sets 1,21, CFA2) Due 6/15

Week 4.3	Option Markets	IV: Derivatives	20	Chapter 20 (Problem Sets: 5, 6) Due 6/15
Week 5.1	Future Markets		22	
Week 5.2	Group Stock Analysis Project Presentations on June 16, Tue (Project Written Report Due on June 15)			
Week 5.3	Final Exam (Chapter 5,6,7,9,20) On June 18, Thursday			

The stated schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Stock Analysis Group Project

As a stock market analyst, you should recommend one stock to your investors. Write a 20-page (double-spaced) report (not including tables or charts copied from other resources) following the stock analysis template. You should also include any Excel spreadsheets used in your analysis. **Each team (including every team member) will do a PowerPoint presentation on Zoom (about 20 minutes) on June 16th.** Canvas automatically creates groups and assigns a group leader. (You can change your group leader later and inform the instructor.) Some guidelines:

- Groups are automatically assigned, and a random member is chosen as the group leader as a placeholder. Your group may elect its own leader. Please email me the name of your elected group leader by **Friday of the first week of class**.
- Each team member should contribute to and understand the whole project.
- Each team member is expected to participate in the final presentation. Any student who is unable to present due to extraordinary circumstances must provide official documentation and notify the professor at least one week in advance.
- The project should be presented professionally.
- The written report, PowerPoint, and Excel files should be emailed to the instructor by **June 15th**.
- **Peer evaluation:** You will also be evaluated by your group members based on your participation and contribution to the project.
- **AI Policy for Group Project:** Students may use AI tools to brainstorm ideas, organize information, or improve clarity. However, all submitted work must reflect the group's own understanding, analysis, and original contribution. Any AI-assisted content should be reviewed carefully for accuracy and must **be cited or acknowledged when used**.

Framework of Stock Analysis Project

Your group can choose one of the following stocks to analyze: Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Alibaba, AT&T, Airbnb, Bank of America, Boeing, BYD, Chipotle, DocuSign, Fiverr, Ford, GM, Groupon, iRobot, iMax, JPMorgan, Lyft, Meta, Microsoft, Netflix, Nvidia, AMD, PayPal, Pfizer, Pinterest Roblox, Roku, Spotify, Shopify, Snap, Sofi, Stellantis, Teladoc, Tesla, Tencent, Uber, Verizon, and Zoom. You can also choose any stock that is not on the list.

- I. Quick opinion. Summarize your analysis by simple numbers, including: Report Date, S&P value, Last Price (when the report is submitted), **Intrinsic Value**, Economic Moat, and Recommendations. Use the Morningstar style and put this session at the top of your report.
- II. **The Investment Thesis:** This section highlights your key insights into the company and its stock. Think of it as an abstract in bullet points—an elevator pitch delivered in 30 seconds.
- III. **Business Analysis:** When you buy stock of a company, essentially you are buying the business. Analyzing a stock starts with understanding its business.
 - Profile of the company (in your own words)
 - Macroeconomic and industry analysis
 - Analysis of the company and the prospects of its major products and services.

- IV. Financial analysis:** Major financial statements and ratio analysis. More important is **forecasting the future**. More specifically, a projection of sales, margins (gross margin, operating margin, profit margin), profits, and most importantly, earnings per share (EPS) for the coming quarter and fiscal year end. It should also project the growth rate of sales and earnings for the next five years. Extensive use of spreadsheets is expected. Use historical data from Morningstar Direct in your analysis. From Morningstar Direct, you should be able to obtain historical moat rating, star rating, all historical financial statement data, and data derived from financial statements. Try to project long-term trend using the historical data.
- V. Stock Valuation:** Calculating the fair current value (**Intrinsic Value**) of the stock. In theory, fair value (also called intrinsic value) is what the stock price should be, given that the market is free from errors. It can be calculated in various ways, depending on what model you use. Commonly used models are P/E multiples, Dividend discount models, and Free Cash Flow models. This analysis needs the help of analytical tools like Excel. Some reports also project the expected stock price in one year.
- VI. Bulls vs. Bears:** There are always bull and bear views for any stock. That is why at any price, there are buying and selling orders—the two sides of the same coin of a transaction. Try to see the arguments for both sides.
- VII. The moat:** You should also discuss the economic moat (a concept borrowed from Warren Buffett), which is the sustainable competitive advantage in the long term.
- VIII. Risk:** The risks of investing in the company
- IX. Investing strategy:** This is your action plan as an investor. Your strategy choices include buy, sell, hold, wait, avoid, short, etc. **Notes:** A timely record of analysis of important events of the company and its stock
- X. Reference:** You **MUST** cite **ALL** resources your analysis uses.
- It is OK to use information from various resources. It is not acceptable not to cite them. Just listing several websites at the end is not the correct way of citation. Citation is always important for other investors to check your facts and numbers.
 - Whenever an external resource is used, you should use footnotes like this: Recent Morningstar reports state that “*Unprecedented increases in commodity costs have put a strain on Kraft's profitability.*”¹ All cited information must be quoted using quotation marks, and italicize the text as in the example. Each citation cannot be longer than three sentences.
 - You can use external resources for historical financial statement data, but projections for future performance and calculations of intrinsic values must be your own.

¹ Morning star report on KFT, October 2020

Analysis/Presentation Tips

1. Do not just list facts, form opinions, especially opinions that are related to intrinsic value.
2. It is an investment analysis, not a business/strategy project.
3. Discuss your key valuation assumptions in your presentation (short-term growth, long-term growth rate, discount rate, etc) and focus on key findings.

Project midterm report:

The group leader will submit a two-page report through the Canvas assignment summarizing the group's progress and findings, including:

- Stock choice, group names
- Your Investment Thesis, in less than 100 words.
- Preliminary Business analysis and key findings
- Preliminary Financial analysis and key conclusions
- Fair value estimation

Individual Trading Project: Who wants to be a millionaire!

- a. Register and log in to Virtual Stock Exchange Games (www.marketwatch.com/game). You must use your real name to be graded.
- b. Join game: UNT2026Summer Game Password: JUSTTRADEIT
- c. Start trading stocks from “UNT2026Summer”. You can also view your portfolio, trade history, benchmarks, and rankings.
- d. Your grade for the project is related to the relative performance of your portfolio (at the end of the term) and how active you are in trading.
- e. The project is on June 18th. (Last trading day). All you need to do is trading and taking notes. No report needed. (You can continue to trade and have fun after the due date.)

Game Details:

Game Name	UNT2026Summer
Vanity URL	https://www.marketwatch.com/games/unt2026summer
Start Date	5/18/2026
End Date	5/18/2027
Players Can Join After Start	Yes
Enable Commenting	Yes

Game Description

Trade to Learn. Trade to Win.

Player Starting Balance	\$100000
Commission Value	\$0
Credit Interest Rate	1%
Debt Interest Rate for Leverage	6%
Minimum Price Limit	\$1
Maximum Price Limit	\$500000.00
Enable Short Selling	Enabled

Enable Margin Selling	Enabled
Enable Limit Order	Enabled
Enable Stop Loss	Enabled
Enable Partial Shares	Enabled