

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Damien Brooks, CFA

Ph.D., Michigan State University

CFA Charterholder

Senior Lecturer, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia

Email: brooksd@uga.edu

Availability: I will respond to emails as quickly as possible, but please allow up to 24 hours. I may answer at any time of day, but mid- to late afternoons (3-4 PM) will be most common.

Office: B306 Amos Hall

Office Hours: Office hours will generally be held at the following times:

MW	3 PM - 4 PM
Tu	10 AM - 4 PM
Th	8 AM - 10 AM

I will also have a Zoom meeting open at the same time. You can access that meeting by [clicking here](#) or using the information below:

Meeting ID: 419 979 1349

Passcode: FINA4310

Please note that the meeting makes use of Zoom's waiting room for your privacy, so there may be delays entering. Additional delays might arise if someone is physically in the office when you attempt to join. There may be some limited availability on other days by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the securities markets, investor objectives, introduction to portfolio theory and the analytical tools of portfolio management, and an examination of investment alternatives. Students will build and manage a security portfolio for analysis as an experiential learning tool.

PRE-REQUISITES

FINA 3000 or FINA 3000H or FINA 3000E: Financial Management

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To expose the student to an analytical treatment of investment theory, including the concepts of portfolio management and valuation. The course includes a study of the role of risk in asset pricing, the implications of asset-pricing models, and the application of these models to real data.

COURSE TOPICS OUTLINE

Securities Markets and Trading
Passive Portfolio Management and Portfolio Theory
Capital Asset Pricing Model
Arbitrage Pricing Theory
Securities Analysis
Fixed Income Securities
Options, Futures, & Other Derivatives
Portfolio Performance Evaluation

COURSE DELIVERY METHOD

This course will operate as a flipped classroom. A set of lecture videos is posted on eLC, which cover the basics for the course content. Students are expected to review these prior to class each day. Class time will be student driven. It will focus on providing clarification, reinforcement, and/or extension of the course content.

To minimize unnecessary exposure to COVID-19, deliverables in this class will be handled electronically. Projects will be turned in through dropboxes on eLC, and quizzes will also be taken through eLC.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION POLICY

There is no class attendance or participation policy. You are responsible for your decision to attend or not, and/or whether to participate. I generally find that students who attend more frequently and participate more in class tend to perform better, but anyone who is following along should be able to perform well on the quizzes and complete the assignments.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. Internet Access

While class will be held in person, all materials for this course will be posted on eLC. You must be able to access these materials.

2. A computer

Quizzes in this class will require the use of Respondus LockDown Browser. See [Using LockDown Browser and a Webcam for Online Quizzes](#) for more detail.

3. Microsoft Excel

We will use Excel for some projects. At least one project will require features that are exclusive to Office 365 subscribers. Some quiz questions may be significantly faster to solve using Excel. UGA students are able to acquire a free license for Microsoft Office 365. See https://ugamail.uga.edu/download_office_proplus/ for more details.

If you do not wish to use Excel for quizzes, you will need a calculator with financial functions. I recommend a TI calculator, as most TI graphing/financial models have similar functions, and I'll be better able to assist you if a problem arises.

4. Google account

We will use Google Colab for some projects. To complete these, you will need to create a Google account. Colab Pro is **NOT** required, so no payment is necessary.

5. MarketWatch Virtual Stock Exchange account

We will conduct a stock market simulation using MarketWatch. You will need to create a Dow Jones account to participate. The account is free, but you may receive some marketing emails.

RECOMMENDED COURSE TEXT

Title: *Essentials of Investments*

Authors: Bodie, Kane, and Marcus

Edition: 12th

Copyright Year: 2022

Publisher: McGraw-Hill/Irwin

ISBN: 978-1-260-77216-6

Older Edition OK: Yes

Our class content will be loosely organized around this text. I strongly recommend purchasing the book and reading the corresponding chapters. However, few of the new edition's changes affect the material we will cover in this course, so I recommend renting or looking for a used 8th or newer edition to save money.

ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade in this course will be based on a weighted average of your performance across the following assessment categories:

Module Quizzes: We will cover 6 modules during the semester, each of which will have a quiz to complete. Each quiz will consist of 20 questions, and you will have 60 minutes to complete the quiz once you begin. All quizzes will cover only the material for that module. The quiz will be available to start until 7:00 PM on the due date, and you may take it at any time up to that point on that day. The LockDown Browser is required for all quizzes. You will be allowed to use an online Excel spreadsheet and/or a personal calculator (see below). A sample quiz will be provided for you to familiarize yourself with the format of each quiz and the use of the LockDown Browser software.

