FIN3525 – Practicum in Investments¹
SYLLABUS
Spring 2021

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor: Hainan Sheng, Ph.D., CFA</th>
<th>Meeting Dates &amp; Time:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:hainan.sheng@umsl.edu">hainan.sheng@umsl.edu</a></td>
<td>01/19/2021 (Tu 1:00PM - 1:50PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom: Express Scripts Hall-00005</td>
<td>02/02/2021 (Tu 1:00PM - 1:50PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual office hours via zoom: by appointment</td>
<td>02/16/2021 (Tu 1:00PM - 1:50PM)</td>
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<td>Office: 227 Anheuser-Busch Hall</td>
<td>03/02/2021 (Tu 1:00PM - 1:50PM)</td>
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<td>03/16/2021 (Tu 1:00PM - 1:50PM)</td>
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<td>05/04/2021 (Tu 1:00PM - 1:50PM)</td>
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Dr. Hainan Sheng has a Ph.D. in finance, and she is also a CFA charterholder. If you are interested in pursuing a career as an investment professional, you may consider earning the CFA charter in the future. The CFA® credential is one of the most prestigious credentials in the finance industry. It prepares and positions you for a variety of career paths in the investment management industry. If you’d like to get more information, you may visit the CFA institute website: https://www.cfainstitute.org/en/programs/cfa or set an appointment with me and we can chat more from there.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE:
This course is designed to provide students with hands-on experience in investment analysis as they manage a real portfolio. It will expose students to the decision making in the design of a portfolio management process, especially with respect to asset allocation, security selection, and risk management. Equity investing is crucial to the financial success of all members of society. In this seminar, we aim to promote the stock market, not as a dark, mysterious place, but as a vehicle of opportunity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
This course will help students to:

- apply a broad spectrum of finance terms, concepts, and technical skills in real-life trading;
- gain analytical insights in predicting the firm’s future revenue growth and operational efficiency beyond what other investors have already incorporated into stock prices;

¹ Disclaimer: circumstances may occur during the semester that may require changes to this syllabus. Students are responsible for any changes announced during class or email.
• expose the role of analytics in professional portfolio management and decision making by evaluating securities both technically and fundamentally;
• advance research presentation skills.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS ABOUT COVID-19:
Please wear a face covering before entering to the classroom. If a student comes to class without one, I am instructed to remind the student to leave class and obtain a face covering from a nearby mask distribution area and then rejoin the class.

TIME REQUIREMENTS:
This is a 1-credit hour hybrid course. Students should expect to work approximately 3 hours per week for every course credit hour. That means that students need to plan to spend 3 hours every week on activities related to this course (such as watching videos, reading required materials, et al.) If you are worried about your preparedness, consider taking the Online Readiness Survey to help decide if an online course is right for you.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:
Students are expected to have reliable internet throughout the semester. Problems with your computer or other technology issues are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations and missed deadlines for the course. If you have a problem, get help in solving it immediately. At a minimum, you will need the following software/hardware to participate in this course:

• Computer with an updated operating system (e.g. Windows, Mac, Linux)
• Updated Internet browsers (Apple Safari, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox)
• Ability to navigate UMSL Canvas (Learning Management System)
• Minimum Processor Speed of 1 GHz or higher recommended.
• DSL or Cable Internet connection or a connection speed no less than 6 Mbps.
• Media player such as VLC Media Player.
• Adobe Flash player (free)
• Adobe Reader or alternative PDF reader (free)
• A webcam and/or microphone is recommended.

If this is your first online course, it is recommended that you log into Canvas and complete the Online Course Overview listed in your Canvas course list. If you’ve already completed the orientation, you do not have to retake it but you can refer to it for helpful videos and tutorials about the technologies used in this course.

TEXTBOOKS, READINGS, AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Textbook: No textbook is required.
• Supplementary Materials:
  o Any required readings or videos will be provided electronically via Canvas
• Recommended Reading:
  o Wall Street Journal
**UMSL now has partnered with The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) to provide sponsored memberships to all students.**

**Activate Membership**
- Activate your membership at [WSJ.com/ActivateUMSL](https://c.com/ActivateUMSL). You have sponsored access to trusted news, business insights and career resources. Request your WSJ Media Pack here: [https://edu.wsj.com/mediapack](https://edu.wsj.com/mediapack).

