

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

Welcome to our last week of instruction for the Spring 2014 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. There 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 nor any calculations on options, margining, or shorting.

Speaking of which, 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). There is also an answer key and a recorded session with the face-to-face class where we calculated the answers together. Here is your last chance to learn how to calculate the present value of discounted cash flows! The final exam will be available starting Friday, May 23rd, until Wednesday, May 28th, at 11:55 p.m. ***Do not wait until the last minute to take the final exam!***

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 470K. These evaluations are helpful to me. (Uh, my apologies in advance for Blackboard.) Also, if you are happy with your experience, please consider posting a review on www.ratemyprofessors.com. Of course, if you are unhappy with your experience, please contact me directly! I value all comments, no matter how critical. My goal is to make this class one of the few college classes that you remember years from now and really helped you be a successful investor. That is my goal and I hope I have achieved it.

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!* All of us at Southwestern are very grateful that you have taken our class and we wish you tremendous success and luck in the future. And, oh, yeah, I almost forgot, whatever you do in life: Don't Give Up! ***Never*** Give Up!

Sincerely,

Frank Paiano

P.S. Please review the short presentations on retirement accounts, real estate, gold and precious metals, art, etc. The final exam will be available starting this Friday, May 23rd, until Wednesday, May 28th. Any assignments will be accepted up until Tuesday, May 27th.