DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

BA2040 (A3): Investment Fundamentals – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Mandy Pollock	**PHONE:**	780-539-2815
OFFICE:	C406	**E-MAIL:**	APollock@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday & Wednesday 10:00 - 11:30am or by appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course covers the fundamental investment concepts of risk and return, portfolio diversification, asset allocation, portfolio evaluation, ratio analysis, and innovative types of investment products available in the marketplace.

PREREQUISITE(S):

BA1050 and BA1110

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Fundamentals of Investments: Valuation and Management 10th Edition (2023). McGraw Hill LLC. Jordan, Miller Jr., and Dolvin.

All students must have access to Connect. You must have an access code in order to gain access to the online resources. McGraw-Hill Connect™ is a web-based assignment and assessment platform that gives students the means to better connect with their coursework, and with the important concepts that they will need to know for success now and in the future. If you have purchased a used book, you will have to purchase an access code separately. Instructions to do this are available in the Registration Module.

All students must have a Sharp EL – 738 Calculator.

DELIVERY MODE:

BA2040 consists of three hours of lecture per week. Attend On-Campus, In-Person.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- The student will be able to calculate expected returns and variances for a security.
- The student will be able to calculate expected returns and variances for a portfolio.
- The student will understand the importance of portfolio diversification and the importance of asset allocation.
- The student will understand the difference between expected and unexpected returns.
- The student will understand the difference between systematic risk and unsystematic risk.
- The student will understand the security market line and the capital asset pricing model.
- The student will be able to calculate the best-known portfolio evaluation measures.
- The student will be able to calculate a Sharpe-optimal portfolio.
- The student will understand the basics of futures markets and how to obtain price quotes for futures contracts.
- The student will understand the risks involved in futures market speculation.
- The student will understand the basics of option contracts and how to obtain price quotes.
- The student will be able to price options using the one-period and two-period binomial models.
- The student will be able to price options using the Black-Scholes model.
- The student will understand the basic types of corporate bonds.
- The student will be able to explain how callable and convertible bonds function.
- The student will understand the process of top-down analysis.
- The student will be able to explain the importance of the required rate of return.
- The student will be able to explain the relationship of monetary and fiscal policies to economic activity.
- The student will be able to identify industry sensitivity to business cycles.
- The student will be able to evaluate future industry prospects by analyzing the business cycle.
- The student will be able to define fundamental analysis at the company level.
- The student will be able to describe the importance of EPS forecasts.
- The student will be able to estimate the P/E ratio of a company.
- The student will be able to use the beta coefficient to estimate the risk of a stock.
- The student will be able to define options and discuss why they are used.
- The student will be able to describe how options work and give some basic strategies.
- The student will be able to describe the structure of futures markets.
- The student will be able to describe the steps involved in the portfolio management process.
- The student will be able to assess related issues such as asset allocation.
- The student will be able to use measures of return and risk to evaluate portfolio performance.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page Transfer Alberta

** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

EVALUATIONS:

Stock Market Game	15%
Assignments	12%
Quizzes	8%
Midterm Exam (Ch. 11-14)	25%
Final Exam (cumulative)	40%

GRADING CRITERIA
Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit IF your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date (Monday of each week)	Section Covered	Connect Quizzes	Connect Assignments	Exams
1/7/2026	Introduction			
1/12/2026	Ch. 11		✓	
1/19/2026	Ch. 12			
1/26/2026	Ch. 12	✓	✓	
2/2/2026	Ch. 13		✓	
2/9/2026	Ch. 14	✓	✓	
2/16/2026		WINTER	BREAK	
2/23/2026	Review			Exam #1 Feb. 25th
3/2/2026	Ch. 15			
3/9/2026	Ch. 15		✓	
3/16/2026	Ch. 16	✓	✓	
3/23/2026	Ch. 18		✓	
3/30/2026	Ch. 19		✓	
4/6/2026	Ch. 20	✓		
4/13/2026	Review			
April 16th – 23rd	Final Exam	Scheduled	By The	Registrar's Office

