

Week #3 – Starting Mutual Funds – Exam 1 Next Week – Chapter 1 Assignments Due Next Week

Welcome to week #3 and if this is week #3, then we must be ready to start chapter 4 on Mutual Funds, *Investments for the Masses*! All the material for chapter 4 is now on the class web page. Given the growth of employer-sponsored retirement plans such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans, this is one chapter you really want to concentrate on. Remember, after this class, you are going to be the expert on investing! And you can not let your friends, family members, and co-workers down, right?

Looking ahead to next week (week #4), we will be having our first exam on chapter 1 (Introduction to Investments, An Overview of Investment Types, Risk versus Return, and Short-term Investments) and chapter 4 (Mutual Funds). We will discuss the exam in more detail next week. Also, the chapter 1 assignments are due at the end of next week. Please note that there are two assignments for chapter 1. The first is the *Short-term Investments Assignment* and the second is the *TreasuryDirect.gov Assignment*. For information about how to submit assignments, please see the *How to Submit Assignments* document on the class web page. (Please read this! Please do not send your assignments to fpaiano@swccd.edu. Please create PDF files to submit via Blackboard. When you are ready to submit the assignment, simply click on the name of the assignment and you will be taken to a web page where you can upload your assignment in PDF format.) The *Sample Portfolio Assignment* in the chapter 1 section is not really an assignment in that there is nothing to submit. Instead, please read the document and check the weekly update of the *Sample Portfolio Snapshot* in the chapter 1 section of the class web page. Check it out. The face-to-face is off to a slow start. Oh, well. (Whose idea was it to buy Apple?!) You can do this assignment on your own with your own stock picks if you want using Yahoo! or any of the other dozens of web sites that allow you to track your own stock portfolio. Uh, Folks, by the way, we didn't really buy \$100,000 worth of stock. It is just a simulation. Make believe.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thanks to all of you who posted their *Please Introduce Yourself* thread on the Blackboard discussion boards. All of us at Southwestern are very grateful for your interest and that you are enrolled in our class. Reminder about the discussion boards: The discussion boards are there for you to ask questions or post comments. As opposed to some online classes, in this class there is no requirement to post a certain number of discussions. I struggle with whether or not to make the discussion boards mandatory. Hence, they are often ignored by my online students. I have asked students what they think of the discussion boards and most say they prefer to only use them when they have something to say or ask. Any comments you have about them would be most welcome.

Lastly, I am always looking to make your learning experience the best it can be. I want this class to be one of the few classes from college that you remember ten, twenty, thirty years from now! If you ever have any comments, suggestions, questions, criticisms, etc., please do not hesitate to contact me.

Don't Give Up! ***Never*** Give Up!

Sincerely,

Frank Paiano

P.S. Please get started on Chapter 4, Mutual Funds. Exam #1 will be available next week and the two assignments for chapter 1 are due at the end of next week.