

Personal Investment Management
AP/ADMS 3531A (ONCA)
Summer 2024 (S3)

Instructor: Semih Yildirim, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance

Email: My email address is yildirim@yorku.ca. If you contact me by email, use either your my.yorku.ca account, or the account shown on York records as your preferred email address. Include your section (3531A) in the subject line and include your full name and student number in the body of the message.

eClass Website: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/course/view.php?id=100928>

Class Time: Online. However, you must write the midterm and final exams in-person on York's Keele campus – see below for more information.

Office Hours: Office hours are held online using Zoom, about once a week at days/times (usually Saturday or Sunday) posted on eClass. Even if you do not have a specific question, you are encouraged to attend and hear other students' questions.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description

Familiarizes students with the investment process, emphasizing the management of individual investor portfolios. Topics include security markets, trade-offs between risk and return, security analysis, and the concept of an “almost efficient” market. Current financial events are discussed.

Prerequisite

AP/ADMS 3530 3.00

The SAS office staff will be verifying prerequisites later in the term. If you have not already completed 3530 (or equivalent) with a passing grade, you will be de-enrolled.

Course Format and Organization

This course is offered online through eClass. The course material is divided into weekly modules. Each module includes PowerPoint slides (some with narration), readings from the textbook, recommended problems, and instructions/assignments for trading on the Stock-Trak platform. You are required to attend the midterm and final exams in-person on York's Keele campus.

Technology Requirements

Most components of 3531 will be through the eClass website, so you need a stable high-speed internet connection. Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources, and help:

- [Student Guide to eClass](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [University Information Technology \(UIT\) Student Services](#)
- [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

Textbook

Bodie *et al.*, “Investments” 10th Canadian edition, McGraw Hill, 2022. Most students in the BCom finance stream will go on to take ADMS 4501, Advanced Portfolio Management, which also uses the Bodie 10th edition. You can buy either a “Print Text” hardcopy, or an eBook subscription from York’s Day1Digital program (see link on eClass). The hardcopy book will be on reserve at Bronfman Library.

Stock-Trak

An important part of 3531 is your participation in the Stock-Trak Portfolio Simulation. You will be buying and selling stocks and other securities using the Stock-Trak virtual trading platform. Students can work either individually or in groups of two to share paying the 31.95 USD fee. Further [information](#) about Stock-Trak registration will be posted on eClass.

Drop Date

The last date to drop this course without receiving a grade is June 20, 2024.

Tutorials

Students are invited to attend Zoom tutorials presented by our TA, Julian Santorsola. Dates are shown on the schedule at the end of this outline. Video recordings will be posted for subsequent viewing. See the Tutorials folder on eClass.

There are additional videos specifically for our online section, prepared by Professor Humaira Matin. These are posted in the Topic Content section of each week’s eClass folder.

COURSE EVALUATION

Evaluation

Stock-Trak Presentation	5%
Stock-Trak Assignments	15%
Midterm Exam	35% (Saturday, June 1, 2 p.m. in ACW006)
Final Exam	45% (Saturday, July 6, 2 p.m. in ACW004)

Course grades may be curved to fit the standardized grade distributions in SAS and LA&PS.

Stock-Trak Assignments

There will be six trading assignments related to the course content using Stock-Trak. These will give you experience buying and selling stocks and other securities. The six assignments are each worth 2.5% of the course grade. If you have a partner for your Stock-Trak account, you must each prepare your own separate assignments. Submissions are made to Turnitin on our eClass course website.

Stock-Trak Presentation

Each student will record and upload a brief (around 5 minutes) presentation about their StockTrak portfolio. For completing the presentation, your mark is an automatic 100%, worth 5% of the course grade. The due date is July 5, further [details](#) will be posted on eClass.

Exams

You are required to write the exams in-person on York's Keele campus. Both exams are closed book. Formula sheets will be provided at the exam and will also be posted on eClass. You will need a **pencil** for filling in the Scantron bubble sheet, and a **calculator**. A few of the bond problems on the final exam need a financial calculator, which you should already have from ADMS 3530. You must present your **YU Card** for identification during the exam. Baseball caps and other non-religious headwear are prohibited, and cell phones must be turned off and put away.

The **midterm exam** is on Saturday, **June 1 at 2:00 pm**. It is a 2-hour exam with 30 multiple-choice questions covering topics from the first four weeks. An exam information sheet will be posted on eClass at least one week before the exam, listing how many exam questions are from each chapter, and the breakdown between calculation and conceptual questions.

Contact Professor Yildirim (yildirim@yorku.ca) regarding procedures for requesting an excused absence from the midterm due to illness, family emergency, or other circumstances. If you are granted an excused absence, you will write a cumulative final exam as described in the next paragraph.

The **final exam** will be held on **Saturday, July 6, at 2 p.m.** The regular exam is 2.5 hours with 35 multiple-choice questions covering topics from weeks five to nine. Details about the exam coverage will be shown in an exam information sheet posted on eClass at least one week before the exam. If you were absent from the midterm exam, you will write a three-hour **cumulative final exam** with 45 multiple-choice questions **covering the entire semester**.

Deferred Standing – Missed Final Examination

Deferred standing may be granted to students who are unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time or to submit their outstanding course work on the last day of classes. Contact Professor Yildirim (yildirim@yorku.ca) regarding procedures for requesting deferred standing.

Students are strongly encouraged to write the exam on the announced date. Deferred students typically get lower marks, and many fail.

In past years it was the policy of the Admin Studies finance area that we will **not** sign a DSA form if you miss both the midterm and final exams. Students in that situation needed to petition for a deferred exam or a late withdrawal or some other remedy appropriate to their circumstances.

OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Academic Integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic honesty to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing [SPARK's Academic Integrity module](#) at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic honesty range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate University authorities and can be punishable according to the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

Turnitin

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will normally be required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin (via the course's eClass site) for a review of textual similarities and the detection of plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Intellectual Property

Course materials are designed for use as part of this course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#), the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#), and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Audio-visual recordings of live sessions on eClass may be posted. These recordings should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility. Students do not have permission to duplicate, copy and/or distribute the recordings outside of the class; such acts can violate not only copyright laws but also the Ontario [FIPPA](#) law. All recordings will be destroyed after the end of classes. For further information see the York [guidelines](#) for the taking and use of photographs, video, and audio recordings.