SYLLABUS

Reference # 11632  Time: TuTh 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. 204 SSB  Credits: 3
Location: 133 SSB (Social Science Business Hall), North Campus
Building #11 on Campus Map – see Maps in My Gateway masthead

Course Description: The study of a retirement benefits and selected employee benefits from the perspective of a retirement planner.

Body of Knowledge:
The student should gain familiarity with:
  Social Security and Medicare
  Defined benefit and defined contribution plans
  Qualified retirement plans
  Non-qualified retirement plans
  IRAs
  Annuities
  Time value of money principles applied to retirement planning

Welcome to FIN 3500!

• 23 years experience in investment banking (focus on mergers/acquisitions and corporate valuations), 3 years experience in Private Client Services, and 3 years experience in securities research at A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. (now Wells Fargo Advisors) and St. Louis Union Trust Company (now Bank of America Trust Company).
• Started teaching at UMSL in 2005. Teach courses in Corporate Financial Management, Investments, and Retirement Planning.
• Interested in Behavioral Finance, High Frequency Trading, and Dividend Investing.

Instructor: James Pandjiris, CFA  Office: 1110 Tower
Office Hours: TuTh: 4:15 – 5:15 pm or by appointment Phone: 314-516-6642 E-mail: pandjirisj@umsl.edu I am easier to reach by e-mail.

Required Texts:

New and used textbooks are available from the Bookstore. There is no electric platform, such as Connect, supporting this text book.

Supplementary Materials:
A financial calculator is required. This should have N, i/y, PV, PMT, and FV functions. The TI-BAlI Plus model or HP-10B model is a good calculator (at about $30 at bookstore and mass merchandisers) for this and more advanced finance courses. Note: the Texas Instruments TI-83/84 are not particularly friendly for financial calculations. These are primarily graphing calculators; many of my former students have found the TI-83/84 somewhat difficult, at first, to apply to financial problems. If you already have a TI-83/84, do not buy another calculator.

- Please get familiar with the operation of your calculator; read the handbook or go to the manufacturer’s website for guidance. You (yeah, you) are responsible for knowing how to operate your calculator. The website www.tvmcalcs.com is an excellent resource for calculators.
- Reading the Wall Street Journal or the business section of the New York Times is recommended. The Wall Street Journal may be ordered for home delivery at http://www.WSJ.com/studentoffer, while the New York Times is available free in red newspaper boxes around campus by inserting your student ID card.

Course Requirements and Procedures:
Instruction Method: Classes are a combination of lecture and discussion of problems/issues. Homework problems will be assigned frequently. Successful students attempt the problems before class and then review answers discussed in class. If you don’t understand a concept or a problem, see me or e-mail me. Don’t let that concept fester. The subject matter
builds on prior concepts. I get paid to answer e-mails. There will be a tutor for this class.

**My Gateway**
I utilize My Gateway extensively during the semester. I may post articles, list future assignments, provide answers to homework problems, provide access to PowerPoint presentations, and advise on studying for exams. You may send me questions or comments (I encourage this activity) via e-mail on My Gateway. If you do not have access to My Gateway at your home, I strongly recommend you arrange to access My Gateway two to three times weekly while on campus. Access My Gateway off-campus using Mozilla Foxfire search engine.

- **YOUR SUCCESS** in this course is important to me. When I believe that the programs offered by Student Retention Services (SRS) will help you academically, I will send a referral via MyConnect, the campus *Academic Alert System*. The SRS offers assistance tailored to specific instructional needs. Learn about the MyConnect system in the online Student Planner, [http://www.umsl.edu/~umslsrs/Academic%20Intervention%20Programs/alert.html](http://www.umsl.edu/~umslsrs/Academic%20Intervention%20Programs/alert.html)

**Attendance/Participation:**
Attendance will be taken and will have an effect on your grade. If your attendance is below 90% on the days on which attendance is taken, you will not receive 2% (10 points) attendance extra credit in grading. The material is cumulative and missing any class will make it difficult for the student to follow subsequent classes. *Make sure you sign attendance sheet!* The attendance sheet is the record of your attendance. *If you are sick,* do NOT come to class. E-mail me regarding your estimated return to class. If you have a serious family emergency or a death in the family, E-mail me to let me know of your absence and your expected return.

