

Week #17 – Other Miscellaneous Investments Topics – Preparing for the Final Exam

Welcome to our last week of instruction for the Spring 2012 semester! How are the last sections coming along? Anybody ready to go out and start gambling, uh, I mean speculating in options & futures? How about selling short those stocks you are so sure are about to fall into the porcelain oasis? Would you consider buying on margin to magnify your returns? Have you decided upon a certain brokerage firm? If so, we would love to hear which one and why you chose it on the brokerage discussion forum. This last week, there are a few brief lectures on retirement accounts, real estate, gold and precious metals, art, etc. They will be a few very easy questions on the final regarding these topics. There will be no calculations from any of the above material on the final. Our face-to-face class did a quick, impromptu session on Net Present Value and Internal Rate of Return. This material is not required and will not be on the final. However, please feel free to review the material as it is very interesting (in my humble opinion) and is a taste of what you will get when and if you take an upper-division or graduate level finance and investments class.

Our last task will be the final exam. It will cover the last few chapters (since the last exam) on the above material in detail with specific questions. It will also cover the entire semester. However, those questions will not be detailed; they will be very general. There will also be some calculations and short essay. There is a pre-final worksheet with questions that should look very much like the calculation questions on the final (hint, hint, hint). Here is your last chance to learn how to calculate the present value of discounted cash flows! The final exam will be available starting Saturday, May 12th, until Wednesday, May 16th, at 11:55 p.m. ***Do not wait until the last minute!*** *There will be no extensions!* (Plus my son is graduating on May 18th! It will be a very busy weekend for me.)

My sincerest apologies for the fact that all the lectures did not make it onto iTunes University. I am now completely locked out of my Apple account and I do not know why nor can I get any response from the support folks at Apple. Those of you with Apple mobile devices, please find a PC, Macintosh, Linux, or Android machine to view the presentations. Again, my apologies.

Finally, there will be a [Discussion Forum] that will allow you to submit a Student Evaluation of the class. Please post **anonymously**. A copy of the Student Evaluation will also be attached to the e-mail version of this announcement as an attachment. (I do not view the evaluations until the grades have been submitted to the college.) Please post your evaluation of the class, the web site, the instructor, the material – whatever! – in this discussion forum. You could also submit a paper evaluation anonymously in my mailbox in room 215. These evaluations are helpful to me. (Oh, yeah, my apologies in advance for Blackboard.) Also, if you are happy with your experience, please consider posting a review on ratemyprofessors.com. Of course, if you are unhappy with your experience, please contact me directly! I value all comments, no matter how critical.

Please stay in touch and tell me how your investing career is going. I love hearing about your successes *and* your failures. (But we sincerely wish you many more successes than failures! Follow our advice and you should have more successes than failures but we can't guarantee anything!) *Thank you all for a great semester!* And, oh, yeah, I almost forgot: Don't Give Up! ***Never*** Give Up!

Sincerely,

Frank Paiano

P.S. The final exam will be available starting this Saturday, May 12th, until Wednesday, May 16th. Any assignments will be accepted up until Wednesday, May 16th.