Calculator Policy for Quizzes: Any purpose-built calculator is allowed for quizzes. This means any financial, scientific, or graphing calculator or a combination thereof is acceptable. However, phones, tablets, and second computers are not allowed—even if you have a BA II Plus app on your phone, it does ***NOT*** qualify as a calculator. These devices should not be in your work area while taking the quiz.

CFA Ethics Module: You will be asked to watch a video series produced by the CFA Institute (originally found at <http://cfainstitute.gallery.video/cfaethics>). Each video will be embedded inside a quiz asking you to certify that you have watched the entire video.

Projects: As part of this course, you will participate in a portfolio simulation and manage a portfolio of securities throughout the semester. You will complete a series of assignments to explore many of the tools available for investment analysis. These are intended to supplement the experience of managing your MarketWatch portfolio, but they will not depend on it—so, you'll never lose points just because your investments didn't pan out. One project will require you to perform some basic trades on MarketWatch to familiarize yourself with that platform. Some projects will require the use of Microsoft Excel, and others will require the use of VBA or Google Colab. Basic experience with Excel spreadsheet formulas (e.g., SUM() or AVERAGE()) is assumed, but no knowledge or prior experience is expected with VBA or Colab. There will be dropboxes set up on eLC for each project. Excel-based projects will be submitted as .XLSX or .XLSM files as appropriate. Colab-based projects will be submitted via a sharing link.

ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

Late Work: You are given more than sufficient time to complete the assignments in this course. With this in mind, any assignment not submitted prior to the announced deadline will be considered late. Late assignments are accepted, but the maximum grade is reduced by 10 points (out of 100) per day. Once the maximum grade reaches 0, no further submissions will be accepted. Assignments that are non-functioning (e.g., functions fail to work) or inaccessible (e.g., access denied for a sharing link) as submitted where I must request a working version will also be considered late. The date when the working version is received will replace the original turn-in date for the purposes of this policy. For example, if the working version is received 2 days after the due date, the assignment will be considered 2 days late *even if the original was received before the due date*. There are **NO** exceptions, but at my discretion, penalties may be reduced (but not eliminated) for the first late assignment.

Re-Grading: Questions about the grading of any quiz or assignment, including (but not limited to) requests for re-grading, must be made within one week of the time that the graded quiz or assignment is returned to the class. All questions and requests must be made in writing. Requests for re-grading will result in a re-grade of the entire assignment.

EXTRA CREDIT

There are three opportunities for extra credit in this class:

MarketWatch Winners: The students whose MarketWatch portfolios earn the highest net worth will receive a bonus for winning. In particular, the first place student will receive +3 points on their final grade, second place will receive +2 points on their final grade, and third place will receive +1 point on their final grade.

Course Evaluation: To help me improve the course for future students, I ask that you complete the course evaluation for this class. Students who complete the evaluation will receive +1 on their final grade. Your answers are anonymous, and, in any event, I do not receive them until after grades are posted for the semester. However, I can view a report of who completed the evaluation. This **MUST** show that you have completed the evaluation by the end of the allotted window for you to receive credit. The course evaluation for this class can be found at:

<https://webapps.franklin.uga.edu/evaluation/>

Evaluations typically close on the reading day before finals (Wednesday, 5/4), so please complete it as soon as possible after it opens. I do not control this process—if the evaluations close before you complete them, I cannot reopen them. That means late evaluations cannot remain anonymous, so they will **NOT** be accepted for credit.

Errata Bounties: To help improve the materials for this course, I will be offering “bounties” to students who identify errors (typos, math errors, etc.) in the “textbook” file, posted slides, or videos. Each error reported can add 0.15% to your final grade up to a maximum of 3%. These will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Repeats of the same math error (e.g., the same mistake across different versions of the same calculation) will count as a single error.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade will be determined using the following weights:

Quizzes (6 @ 12.5% each)	75%
CFA Institute Ethics (22 Videos @ ~0.32% each)	7%
Intro to MarketWatch	3%
Portfolio Statistics	3%
Portfolio Optimization	3%
Asset Pricing	3%
Bonds	3%
Option Pricing	3%
Projects	18%
Graded Out Of	100%
MarketWatch Winners	3%
Course Evaluation Completed	1%
Errata Bounties	3%
Extra Credit	7%
Points Possible	107%

Your final letter grade will be based on the following scale. To receive a grade, your average must be greater than or equal to the cutoff:

A (4.0): 93	B+ (3.3): 87	C+ (2.3): 77	D (1.0): 60
A– (3.7): 90	B (3.0): 83	C (2.0): 73	
	B– (2.7): 80	C– (1.7): 70	

These cutoffs already include any “rounding up”. However, I reserve the right to modify this grading scheme, either to substitute an assignment where necessary or to reduce one or more grade cutoffs to improve the class grade distribution. No grade cutoffs will ever be raised above the values shown here. No student’s grade will be harmed at the time of a change.

