

Course Syllabus

UIndy Student Fund (& Lab) FIN 440 Section 01 (BADM 420) 3 Credit Hours

Course Description

The UIndy Student Fund (USF) is a portfolio of financial assets managed by a group of students under the direction of a faculty advisor. The assets are invested under the policies contained in an Investment Policy Statement, which is reviewed annually and approved by the University board of trustees. The USF is designed to provide students with hands on experience in performing security analysis and portfolio management, while developing skills necessary to succeed as an investment professional.

During this course, students will be expected to participate in a series of activities designed to further their knowledge of security analysis and investment banking. The activities will include a review of market research, fundamental analysis of securities, research report creation, and end with a presentation / recommendation to an investment committee. Most work is self-directed and students are expected to allocate a significant amount of time outside class time for this course.

Course Prerequisite

FIN-350 and approval of the instructor.

Course Objectives

At completion of the course, students will be able to:

- ⇒ *Write* a market analysis of an industry sector
- ⇒ *Calculate* the value of a security using multiple valuation models
- ⇒ *Create* a comprehensive research report on an individual security
- ⇒ *Present* a buy/sell recommendation to an investment committee

Instructor

Dr. Matthew W. Will

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Web: www.mattwill.com (see course web page for supplemental information)

Twitter: [@DrMattWill](https://twitter.com/DrMattWill)

Class Format & Meeting Times

MWF 9:00 am – 9:50 am

Regular scheduled class meetings will fluctuate. See the syllabus for exact meeting dates.

Hybrid: Face to Face, Bloomberg Lab, Presentation Events, Team Meetings

Bloomberg Lab Requirement

Students must complete a minimum of two (2) hours per week in the Bloomberg Lab. Time is tracked by the lab supervisor. Lab work should focus on:

- Reading
- Data export
- Maintaining the AI Research Workbook

Office Hours

Mon 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Tue 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Wed 8:00 am – 9:00 am

By appointment

Required Materials

Essentials of Investments by Bodie, Kane and Marcus, ANY edition, McGraw Hill

Recommended Materials

The *Five Rules* for Successful Stock Investing: Morningstar's Guide to Building Wealth and Winning in the Market by Pat Dorsey, 1st Edition, Wiley (2014)

Wall Street Journal subscription

Security Analysis by Graham & Dodd, 6th edition, New York: McGraw Hill, 2008

Valuation: Measuring and Managing the Value of Companies, by McKinsey & Company Inc., Koller, Goedhart, Wessels, 5th edition, Wiley, 2010

The *Intelligent Investor*: A Book of Practical Counsel, by Graham, B., & Zweig, J., Revised edition, New York: Collins Business Essentials. (2005).

Course Grade Requirements (FIN 440)

5% Holding Analysis
10% Company Thesis
10% Company Presentations
15% Company valuation models
20% Company research reports
20% Company research presentations
20% Participation, Peer Evals, & Assignments

Grading Scale

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
F 0-69%
Pluses and minuses are assigned at the instructor's discretion.

Lab Grade for BADM 420:

50% Lab attendance and participation

50% AI Research Workbook

*It is important to note that grades are not based upon whether or not the buy / sell / hold recommendations of the students are accepted or implemented. Nor is it based upon the investment performance of securities. Grading is based upon the quality of the work submitted by the students, regardless of market conditions. **

Submitting Assignments

Each document must be submitted BEFORE the class listed as DUE and must have a unique title, starting with the student's LAST NAME. When in doubt, ask the instructor for guidance. (e.g. WILL_Holding.docx and WILL_Holdings.pptx)

Holdings & Market Sector Analysis

Each student will be assigned existing investments. The student must submit a thesis of no more than two pages in length. The thesis must include a Hold or Sell recommendation. The student must also prepare an individual PowerPoint presentation, not to exceed 5 minutes, which summarizes the holding and basis for the recommendation. Additional time will be allocated for Q&A.