If you will be absent from class more than one time due to religious observance or the effects of religious observance (e.g. weakness from fasting), please contact me *BEFORE* the observance so that we can work out a schedule for you to complete assignments in a timely manner. It is the student’s responsibility to contact me in a timely manner.
In my 12 years teaching, there is a very high correlation between low attendance and failing grades.

**SNOW DAYS:**
I cannot unilaterally cancel class because of snowfall, only the UMSL administration has that power and will disclose any snow closure by e-mail (if you register) and also by television and on the UMSL website. There may be a situation when school is open but you cannot get out of your street or community. *Don’t be a hero;* e-mail me of your predicament and I will not record you as absent.

**Assignments:**
Students are encouraged to complete readings and do homework problems *prior* to class meetings. Homework submitted late will **NOT** be counted for grading purposes.

**Disability**
Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in order to effectively participate in this class, please contact the **Disability Access Services Office** in 144 Millenium Student Center at 516-6554 as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are arranged in a timely fashion. Please provide me, privately, permission information and accommodations to support you in this class. Such information will be regarded as confidential.

**Quizzes/In Class Exercises**
There *may* be some quizzes electronically offered during the semester. These will be relatively short and will test your grasp of the material. Electronic quizzes through My Gateway can be sensitive to home computers; consider taking electronic quizzes through My Gateway on campus with University computers or access My Gateway off-campus using **Mozilla Foxfire** search engine. If you miss a quiz, your grade on that quiz will be zero. Only individuals on school business (primarily intercollegiate players) and those with an authenticated and substantial reason may take a quiz at an alternative date. Alternatively, I may offer in class assignments on a particular chapter.

**Power Point Presentations**
On My Gateway, I will provide access to Power Point presentations related to most chapters discussed in class. While I may not present each
presentation in the classroom, you will be responsible for the materials contained therein. Please review these presentations for quiz and exam preparation. You are responsible for materials presented in the text.

Exams:
Five exams will be given and approximate dates are listed herein. The date of an exam will be announced in class at least one class period in advance. The final exam will be necessarily comprehensive but with greater emphasis on the chapters covered since exam four. The exams will be objective, multiple-choice. For an exam, you will be allowed one side of an 8 ½ * 11 page on which you can write notes/formulae. Note that exams comprise about 71% of your total grade; treat them with great importance.

Extra Credit Assignments
From time to time, assignments may be offered which can be completed on a voluntary basis for extra credit up to an additional 3% (15 points) above the attendance credit. If extra credit assignments are made available, I recommend students do them; one never knows how many points are enough.

Grades:
Grades will be based on the following weightings:

Points:
In Class Exercises/Quizzes/Cases 64 8 @ 6 points each
Assigned Problems (Homework) 96 estimated 16 HW @ 6 pts each (after 1/30)
First Exam 75
Second Exam 70
Third Exam 80
Fourth Exam 70
Final Exam 61
Total 500 Points

Note that “plus” and “minus” grades will be used in this course. A maximum grade on assigned work is 500 points. Extra credit points will be added to the assigned points to derive Total Points.

Letter grades will be awarded as follows:

A/A- ≥ 448.0 points  B+/B- 398.0 to 447.5 points
C+/C- 348.0 to 397.5  D+/D- 299.5 to 347.5 points
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F  <  297.5 points

Your Total Points will be the basis of your letter grade. A letter grade of A is typically about 465 points or higher. Note that a grade of A/A- is not easy to achieve.

In the Grade Center, the column “TOTAL” is important. That is your cumulative points earned semester-to-date and this column’s value changes as your assignments and extra credit are graded. Each category of assignments is worth points as shown above.

Note: Total points ending in decimals of .6 and higher will be rounded up to the higher whole number in calculating final numeric grades. Extra credit points add to your total points. Your letter grade will be based on the sum of your Assigned Points Earned and any Extra Credit points. Extra credit points are valuable as they add to the numerator of the fraction to calculate your percentage score out of 500 points but do not affect the denominator, set at 500 points.