QUIZ MAKE-UP POLICY

In general, there are no make-up quizzes for this class. If you are unable to take a quiz while it is open for any documented, excused reason, its weight will be shifted to your other quizzes in equal proportions.

Excused reasons include a death in the family, a job, an interview, or a university activity. You should notify me **BEFORE** the day of the quiz and provide some documentation of both the event and your participation in the event. Please note attending a sporting event or participating in an intramural event does **NOT** qualify, while participating in a University sporting event does. Illnesses and COVID-19 symptoms are excused with a University Health Center appointment confirmation, a doctor's note on the day of, and/or a doctor's excuse that covers the date of the quiz.

NOTE: Since there is minimal overlap between quizzes, **quizzes are not optional in this course**. If re-weighting, a grade of 0 will be entered until documentation is received.

TECHNICAL ISSUES POLICY

Most problems with the LockDown Browser software are due to software conflicts. You should be sure to keep your computer and the LockDown Browser software up to date. Earnestly utilizing the practice quiz should allow you to troubleshoot any issues prior to the "real quizzes". If problems do arise, briefly attempt to troubleshoot on your own, as the problem might be something easily rectified. If the solution is not quickly apparent, save your answers and submit the quiz as is and send me a briefly explanation of what happened. I can then set up a "stub" quiz to allow you to resume from where you left off with approximately the same amount of time remaining. Then, the quiz grades can be added together afterward. This second quiz will begin on the same page you were on when submitting the quiz.

There is sufficient time to work around any technical issues that should arise during a project, so there is no accommodation given. **Technical issues arising shortly before the assignment is due are not a valid excuse.**

UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE & ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi.

Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

The Terry College is committed to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging among its students, faculty, and staff. This class welcomes the open exchange of ideas and values freedom of thought and expression. This class provides a professional environment that recognizes the inherent worth of every person. It aims to foster dignity, understanding, and mutual respect among all individuals in the class.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://www.sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).

If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.

Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

COVID STATEMENT

Face coverings:

Following guidance from the University System of Georgia, face coverings are recommended for all individuals while inside campus facilities.

How can I obtain the COVID-19 vaccine?

University Health Center is scheduling appointments for students through the UHC Patient Portal (https://patientportal.uhs.uga.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx). Learn more here—<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-vaccine>.

The Georgia Department of Health, pharmacy chains and local providers also offer the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to you. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, please go to: <https://georgia.gov/covid-vaccine>.

In addition, the University System of Georgia has made COVID-19 vaccines available at 15 campuses statewide and you can locate one here: <https://www.usg.edu/vaccination>.

What do I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?

Students showing COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive for COVID-19 at any time, you are required to report it through the DawgCheck Test Reporting Survey. We encourage you to stay at home if you become ill or until you have excluded COVID-19 as the cause of your symptoms. UGA adheres to current Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) quarantine and isolation guidance and requires that it be followed. Follow the instructions provided to you when you report your positive test result in DawgCheck.

Guidelines for COVID-19 Quarantine Period (As of 8/1/21; follow DawgCheck or see DPH website for most up-to-date recommendations)

Students who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine upon exposure unless they have symptoms of COVID-19 themselves. All others should follow the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) recommendations:

Students who are not fully vaccinated and have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 10 days. Those quarantining for 10 days must have been symptom-free throughout the monitoring period and continue self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms for a total of 14 days. You should report the need to quarantine on DawgCheck (<https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>), and communicate directly with your faculty to coordinate your coursework while in quarantine. If you need additional help, reach out to Student Care and Outreach (sco@uga.edu) for assistance. Students, faculty and staff who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are no longer required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

Well-being, Mental Health, and Student Support

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources to support your well-being and mental health: <https://well-being.uga.edu/>.

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support: <https://caps.uga.edu/>, TAO Online Support (<https://caps.uga.edu/tao/>), 24/7 support at 706-542-2273. For crisis support: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>.

The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/bewelluga/>.

Monitoring conditions:

Note that the guidance referenced in this syllabus is subject to change based on recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the University System of Georgia, or the Governor's Office. For the latest on UGA policy, you can visit coronavirus.uga.edu.