Company Analysis

Students will be required to perform an analysis of two companies. The companies will consist of two of the three following: a publicly traded company, a M&A buying company, or a recent IPO company. This analysis will consist of an investment thesis and a PowerPoint presentation. Each individual student will make a Buy / No Buy recommendation and the class will vote on the recommendations.

Company Valuation Models

Students will be required to determine the stock price of each company they analyze. The price must be the result of at least two (more is better) different valuation techniques. At least one of the techniques must be a discounted cash flow fundamental analysis. The student may decide how much weight to give to each model used. Multiple models are encouraged, as it is more likely to arrive at a more accurate price. Each group will present their models to the class using Excel.

Thesis

- All thesis narratives should be between 4 and 10 pages in length, including graphs, tables and exhibits. They must be submitted, electronically, as a MS Word file.
- The thesis should be singled spaced, using formats presented in class and should **NOT** follow APA Style.
- Each document should have a unique title, starting with the student's LAST NAME. When in doubt, ask the instructor for guidance. (e.g. WILL_IPO.docx)
- The thesis may not be generic and must include **very specific information** regarding company **value drivers**. The thesis must contain content unique to your security or industry, as well as substantive enough to demonstrate research and work was conducted. Details will be provided in class.

Presentations

- All presentations must be persuasive in nature.
- Students must be prepared to answer questions from the instructor and fellow students, as well as receive constructive feedback on the presentation content.
- Grading will be based on both the presentation and any ensuing discussion. Where technology is used, the student is responsible for ensuring compatibility and functionality of all equipment.
- Students MAY NOT use notes or other aids. ***All speeches must be given from memory and standing in front of the class (i.e. not behind the podium).*** A USB enabled clicker will be provided when technology is used.

Company Presentations

- Using no more than 10 slides in 10 minutes, the requirement is to present an analysis of the company, focusing on the investment potential of the company.
- Do not perform an actual SWOT analysis, but use SWOT elements to explain why the company may or may not be a good investment.
- Do not present a valuation model. This presentation focuses strictly on the company, its operations and standing within the industry.
- Q&A does not count against the 10 minutes.

Company Valuation Presentations

- Each student will give a presentation on the valuation model for each security analyzed.
- This will be done by using Excel and a projector.
- These are to be considered working sessions, where models are presented and feedback is provided.

Company Research Presentations

- The final presentation will describe all parts of the research report and contain the buy/sell recommendation.
- This presentation will be made to the investment committee (Class).
- It should contain elements from the prior industry thesis, company thesis and valuation model. The presentation should also give sufficient attention to the valuation models and a buy/sell recommendation.
- The presentation must be less than 15 minutes.
- Q&A does not count against the 15 minutes.

Research Reports

- The final research report should be between 10 and 15 pages. It should follow the format discussed in class and similar to the samples provided.
- The research report is a group report (if groups are assigned).
- **The file must be ONE Adobe PDF** file and contain a unique title, beginning with the last name of the student. (e.g. WILL_ IBM_Report.pdf)
- All contents, included, but not limited to, charts, spreadsheets, and other graphics are required to be embedded in the document and not contained in other files or links to other files. Only one PDF file will be accepted. It is important to include a bibliography (not part of page count) and where internet sources were used, students are encouraged to hyperlink the source in the bibliography URL. Do not use APA style.
- Graphics, tables and other data is encouraged, but should be used where appropriate and not merely to reach the page target Graphics which appear to be “filler” will cause a grade deduction.
- The research report should be written in third person prose.

Investment Policy Statement

In addition to the syllabus, students must read and comply with both the UIndy Student Fund IPS and the University of Indianapolis IPS. Because students are managing real money, these documents govern the investment decision process and the related legal and fiduciary responsibilities.

