

FIN3525 – Practicum in Investments¹
SYLLABUS
Spring 2022



ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Instructor: Hainan Sheng, Ph.D., CFA	Class Time: Tuesday 1:00PM - 1:50PM
E-mail: hainan.sheng@umsl.edu	Classroom: Anheuser-Busch Hall - 00005
Office: 227 Anheuser-Busch Hall	Office Hours: By appointment

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 and is extremely well recognized globally. 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;
- expose the role of analytics in professional portfolio management and decision making by evaluating securities both technically and fundamentally;
- advance research presentation skills.

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.

TIME REQUIREMENTS:

This is a 1-credit hour 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.

TEXTBOOKS, READINGS, AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Textbook: *No textbook is required.*
- Supplementary Materials:
 - *Any required readings or videos will be provided electronically via Canvas*
- Recommended Reading:
 - *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://www.wsj.com/activate-umsl). You have sponsored access to trusted news, business insights and career resources. Request your WSJ Media Pack here: <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.

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.

- Presentation
Presentations to the class regarding securities will be required over the semester. Detailed instructions will be provided on the first day of class.
- Online Discussion
From time to time you will be asked to discuss 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.

GRADING POLICY:

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

+ Classroom Participation	20 points
+ Online Discussion	30 points
+ <u>Presentations</u>	50 points
Total	100 points

While specific points and grade cut-offs will be determined as the semester progresses, allocated letter grades will comport to the following framework:

94 %	<=	A
90 %	<=	A- < 94 %
87 %	<=	B+ < 90 %
84 %	<=	B < 87 %
80 %	<=	B- < 84 %
77 %	<=	C+ < 80 %
74 %	<=	C < 77 %
70 %	<=	C- < 74 %
67 %	<=	D+ < 70 %
64 %	<=	D < 67 %
60 %	<=	D- < 64 %
	<=	F < 60 %

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://umsystem.instructure.com/profile/communication>

- Announcement
- Added to Conversion

- Conversation Message
- Conversation Message by Me

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND CLASS PROTOCOL:

Meaningful and constructive classroom participation is expected and highly encouraged. Students are expected to review the materials, read the assigned/recommended chapters, and attempt the problem(s) that are given. Students should be in class on time and be attentive/respectful to both the instructor and their fellow students including but not limited to willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view. Respect for individual differences and alternative viewpoints will be maintained at all times in this class. One's words and use of language should be tempered and within acceptable bounds of civility and decency.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that may lead to probation, suspension, or [dismissal from the University](#). One form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism – the use of an author's ideas, statements, or approaches without crediting the source. Academic dishonesty also includes such acts as cheating by using any unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work or engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by the faculty member (e.g., copying someone else's answers on tests and quizzes). Unauthorized possession or distribution of academic materials is another type of academic misconduct. It includes the unauthorized use, selling or purchasing of examinations or other academic work, using or stealing another student's work, unauthorized entry or use of material in a computer file, and using information from or possessing exams that an instructor did not authorize for release to students. Falsification is any untruth, either verbal or written, in one's academic work. Facilitation is knowingly assisting another to commit an act of academic misconduct. **Plagiarism, cheating, and falsification are not acceptable.**

The level of integrity consistent with University policy is expected for this class. 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 to me. We all learn differently and bring different strengths and needs to the class. If there are aspects of the course that prevent you from learning or make you feel excluded, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

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/](http://www.umsl.edu/services/disability/)

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.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

UM-System provides students with a variety of technology support on campus and virtually. The information listed below connects you with the most commonly sought supports.

- ✓ Academic technologies (Canvas, VoiceThread, SmarterProctoring, Zoom, etc.)

 **Email:** teachingtools@umssystem.edu

Phone: (855) 675-0755

Location: Express Scripts Hall (ESH) 105

Hours: currently only working remotely, email to arrange a Zoom meeting time

Website: <https://keeplearning.umssystem.edu/students>

- ✓ Login and network issues (SSOID, email, campus wifi, password changes, etc.)

 **Email:** helpdesk@umsl.edu

Phone: (314) 516-6034

Location: Millennium Student Center (MSC) 109

Hours: M-Th: 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. CST; F: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST

Website: <http://www.umsl.edu/technology/tsc>

- ✓ Electronic textbooks (AutoAccess, Cengage, McGrawHill Connect, etc.)

 **Email:** autoaccess@umssystem.edu

Phone: (314) 516-5763

Location: Millennium Student Center (MSC) Bookstore 2nd floor

Hours: varies, check website for current hours

Website: https://missouri.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0eXnXJy1QpRUc7j

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The Writing Center

The Online Writing Center (OWC)

At the OWC Canvas site, students can send their papers to our tutors, who will read them and send them back with suggestions. Students can also access Turnitin, which identifies quoted material in their essays.

- 222 Social Sciences and Business Building (SSB)
- **Website:** https://www.umsl.edu/~umslenglish/Writing_Center/
- Visit the OWC course site on Canvas to submit drafts online. To find the OWC course, click on Courses All Courses. Then click to join this course
- The OWC usually responds within 48 hours. Please allow ample time.

Math Academic Center (Math Lab)

The Math Academic Center offers free individual assistance on a walk-in basis to students needing help with any mathematics from basic math through calculus or any course involving mathematical skills.

- 222 Social Sciences and Business Building (SSB)
- **Website:** <http://www.umsl.edu/mathcs/math-academic-center/>

Tutoring Services

- Academic Support Centers across campus:

<https://www.umsl.edu/services/sea/student-resources/academicssupport.html>