

FIN 653 – Portfolio Management & Optimization
Summer I, 2021
Office Hours: by appointment

Professor Tray Spilker
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Zoom: <https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/91227863650>
Class Time: Tue/Thu 6-9:30pm
Laulima: FIN-653-241[MAN.4128.SU21]

Meeting ID: 912 2786 3650
Passcode: 312905

Description Portfolio management requires understanding of both quantitative tools and qualitative decision-making. This course is designed for students to learn highly advanced techniques in asset allocation and portfolio management and apply them in real-world investment casework. Topics include:

- Client Objectives
- Mean-Variance and other asset allocation techniques
- The investment process
- Rebalancing
- Performance Measurement
- Equity, Fixed Income, and Alternative portfolio strategies

Approach The course will be conducted through a combination of lectures and workshops, and centered on cases drawn from actual industry experience. The best way to determine whether students have developed competency in solving complex investment problems is to work on real world cases. Due to their complexity, they require teamwork to successfully complete in a classroom setting. Detailed guidance will be provided as you work through the cases.

Goal Each student can effectively explore and solve a complicated investment management problem, and effectively communicate the solution.

Required Material *Portfolio Management*. Scott D. Stewart, Christopher D. Piro, and Jeffrey C. Heisler, 2nd Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2019.

Supplemental material is available on Laulima and include: lecture slides, sample exams, readings, and spreadsheets

Assignments Homeworks: There are 4 homework assignments that are outlined in a separate document found on Lulima. The homeworks consists of answering questions about the readings and completing Excel Outboxes in the text. Due dates for each homework is detailed in the schedule below.

Group Case: Students will divide into groups of 2-4 and will have the opportunity to develop creative solutions to complex investment problems. The case descriptions are in the textbook. Supporting materials and data are available on the book's website. Competency is determined through the review of written reports and a final presentations. Case deliverables include defining investment issues and objectives, setting asset allocation policy, and developing plans to implement investment policy.

Casework is delivered in three parts. Written documents for the first two are graded in a 0-100% format. A score of 85% is acceptable and 95% or higher exceeds expectations. A final presentation, including all 3 parts, in both written and verbal format, is graded by the professor. Groups may be asked to present the first two case deliverables in class to practice for the graded final presentation. The case deliverable components include:

1. Investment Objectives
2. Asset Allocation Policy
3. Implementation, including Measures of Success

Peer/self-evaluation will also be collected to measure individual performance within each team. Use the template posted on Lulima and submit your ratings via Lulima upon project completion.

Final Exam: The exam tests your understanding of key concepts covered. They will be comprised of problems derived from class discussions, reading assignments, the group case, or homeworks. The final will be closed book and closed notes. Except for extenuating circumstances, **no make-up exam** will be allowed. In general, work related conflicts or overlapping requirements due in other classes are not valid excuses for rescheduling exams.

Grading Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the course according to the following allocations:

Assignment	Weight	Evaluated
Cases: Written (10, 10, & 20%)	40%	Team
Cases: Presentation	10%	Team
Homework	10%	Student
Peer/Self-Evaluation	15%	Student
Final Exam	25%	Student
Total	100%	

Disabilities Any student with special needs should bring this to my attention as soon as possible, but not later than the second week of class. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the KOKUA Program for information and services. Contact KOKUA at 956-7511, kokua@hawaii.edu, or at the Queen Lili‘uokalani Center for Student Services room 013.

Integrity Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All incidents will be handled in accordance with the UH *Student Code of Conduct*. The UH Student Code of Conduct, is available at: <http://www.hawaii.edu/student/conduct>.

Tentative Schedule: The schedule is subject to change as the semester progresses.

Class	Date	Topics	SPH Chapters	Homework/ Cases Due
1	25-May	Introduction to Course Case Discussion	Ch 1 Pgs. 617-644	
2	27-May	Client Objectives for DB & DC Institutional Investors Client Objectives for Individual Investors Client Objectives for Portfolio of Securities	Ch 2 Ch 2 Ch 7.7	Submit Case Preferences
3	1-Jun	Introduction to Mean-Variance Optimization Applications of MV Optimization Techniques	Ch 3 (1st half) Ch 3 (2nd half)	HW 1 Due: IPS Questions
4	3-Jun	MV Ops: 5-Asset Spreadsheet, A/L, Downside Asset Allocation Inputs Guidance for Case Deliverable # 1	Ch 3 (sect. 3) Ch 4	HW 2 Due: Endowment Report Questions
5	8-Jun	<i>Case Presentation: Stage One - Objectives</i> Asset Allocation Inputs: CMEs Advanced Asset Allocation Techniques	Ch 4 Ch 5	CASE #1 WRITEUP DUE
6	10-Jun	Advanced Asset Allocation Techniques Investment Process	Ch 5 Ch 6	HW 3: Build Spreadsheet
7	15-Jun	Intro Equity Investing Equity Portfolio Construction & Risk Models Guidance for Case Deliverable # 2	Ch 7 Ch 8	
8	17-Jun	<i>Case Presentation: Stage Two - Asset Allocation</i> Bond Management	Ch 9	CASE #2 WRITEUP DUE
9	22-Jun	Portfolio Rebalancing, incl./ Trans Costs & Taxes Manager Selection	Ch 12 Ch 12	
10	24-Jun	Performance Measurement & Attribution Guidance for Case Deliverable # 3	Ch 13 (sect. 1-3)	
11	29-Jun	<i>Final Case Presentation</i> Final Exam Distributed		CASE #3 WRITEUP & Presentation
12	1-Jul	Final Exam Due		