

## Pre-semester Announcement for BUS-123, Introduction to Investments, Spring 2014

*Hello and Welcome to BUS-123, Introduction to Investments, for the Spring 2014 Semester!* My name is Frank Paiano and I am the instructor for your class. All of us at Southwestern Community College are very happy and grateful that you are enrolled in our class. Yes, I know, I know. Class does not start for three weeks. However, for those of you who wish to get started early, especially if you want to get a great deal on the text book, here is some information that will point you in the right direction. (For those of you who have no desire to start early, see you on January 21<sup>st</sup>, but you may have to spend more for your text book since the early birds may have scooped up all the good deals!) If you are at all interested in investments, you have enrolled in the right class. Do not worry if you have no prior investing experience. *You need no prior investment experience. We start from the very beginning!*

There is another important reason that we are sending you this pre-semester announcement. As you know, all the colleges in California are facing tremendous financial constraints and Southwestern is not an exception. We have cut hundreds of classes. Hence, many, many students are unable to take the classes they want and need. There are already 20 students on the waiting list for this list. This is the maximum the computer system will allow. Please, please, please take a good look at the syllabus and the work load for this class. Each semester, after two or three weeks, we lose many students who were unaware that they actually need to devote so much time to their online class (about an hour a day). Also, please review the material on the class web site discussed in the next paragraph. Chapter 1 is the class content material for the first two weeks of the semester.

Here is the link to my home page: [www.wonderprofessor.com](http://www.wonderprofessor.com). The home page contains general information such as my e-mail account, office hours, phone number, etc. There is also a link to the class web page on my home page. Here is the direct link to the class web page: <http://wonderprofessor.com/123s14/123.html>. The syllabus and an audio syllabus commentary can be found here. (You may be thinking, "What a silly name for a web site!" Yes, this is true, but it is much easier to remember than [www.swccd.edu/~fpaiano](http://www.swccd.edu/~fpaiano) which is the format that Southwestern College uses for our personal web sites. Few students can find the tilde key, ~, let alone spell my last name.)

All the course content is all found on the class web page. (*The course material is not on Blackboard.*) There you will find the announcements, presentations, audio and audio/visual lectures, handouts, assignments, worksheets, notes, commentaries, answer keys, external links, grade sheets, etc. At the bottom of the class web page, you will find links to various web sites where you can purchase the text book. Our official book is the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, the current edition of the textbook. However, you may also use either the 4<sup>th</sup> or the 5<sup>th</sup> editions since in reality, there is really very little difference between the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> editions. The text book should also be available in the college book store and across the street from the college at Otay Books. Disclaimer: It does not matter to me where you get your text book. I do not get any kickback whatsoever from any of the vendors on the class web page or if you go across the street from the college at Otay Books. There is also two copies in the library on reserve for you to read there.

You will want to confirm before the semester starts that your computer can play the audio lectures or the audio/video lectures or, preferably, both. The audio lectures are mp3 files which can also be played in your portable mp3 player or burned onto a CD for you to listen to while you drive or perform other daily activities. The audio/video lectures are Flash presentations that require an Internet browser. If the audio/video lectures do not fit well on your screen within your browser, please try using the full-screen mode on your browser. Most browsers use function key F11 to enter and exit full-screen mode. Flash presentations are not supported on Apple hand-held devices such as iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touches. For this reason, the presentations are also available on iTunesU. (Search for "BUS123" in iTunesU.) The first presentation is available and more will be added soon.

Thank you all again for being in our class. *Looking forward to a great semester!*

Sincerely,

Frank Paiano

P.S. This is a pre-semester announcement for those of you who would like to get started on the class early. The class web page contains all the course content including information about the textbook. *No class content is stored in Blackboard.* We use Blackboard for class discussions, taking exams, and submitting assignments.