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Day	Topic	Date	Agenda
1	Syllabus/Intro	Monday, January 10 th	Welcome!
2	Securities Markets	Wednesday, January 12 th	
3	Securities Markets	Friday, January 14 th	
	MLK Jr. Day	Monday, January 17 th	NO CLASS
4	Securities Markets	Wednesday, January 19 th	
5	Securities Markets	Friday, January 21 st	
6	Securities Markets	Monday, January 24 th	
7	Securities Markets	Wednesday, January 26 th	
8	Securities Markets	Friday, January 28 th	
	QUIZ	Monday, January 31 st	Quiz 01
9	Fixed Income	Wednesday, February 2 nd	
10	Fixed Income	Friday, February 4 th	2 ethics videos due
11	Fixed Income	Monday, February 7 th	
12	Fixed Income	Wednesday, February 9 th	Intro to MarketWatch due
13	Fixed Income	Friday, February 11 th	2 ethics videos due
14	Fixed Income	Monday, February 14 th	MarketWatch trading begins
15	Fixed Income	Wednesday, February 16 th	Yield Curve project due
	QUIZ	Friday, February 18 th	Quiz 02
16	Security Behavior	Monday, February 21 st	
17	Security Behavior	Wednesday, February 23 rd	
18	Security Behavior	Friday, February 25 th	2 ethics videos due
19	Security Behavior	Monday, February 28 th	
20	Security Behavior	Wednesday, March 2 nd	
21	Security Behavior	Friday, March 4 th	2 ethics videos due
	SPRING BREAK	Monday, March 7 th	NO CLASS
	SPRING BREAK	Wednesday, March 9 th	NO CLASS
	SPRING BREAK	Friday, March 11 th	NO CLASS
22	Security Behavior	Monday, March 14 th	
	QUIZ	Wednesday, March 16 th	Quiz 03
23	Portfolio Allocation	Friday, March 18 th	2 ethics videos due
24	Portfolio Allocation	Monday, March 21 st	Option Pricing project due
25	Portfolio Allocation	Wednesday, March 23 rd	
26	Portfolio Allocation	Friday, March 25 th	2 ethics videos due
27	Portfolio Allocation	Monday, March 28 th	
28	Portfolio Allocation	Wednesday, March 30 th	Portfolio Statistics project due
29	Portfolio Allocation	Friday, April 1 st	2 ethics videos due
	QUIZ	Monday, April 4 th	Quiz 04
30	Measuring Performance	Wednesday, April 6 th	Portfolio Optimization project due

31	Measuring Performance	Friday, April 8 th	2 ethics videos due
32	Measuring Performance	Monday, April 11 th	
33	Measuring Performance	Wednesday, April 13 th	
34	Measuring Performance	Friday, April 15 th	2 ethics videos due
35	Measuring Performance	Monday, April 18 th	
	QUIZ	Wednesday, April 20 th	Quiz 05
36	Market Behavior	Friday, April 22 nd	2 ethics videos due
37	Market Behavior	Monday, April 25 th	
38	Market Behavior	Wednesday, April 27 th	Asset Pricing project due
39	Market Behavior	Friday, April 29 th	2 ethics videos due MarketWatch trading ends
40	Market Behavior	Monday, May 2 nd	
	READING DAY	Wednesday, May 4 th	Evaluation Completed
	FINAL EXAM PERIOD	Various	QUIZ 06

NOTE: Due dates and quiz dates are also posted on the ELC calendar. All assignments will be due on a Wednesday.

FINAL EXAM PERIODS

Final exam periods are based on your class time, as determined by the Office of the Registrar. The exam times are:

MWF 10:20 AM (CRN 20690): Friday, May 6th, 8-11 AM

MWF 11:30 AM (CRN 20691): Monday, May 9th, 12 Noon-3 PM

MWF 1:50 PM (CRN 35178): Friday, May 6th, 12 Noon-3 PM

As with the other quizzes in this course, you may complete this quiz at any time on the day it is scheduled. So, you do not have to complete the final during the scheduled 3 hour window, but **you are expected to complete the final quiz on that day!**

A limited number of “moves” to each section may be allowed to accommodate students who have a documented exam conflict. This will be on a space-available, first-come, first-serve basis. See the [final exam schedule](#) and the [University’s policy on conflicts](#) to see if your situation qualifies. If so, fill out and submit the [conflict petition form](#) as soon as possible so that I can accommodate. If space is not available in one of the other sections/you’re unable to take the exam in a section with space available, you may drop this exam and re-weight your others. Otherwise, you will need to follow up with one of the faculty for the other conflicting exams for accommodation.

Note that it is unlikely that a make-up final exam for non-conflict reasons can be provided due to both the length of time provided for the exam and the varying availability of space available in other section final periods.