

**Spring 2026**

<b>Meeting days:</b> Tuesday/Thursday	<b>Professor:</b> Jason Hightower, CFA
<b>Meeting time:</b> 11:00am - 12:15pm	<b>E-mail:</b> jhightow@pointloma.edu
<b>Meeting location:</b> FSB 101	<b>Office location:</b> FSB 131
	<b>Office Hours:</b> T, W, Th - 12:30pm - 2:00pm Or by appointment

**PLNU Mission**

**To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**Fermanian School of Business Mission**

**Character - Professionalism - Excellence - Relationships - Commitment - Innovation**

As members of a vital Christian community, we strive to provide high quality business programs that equip students to make a positive impact in their workplace and community by connecting purpose to practice.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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A study of the principles and techniques of security and investment analysis. Topics include securities markets, risk and return, modern portfolio theory, investing in common stocks and fixed-income securities, portfolio management and derivative securities, including options and futures.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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The following learning outcomes are aligned with the Fermanian School of Business Program Learning Outcomes.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Exhibit an in-depth understanding of securities markets and the different types of investments, including stocks, fixed income, and derivative securities (PLO 1 & C1).
2. Explain risk and return and portfolio management concepts (PLO 1 & C1).
3. Apply different valuation models to evaluate stocks and fixed income securities (PLO C2).
4. Collaborate in teams to analyze an investment topic (PLO 2, 5 & C1).
5. Present an investment topic through verbal means (PLO 3).

**COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION**

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In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

*Tentative Schedule (subject to change as needed - Check your PLNU e-mail and Canvas account daily):*

Wk	Meeting Date	HW Due		Session Content	
		Connect	Other	Chapters	Topics
1	1/13/26				Course Introduction
	1/15/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		1	Background
2	1/20/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2	Asset Classes & Fin Instruments
	1/22/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3	Fin Markets
3	1/27/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		4	Mutual Funds & Investment Co's
	1/29/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		22	Investment Fund Process; Review
4	2/3/26		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Guest Speaker
	2/5/26				Exam
5	2/10/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		5	Risk & Return
	2/12/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		6	Portfolio Theory
6	2/17/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	CAPM & Extensions
	2/19/26		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Guest Speaker
7	2/24/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		8	Efficient Market Hypothesis
	2/26/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		9	Behavioral Finance
8	3/3/26		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Review
	3/5/26				Exam
9	3/10/26				Spring Break - No Class
	3/12/26				Spring Break - No Class
10	3/17/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		18	Performance Evaluation
	3/19/26			Extra	ESG & Faith-Driven Investing
11	3/24/26		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Guest Speaker
	3/26/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		20	Hedge Funds & Private Equity
12	3/31/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		12	Macro Analysis & Overlay
	4/2/26				Easter Recess - No Class
13	4/7/26		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Review
	4/9/26				Exam
14	4/14/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		10,11	Bonds & Bond Portfolios
	4/16/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		13	Stocks
15	4/21/26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		15,17	Options & Futures
	4/23/26		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Extra	Other Assets Classes
16	4/28/26		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Guest Speaker
	4/30/26				Review
17					Final Exam

## REQUIRED TEXT AND STUDY RESOURCES

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1. **Text:** ISBN 9781265318529 Essentials of Investments by Bodie, Kane, and Marcus with Connect 3P Inclusive Online Access.
2. **Resources:** Personal Computer with Microsoft Excel (Google Sheets and Apple Numbers CANNOT be substituted for Excel as they do not have the required functionality).

This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

For more information about **LomaBooks**, please go: [HERE](#)

## CLASS ACTIVITIES (ASSESSMENT AND GRADING)

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### Assessment and Grading:

<u>Assignment:</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Final Grade Scale:</u>	
✓ Class Participation/Attendance	80	A = 93 - 100%	930-1000 points
✓ Smartbook (16 x 10 pts ea)	160	A- = 90 - <93%	900-929 points
✓ Homework (8 x 15 pts ea)	120	B+ = 87 - <90%	870-899 points
✓ Exams (4 x 160 pts ea)	640	B = 83 - <87%	830-869 points
<b>Total Possible Points for the Course:</b>	<b>1000</b>	B- = 80 - <83%	800-829 points
		C+ = 77 - <80%	770-799 points
		C = 73 - <77%	730-769 points
		C- = 70 - <73%	700-729 points
		D+ = 67 - <70%	670-699 points
		D = 60 - <67%	600-669 points
		F = 0 - <60%	0-599 points

**Homework:** Homework assignments will be a mix of individual and group work. Each assignment will specify whether it is to be completed as a group or individually. For individual assignments, it is acceptable to discuss methods and approaches with your fellow students, but under no circumstances may you share files. For group assignments, the expectation is that you will actually work together in problem solving so that all group members understand the relevant material and methods in their entirety.