- The above schedule may be revised at the discretion of the instructor based on class requirements.
- The final examination will be scheduled by the registrar's office. Do not plan any activities during examination week.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Please find the student rights and responsibilities policy here:

https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=69

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Assignments:

- There will be CONNECT homework assignments dispersed throughout the semester that will account for 12% of the student's final grade (see Connect for dates). Each homework assignment will be weighed equally, regardless of the length of the assignment. The student will have a maximum of 2 attempts at each assignment.
- The CONNECT assignments will be marked immediately and the student will receive their grade immediately. Corrections for the attempted assignment will be made available immediately for the student.
- All assignments must be completed before the expiration of the pre-set due date, or the student will receive a mark of zero for any missed assignments

Quizzes:

- There will be CONNECT quizzes dispersed throughout the semester that will account for 8% of the student's final grade (see Connect for dates).
- Each chapter covered in the text(s) will have an associated quiz that the students must complete.
- Each quiz will be weighed equally, regardless of the length of the assignment. The student will have a maximum of 2 attempts at each assignment.
- The quizzes will mostly be theory based multiple choice questions.
- The quizzes will be marked and corrections for the attempted quiz will be made available to the student after the due date.
- All quizzes must be completed before the expiration of the pre-set due date, or the student will receive a mark of zero for any missed quizzes (see schedule for dates).
- Once the quiz has started, you must complete the entire quiz within the time limit.

- Logging off or losing the internet connection during the exam will result in a grade based only on the proportion of the exam that has been completed. It is imperative that the student has a reliable internet connection when attempting an exam. This is the responsibility of the student, not the instructor.
- The student will be given two attempts at each quiz.

Learn Smart Modules

- Each chapter covered in the text will have an associated SB lesson that the students should complete.
- Interactive scenes in the Lessons (within the pre-set due date) are locked for students to attempt correctly. Students will need to work through them and answer questions correctly to unlock them. Once a lesson is unlocked, they can freely go back and forth for practice.

Exams

- Two exams will be given throughout the semester (See schedule for dates). They include:

Exam #1	**25%**
Final Exam (Cumulative)	**40%**

- 2 hours will be given for the final exam to be written.
- The Final Exam will be scheduled by thew Registrar's office between April 16th – 23rd. Do not schedule any activities during this time.
- Approved calculators and approved translation devices are the only electronic devices allowed during the final examination. No programmable calculators will be allowed. Textbooks or notes will not be allowed in the examination area. Cell phone calculators may not be used in examinations.

Classroom, Assignment, Quizzes and Exam Policies:

- Assignments, quizzes, and exams will be written as scheduled. No rewrites/rescheduled exams will be given. If there is an excusable absence, the weighting of the missed exam will be added to the final exam weighting. If the absence is not excusable, a grade of 0% will be given.
- Any exam, quiz, or assignment grade that that a student may wish to contest must be done within 5 business days after the exam/quiz/assignment has been marked. Any exams/quizzes/assignments contested after this time frame will not be given consideration.
- To get the most out of class regular attendance and active participation is encouraged. Disruptive behavior will also be viewed as "not professional" and the student will be asked to leave the classroom, resulting in a marked absence…. i.e., excessive/disruptive talking, texting, taking phone calls, etc...
- Students are expected to demonstrate professional conduct for the duration of the course. Some aspects of this include the following: attending each class and arriving on time,

restricting discussions in class to the current course material, keeping mobile phones in the "off" or "silent" modes, and not placing or answering calls, text messages, or emails during class time. Unprofessional conduct is disruptive to the learning environment and makes mastering the course material more difficult for all students. If behavior is deemed to be disruptive to the classroom environment, the student will be required to leave.

- Photographing and/or recording course content is strictly prohibited.
- Students are responsible for any missed content (excused or unexcused).