**ELECTRONIC MATERIALS:**
UMSL Canvas will be used for posting course materials such as syllabus, videos, and other information about the course as needed.

**COMMUNICATION:**
UMSL Canvas and/or your UMSL email address will be used for all course correspondence. If you email me, please indicate somewhere that your question/problem pertains to FIN 3525 or Student Investment Trust. I will commit to respond within 24 hours to all email messages.

**COURSE STRUCTURE:**
Classes are a combination of short lectures, discussion of potential investment actions, and presentations. There will be no homework nor exams.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**
- **Classroom Participation**
  Classroom engagement is important for our class. Students who participate in the classroom by making presentation, asking or answering questions will receive classroom participation points. Below is the formula for calculating your classroom participation points:

  \[ \text{Points} = 20 \times \frac{\text{# of Class Meetings Participated}}{8}. \]

  **If you are sick, please do NOT come to class.** Email me regarding your estimated return to class. If you have a serious family emergency, email me to let me know of your absence and your expected return.

- **Online Discussion**
  It is vitally important that our online classroom environment promotes the respectful exchange of ideas. From time to time you will be asked to discuss one or two questions regarding security investment posted on Discussion Board under modules via Canvas. Be noted, there will be a due time indicated in each Discussion Board and you will have **no opportunity to make it up if you are late.** Since the idea behind the Discussion Board is to interact with your classmates and share ideas, once the period of discussion is over so is your opportunity to post.
• **Presentations**
  Presentations to the class regarding securities will be required over the semester. Detailed instructions will be provided on the first day of class.

**GRADING POLICY:**
Your final course grade will be determined according to the following weights:

- Classroom Participation 20 points
- Online Discussion 30 points
- Presentations 50 points
Total 100 points

**CANVAS MESSAGE SETUP**
Please update your Canvas notification settings to receive the following types of communications by email. Have a green check mark next to the following Notification Preferences:
https://umsl.instructure.com/profile/communication
- Announcement
- Added to Conversion
- Conversation Message
- Conversation Message by Me

**ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND CLASS PROTOCOL:**
Online classroom participation is expected and highly encouraged. Students should complete the assigned work on time and be attentive/respectful to both the instructor and their fellow students.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**
The level of integrity consistent with University policy is expected. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty as a most serious offense. Any student turning in work represented as his or her own work, that turns out to be otherwise, will be given an “F” in the course.

**ACCESS, DISABILITY, AND COMMUNICATION:**
Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact Disability Access Services (DAS) immediately. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the office of Disability Access Services in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. Information about your disability is confidential. Once DAS reviews your medical documentation, they will provide you with the information and steps to inform me about the accommodations to which you are entitled. Your accommodations will begin as soon as we discuss your approved accommodations.
• 144 Millennium Student Center (MSC)
• Phone: (314) 516-6554
• Email: Tara Cramer, cramert@umsl.edu
• Website: http://www.umsl.edu/services/disability/

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

• Online Mentor Program
  Online education requires different teaching, learning, and technology skills than those found in traditional face-to-face classes. We assist students with the online technology in Canvas and provide resources for studying and success in online classes.
    o 598 Lucas Hall
    o Phone: (314) 516-4211
    o Email: onlinementor@umsl.edu
    o Website: http://www.umsl.edu/services/ctl/studentsupport/omp.html

• Canvas
  If you have problems logging into your online course, or an issue within the course site, please contact the Technology Support Center:
    o Phone: (314) 516-6034
    o Email: helpdesk@umsl.edu
    o Website: http://www.umsl.edu/technology/tsc/

  If you are having difficulty with a technology tool in Canvas, consider visiting the Canvas Student Guides, which has overviews of each tool and tutorials on how to use them.

  If you continue to experience problems or just have questions, you can also contact the Learning Resource Lab:
    o Phone: (314) 516-6704
    o Email: lrl@umsl.edu
    o Website: http://www.umsl.edu/technology/lrl/

NETTIQUE OF ONLINE COMMUNICATION:

• Maintain a positive tone;
• Use appropriate grammar and structure;
• Avoid personal attacks and flames.
• Avoid offensive language; be respectful