All homework assignments must be turned in (via Canvas) no later than **11:00am** on the date such homework assignment is due. Late homework will **not** be accepted as we will review all assignments in class the day they are due. For individual assignments, you **cannot** share homework (Microsoft Excel) files and must submit your own work (see academic integrity section below). Homework must be submitted through Canvas, and must include all work and supporting calculations for credit.

**McGraw Hill Connect Smartbook Assignments:** A total of 16 Smartbook assignments are scheduled over the course of the semester. Each of these assignments is to be completed through the online resources of the course textbook. These assignments must be completed no later than **11:00am** on the date such homework assignment is due. Late homework will **not** be accepted as we will review all assignments in class the day they are due.

**Class Participation / Attendance:** The success of the course will be impacted by the quality of daily participation. Each of you must feel comfortable contributing to live class discussions on a daily basis. Class participation will be based upon your contributions to discussions, including input or questions regarding the reading and homework assignments. In addition, you should be prepared to answer questions, participate in group activities and other in-class assignments. Class participation will also be based upon your attendance – please see the class policy regarding attendance below.

**Exams:** Every student is to be present for mid-term exams and the final exam at the scheduled times. These exams may be proctored by Honorlock. Students should not share their exam materials or Excel files with other students. Any student caught using outside resources, including outside internet resources or AI assisted websites/tools (such as ChatGPT) will receive a zero for the exam and may receive additional consequences from FSB and University administration. No makeup exams will be given without PRIOR permission. I will provide a makeup exam only for absences officially excused by the university provost.

## **CLASS POLICIES**

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**Professionalism:** Students are expected to hold the highest levels of professionalism including integrity and honesty, respectfulness, punctuality and mature leadership. Exemplary behavior is expected in the classroom.

**Attendance and Participation Policy:** Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Leaving early or arriving late for class sessions counts as a partial absence. For example, arriving late by 1-15 minutes will be treated as 1/3 absence. Additionally, PLNU counts all absences unexcused except for University sanctioned activities. All illnesses, emergencies, etc. (even with a doctor’s note) are considered unexcused.

In-class participation is also an integral component of the learning process in this course, particularly in group work. Participation is closely tracked by the professor during class sessions and is algorithmically incorporated into each student's final grade.

**Use of Technology:** In order to be successful in this course, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use for any online or hybrid classes. Please note that any course with online proctored exams require a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online. Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy:** Unless specifically instructed to do so by the professor in writing, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools or add-ins (e.g. ChatGPT, Gemini Pro, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, Copilot, Shortcut, etc.) are PROHIBITED in this course for ANY aspect of your work, including idea generation, drafting, editing, data collection, data analysis, formatting, or final submissions. This course is designed to develop and assess your independent critical thinking, writing, research, and analysis skills without the assistance of AI technologies. If you have any doubts about using AI, please discuss your concerns with the professor.

**PLNU Academic Honesty Policy:** Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all

student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

**Dropping the Course:** It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade F on the official transcript.

**PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy:** PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

**PLNU Recording Notification:** In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

**Schedule and Other Changes:** The information in this syllabus is subject to change. Any such changes will be announced in class and/or communicated via Canvas or email.

**Canvas and Email:** Assignments, announcements, changes to this syllabus and other communication from the instructor, from time to time, may be made via Canvas or email.

**Mobile Phones and Other Mobile Devices:** The use of mobile phones, including phone calls, texting or any other purposes, is **not allowed in the classroom** during class meetings or examinations. Please keep mobile phones turned-off and out of sight. The classroom use of tablets and PC's should only be for class-related work and not for social media or any other non-class purposes.

**FERPA Policy:** In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by distributing all grades and papers individually. Also, in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to

receive it in the “Information Release” section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

**Final Examination Policy:** Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

**PLNU Copyright Policy:** Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

<https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures>