

Dear Students of BUS-123, Introduction to Investments, for Spring 2014,

Welcome to week #1 of BUS-123, Introduction to Investments, for Spring of 2014. All of us at Southwestern Community College are very happy and proud to have you enrolled in our class. Thank you very much! This is truly an introduction to investments class so please relax and do not panic. Forget all the hype you have heard or seen on television. ***You do not need any prior investment experience to take this class!*** All the course content is on the class web page. Here is the link: <http://www.wonderprofessor.com/123s14/123.html> There you will find all the class material including the syllabus, an audio commentary on the syllabus, the chapter presentations, audio lectures, audio/visual lectures, handouts, notes, assignments, answer keys, audio commentaries, the weekly Blackboard announcements, grade sheets, etc. You will be spending a great deal of time on this page this semester. Please get started on the chapter 1 material, *A Brief History of Risk and Return* and an *Overview of Security Types*.

There is an easy way to get to the class web page. You can always get to the class web page via my home page, [wonderprofessor.com](http://www.wonderprofessor.com). You do not even need the **www.** but you can enter that if you would like and it will still work. On my home page are quick links to the class web page as well as the dates of the next exam.

One task you want to do right away is make sure your computer can view the presentations and listen to the lectures. There is a link on my home page for either a free presentation viewer to view the presentations or a free office software package to view and edit the presentations. If your computer can not handle mp3 files (to listen to the commentaries and audio presentations) or Flash files (to view and listen to the audio/visual presentations), please get technical help as soon as you can. The audio commentaries and lectures are in mp3 format and can be heard with any mp3 player. The audio/visual presentations are in Flash format and can be viewed in any browser. If you are having troubles, call a teenager! For Apple mobile devices such as iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touches, you can go to iTunes University for the audio/visual presentations. Search for “*BUS123*” and you should find our class.

The text book is available on the Internet and at the college bookstore. The private bookstore across the street, Otay Books, also is carrying the text book. At the bottom of the class web page are some links to Internet book sellers. (I get no kickback from any of the above locations!) You can use either the 4th, 5th, or 6th editions of the text. There are low-cost alternatives to the latest edition. We want you to be able to afford and use the textbook.

Okay, so what about Blackboard? Yes, we do use Blackboard for discussion groups, submitting assignments, and taking exams. In fact, your first task is to go to the **[Discussions]** section of Blackboard. There you will find a brief introduction to Your Humble Professor. Your first assignment will then be to introduce yourself in the *Please Introduce Yourself* discussion forum. Tell us a little about yourself and why you are taking BUS-123, Introduction to Investments. Create your own thread. You can also respond with comments or questions to other students' threads, including mine. This is your confirmation that you want to continue with the class and stay enrolled.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Your thread will confirm your desire to be in our class. ***Please post as soon as possible.*** There are students on the waiting list. If you do not wish to remain in our class, please be considerate of your fellow students and notify me as soon as possible so that as many students as possible may be added to the class. Also, you do not want to get behind in the class, right? You need to get started as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter. (Uh, In Other Words, *Get To Work – Now!*)

Looking forward to a great semester!

Sincerely,

Frank Paiano

P.S. Welcome to BUS-123, Introduction to Investments, for Spring 2014! Please confirm your intention to be in our class as soon as possible by posting a thread about yourself in the *Please Introduce Yourself* forum in the **[Discussions]** sections of Blackboard. Do it as soon as possible or please notify me that you intend to drop.