Courtesy and Collegiality:
Please turn off all electronic communication devices during class as a courtesy to all. I hope to encourage discussion, questions, and comments. While we may have differing opinions and come from different cultures, let’s respect each other’s views. Please be respectful in language and behavior.

Hand-held phones and i-Pads may NOT be used for quizzes or exams in class.

Academic Honesty:
The University of Missouri-St. Louis encourages students to pursue excellence within a respectful and collegial environment and to assume responsibility for consequences of personal actions. The University requires students to reject any type of dishonest behavior. Honesty precludes seeking, providing, or receiving any form of unauthorized assistance on tests or any type of assignment. Any form of cheating on exams/assignments may result in “0” points for that exam or exercise. Please keep your eyes on your exam; do not let your eyes wander in an exam.

Any form of cheating on exams will result in “0” points for that exam or assignment. Additional penalties imposed by the Office of Academic affairs are possible. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting that person. To avoid accusations of academic dishonesty, please submit all written work to the Safe Assign System before finalizing
what you submit for evaluation. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and is not worth it. The code of student conduct is available in the Student Handbook.

Campus Safety

- All members of the UMSL community are invited to register their cell and office phone numbers to receive notification of any pending danger on campus. Find instructions here: http://safety.umsl.edu/police/services/3n.html
- In the event of an emergency on campus, call Campus Police at 314.516.5155. A call to 911 on a cell phone only, will go to the St. Louis County Police. The St. Louis County Police will notify UMSL Police, but this may cause a delay in response. Campus Police know the best way to escort emergency vehicles to locations on campus.
- If you do not feel comfortable walking to a parking lot, MetroLink stop, or anywhere else on campus, contact the Campus Police for an escort: 314.516.5155.

Assignment Outline & Schedule *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Introduction and Social Security</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>Introduction and Ch 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>Ch 1 and Ch 2 Accumulations and Distributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>Ch 2 continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>Ch 11 Social Security</td>
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<td>1/31</td>
<td>Ch 11 continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Catch up</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/7</td>
<td><strong>First Exam</strong> (Covers chapters 1, 2, and 11)</td>
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<td>II. Qualified Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Ch 3 Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Ch 3 continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>Last day to drop a course without receiving a grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Ch 4 Qualified Pension Plans</td>
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<td>2/16</td>
<td>Ch 4 continued</td>
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<td>2/21</td>
<td>Ch 5 Profit Sharing Plans</td>
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<td>2/23</td>
<td>Ch 5 continued</td>
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<td>2/28</td>
<td><strong>Second Exam</strong> (covers chapters 4, and 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Ch 6 Stock Bonus Plans</td>
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<td>3/7</td>
<td>Ch 7 Distributions</td>
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<td>3/9</td>
<td>Ch 7 continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>Last Day to drop a course without instructor approval</td>
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<td>3/14</td>
<td>Ch 8 Installation, Administration, and Termination</td>
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<td>3/16</td>
<td>Ch 8 continued</td>
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<td>3/21</td>
<td>Catch up</td>
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<td>3/23</td>
<td><strong>Third Exam</strong> (covers chapters 6, 7, and 8)</td>
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<td>3/28, 3/30</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASSES</strong> – <em>Spring Break</em></td>
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<td>4/4</td>
<td>Ch 9 IRAs and SEPs</td>
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<td>4/6</td>
<td>Ch 9 continued</td>
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<td>4/11</td>
<td>Ch 10 Simple, 403 b, and 457 plans</td>
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<td>4/13</td>
<td>Ch 10 continued</td>
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<td>4/18</td>
<td>Last day student may drop a course. Instructor’s approval required.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Fourth Exam</strong> (covers chapters 9 and 10)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Date** | **Topic**
---|---
4/20 | Ch 12 Deferred Compensation
4/25 | Ch 12 continued
4/27 | Ch 12 continued
5/2 | Ch 13 Fringe Benefits
5/4 | Catch up

*Tuesday 5/9**  **FINAL EXAM**  5:30 – 7:30 (covers chapters)

* This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. It is the student’s responsibility to keep abreast of such changes.

Dated: 1/31/2017