FIN350 – 001
PERSONAL INVESTING AND FINANCIAL PLANNING
Spring, 2003

Classroom: BE 301
Lecture times: MWF 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm

Instructor Information
Azmi Özünlü
Office Hours: MW 2:00pm – 3:00 pm, Tue 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, or by appointment.
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Required Material
Textbook: Fundamentals of Investments: Valuation and Management, 2\textsuperscript{nd} ed.,

A financial calculator is required. The best choice would be the TI BAII Plus, because of
its ease of use. You can find it at your bookstore, or any electronics retailer.

Access to the daily electronic or paper copy of The Wall Street Journal or some other
major business news source is also required.

Course Objective
FIN350 – Personal Investing and Financial Planning is an introductory investment
course where the most common investment vehicles and markets in which they exist will
be examined. The goals of the course include, but are not limited to, providing a
descriptive knowledge of security types, learning securities, and learning investment
techniques and strategies for formulating investment goals in light of risk and return tradeoffs.
Financial and Economic News Assignments
Each student is required to keep track of major financial and economic news throughout the semester in order to gain a fundamental understanding of the economic influences on financial markets and to familiarize herself/himself where and how to locate relevant financial information. Each student is required to turn in 2-3 page reports that summarize important economic and financial news at regular intervals throughout the semester. More details on this assignment will be given in class.

Stock-Trak Investment Simulation
Each student is required to sign up for Stock-Trak, which is a web-based investment simulation program that allows students to trade stocks, bonds, options and other securities in real time using a virtual portfolio with an initial value of $1 million. Throughout the semester, you will be given specific trading assignments (e.g. write a covered call, buy a junk bond, etc.) and your grade will be based on whether you have correctly executed these trades within the given deadlines. At the end of the semester, small prizes and recognition will be given to the best and worst performers in the class.

Grading Policy
Your final grade will be based on three examinations (two midterms and a final). Each exam carries a weight of 20%, to a total of 60%. The Financial and Economic News Assignments (3 reports) carry a total weight of 20% and the Stock-Trak assignments also carry a total weight of 20%.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations (3 total, incl. final)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fin. and economic news assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock-Trak assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Note that the final examination will not be comprehensive. However, the nature of the subject studied is such that knowledge of previously covered material is essential for understanding what is at hand. Your final grade will be assigned using the guideline below:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-90</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70-80</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-70</td>
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<td>Fail</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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**Assignment Submission**

All written assignments are due in class and should be neatly typed using a 10- or 12-sized font and double-spaced. Written assignments turned in the next day after the deadline will receive a 10% penalty. Assignments turned in the second day after the deadline will receive a 20% penalty. Later submissions will not be accepted.

**Classroom Policies**

1. Academic Honesty. The instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of zero for any class work, or withdraw any student for violation of the academic honesty policy.

2. Consideration and respect for fellow classmates. I strongly encourage class participation. However, talking amongst yourselves during lecture and other inconsiderate behavior, such as ringing cell phones, habitual late arrivals, etc. will not be tolerated.

3. Changes in the syllabus/topics may be made at any time during the semester. Any such changes will be announced in class.

**Tentative Schedule**

We will cover 12-14 chapters throughout the semester. Details of which chapters are to be covered and when examinations are scheduled will be announced in class.