

AP/ADMS 3531B (ONCA) - Personal Investment Management

Course Outline - Fall 2026

Instructor:	Semih Yildirim, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance
Office:	Atkinson Room 218 Phone: 416-736-2100 x 22477
Email:	yildirim@yorku.ca
Delivery:	Online (ONCA). Both exams are written in person on York's Keele campus.
Office Hours:	Online via Zoom, Thursdays 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Zoom link); or email to book another time.
Course Website:	https://eclass.yorku.ca/course/view.php?id=161049

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 verify prerequisites later in the term. If you have not completed 3530 (or equivalent) with a passing grade, you will be de-enrolled.

Textbook

Bodie et al., Investments, 11th Canadian edition, McGraw Hill, 2025. Most students in the BCom finance stream go on to take ADMS 4501, Advanced Portfolio Management, which also uses the Bodie 11th edition. A hardcopy is on reserve at the Bronfman Library. The Connect resources are not required to complete this course.

- New hardcopy textbook, Connect resources excluded (approx. \$159.95).
- New hardcopy textbook, Connect resources included (approx. \$179.95).
- McGraw Hill eBook, 360-day access (approx. \$99.00).

Please visit the following website for details :

<https://www.mheducation.ca/product/investments9781265657338-can-group#configurable-productoptions-title>

Drop Date

The last date to drop this course without receiving a grade is November 10, 2026.

Tutorials

Students in all 3531 sections may attend six Zoom tutorials presented by our TA, Jay Bharatbhai Savani. Tutorial dates and times are posted on eClass, and recordings are posted afterward in the Tutorials folder. Additional videos for the online section are posted in the Topic Content area of each week's eClass folder.

Course Evaluation

Your course grade is based on the following:

Component	Weight
Stock-Trak assignments (seven; 1-6 at 2% each, 7 at 3%)	15%
Stock-Trak presentation (group, in class)	5%
Midterm exam (in person)	35%
Final exam (in person)	45%

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

Stock-Trak Portfolio Simulation

An important component of ADMS 3531 is participation in the Stock-Trak Portfolio Simulation, which lets you apply course concepts through simulated trading. Using the Stock-Trak platform, you build and manage a portfolio by buying and selling stocks and other financial instruments.

In Section B, students normally participate individually. Because arranging a partner is difficult in an online section, individual participation is the default. Students who wish to work in a pair may share one Stock-Trak account and split the US\$34.95 fee, provided they notify the professor by the end of the second week of classes.

There are seven Stock-Trak assignments through the term (see the course schedule). All seven are individual submissions, including for students who share an account: portfolio data may overlap, but each student's written analysis must be their own, and identical submissions are not permitted. Assignments 1-6 are worth 2% each, and Assignment 7 (risk tolerance and portfolio reflection) is worth 3%, for 15% in total. Assignments are submitted through Turnitin on eClass.

Each student also prepares one individual narrated presentation - a short (about 5-minute) voice-over PowerPoint about their own portfolio - and uploads it to eClass by the due date shown in the schedule. Students who share an account each submit their own. The presentation is worth 5% and is graded on completion: an on-time submission that meets the requirements receives 100%; a missing submission, without an approved excused absence, receives zero.

Detailed registration steps, trading requirements, position limits, and assignment instructions are in the Stock-Trak Guidelines document and the individual assignment files posted on eClass.

Exams

Although this section is delivered online, you must write both exams in person on York's Keele campus. Both exams are closed book. Formula sheets are provided and are also posted on eClass. Bring a pencil for the Scantron sheet and a calculator; a few bond problems on the final need a financial calculator, which you should already have from ADMS 3530.

You must present your valid YU Card (physical or mobile) with photo for identification during the exam; it is the ONLY acceptable form of ID. Drivers' licences, passports, and health cards are not accepted. 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, October 31 at 2:00 p.m.** (room to be announced on eClass). It is a 2-hour exam with 30 multiple-choice questions covering the **first six weeks**. An exam information sheet is posted on eClass at least one week before the exam, showing how many questions come from each chapter and the split between calculation and conceptual questions.

Missed Midterm Examination

Email Professor Yildirim (yildirim@yorku.ca) as soon as you are safely able to do so, ideally before the start of the evaluation window, if you miss the midterm due to unavoidable circumstances. Because the midterm is worth more than 20% of the course grade, York University [Senate Policy](#) requires appropriate supporting documentation and excludes this assessment from the eClass self-reporting absence process. You cannot use the online portal to self-declare an absence for this test.

For an absence due to illness or medical circumstances, you must provide a fully completed official York University [Attending Physician's Statement \(APS\)](#) in which the attending medical professional confirms that you were unable to perform academic work on the day of the assessment. Standard clinic receipts or generic notes indicating only that you visited a medical professional are not accepted. The completed documentation must be submitted by email no later than seven days after the date on the form for resuming your academic responsibilities.

Medical documentation may be verified with the issuing medical professional. Submitting falsified or altered documentation is a serious breach of academic honesty and may be referred to the appropriate Faculty office for disciplinary action. If your absence is approved, **no makeup midterm** is offered. Instead, the weight is redistributed and you write a **cumulative final examination**, as described below.

Final Examination

The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the December exam period. The regular final is 2.5 hours with 35 multiple-choice questions covering **weeks 7-12**. An exam information sheet is posted on eClass at least one week before the exam. If you had an excused absence from the midterm, you 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 cannot write the final examination at the scheduled time. To apply for deferred standing in an AP/ADMS class, register at <http://sas-app.laps.yorku.ca>.

The DSA and supporting documentation must be submitted **online** no later than **five (5) business days** after the date of the final exam. Requests are considered on their merit, and decisions are posted at the same link. No individual communication is sent from the School (no letter, phone call, or email).

Students are strongly encouraged to write the exam on the announced date. Deferred students typically get lower marks, and many fail. As of January 1, 2025, an APS form may be used to support deferral of the final exam. Students need to petition for a deferred exam, a late withdrawal, or another remedy appropriate to their circumstances.

Other Relevant Policies

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with Student Rights & Responsibilities and Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.

Academic Integrity

In this course we strive to maintain academic honesty to the highest extent possible. Please complete [SPARK Academic Integrity module](#) at the start of the course. Breaches of academic honesty range from cheating to plagiarism (improper crediting of another's work, representing another's ideas as your own, and so on). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course are reported to the appropriate University authorities and may be punished under the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

York University is committed to a learning environment that provides equal opportunity to all members of its community. If you anticipate or experience barriers to learning, discuss your concerns with the instructor as early as possible. Students with disabilities should contact Student Accessibility Services to coordinate accommodations; accommodations are communicated through a Letter of Accommodation (LOA). Accommodations for tests and exams normally require three weeks (21 days) notice before the scheduled test or exam.

Turnitin

To promote academic integrity, students are normally required to submit written assignments to Turnitin (through the course eClass site) for a review of textual similarity and detection of plagiarism. Submitted material is included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, used only to detect plagiarism. The terms governing the University's use of Turnitin are on the Turnitin.com website.

Intellectual Property

Course materials are for use in this course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials have been licensed for use or fall under an exception in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post to an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute course materials or their own course work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should be used only by students enrolled in this course.

Copying course material for distribution (for example, uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct under York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#), and to legal consequences for copyright violation.

Audio-visual recordings of sessions may be posted on eClass for educational purposes and to enhance accessibility. Students may not duplicate, copy, or distribute recordings outside the class; doing so can violate copyright law and the Ontario [FIPPA](#) law. Recordings are destroyed after the end of classes. See the York [guidelines](#) on the taking and use of photographs, video, and audio recordings.