Notice: AI-Powered Course Development and Requirement

This course has been developed with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) tools. As part of this finance class, you will be required to engage with AI-powered components that aid in developing your investment thesis. By enrolling, you acknowledge understanding and agreeing to participate in these AI-powered components as a required part of your coursework.

Use of AI

- AI is required in this course. The intent is to use AI as a junior analyst to reduce busywork (drafting/formatting) while preserving student responsibility for research, valuation judgment, and oral defense.
- Research spreadsheets and instructions will be demonstrated in class and required to generate the AI text. Students must submit their research spreadsheets and AI Prompts.
- **Closed-Corpus Rule (Required):**
 1. AI-generated text must be based only on materials you provide (Bloomberg exports, SEC filings, articles, notes, and your own analysis).
 2. AI may not browse or introduce new facts, data, or assumptions. You are responsible for verifying every factual claim and every number.
- Option A: AI-Drafted Deliverable (Default): You **MAY** use AI to draft the thesis/report text and to format the document. You **MUST** submit the AI Research Workbook and Prompt Log for each deliverable so the instructor can reproduce results.
- Option B — Student-Drafted Deliverable: You **MAY** write the thesis/report yourself. AI may be used for outline, grammar, formatting, and slide design. You **MUST** still submit the AI Research Workbook and an AI-Use Statement describing what AI did (and did not do).
- AI Research Workbook (Required for Option A or B): Maintain one Excel workbook per thesis/report and submit it with the deliverable (Holdings, Company Theses, Valuation Models, Final Research Report).
- Workbook tabs (minimum): 1) Research_Log 2) Doc_Links 3) Data Exports 4) Notes/Assumptions 5) Prompt_Log 6) AI_Output 7) Claim_Check.
 1. Research_Log required columns (minimum):
 - Date/Time • Source (Bloomberg / Web search / Edgar / etc.) • Source Type (10-K, earnings call, article, etc.) • Hyperlink or file name • 2–3 sentence summary • Key numbers captured • Category (ies).
 2. Prompt Log required columns (minimum):
 - Prompt Name • Tool used (ChatGPT/Gemini) • Prompt text (verbatim) • Inputs attached/pasted (file names) • Output file name • What changed vs prior version.
- Workflow (required steps):
 1. Gather sources and export data in the Bloomberg Lab.
 2. Log sources and data in the workbook.
 3. Build a Source Pack (attach PDFs or paste excerpts) for the AI.
 4. Run AI using the provided prompt template.
 5. Populate Claim_Check (each claim → evidence row ID + page/line).
 6. Revise prompts and re-run as needed.
 7. Submit final PDF + PPT + workbook.
- Failure to submit the workbook/prompt materials, or allowing AI to introduce unverified facts, will result in grade deductions.

Participation & Peer Evaluations

- Participation is taken seriously in this course. Everyone is expected to participate in the Q&A portion of each presentation. Feedback from fellow students is vital to the learning process, both giving and receiving.
- You may be evaluated by your peers and the instructor will consider this feedback when assigning a participation grade.

Refer to the course website for syllabus readings, videos, samples, etc.

University Required Stuff

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

You must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without giving an appropriate acknowledgement to the source. You must give due credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness wherever you:

- Quote another person's actual words, either oral or written;
- Paraphrase another person's words, either oral or written;
- Use another person's ideas, opinions, or theories; or
- Cite facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.

All assignments must be your original work and not the work of other students. Neither group work nor the individual work of another student may be submitted by you. Submission of such work will be considered academic misconduct. Incidents of academic misconduct, dishonesty and/or plagiarism will be handled as per the Student Handbook.

According to the Student Handbook:

Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct: The students, faculty, and administrators of the University of Indianapolis commit themselves to the highest level of ethical conduct in academic affairs. The University of Indianapolis, therefore, adopts regulations concerning Academic Misconduct to safeguard the academic integrity of the institution. Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following circumstances: (A) Cheating, (B) Fabrication, (C) Plagiarism, (D) Interference, (E) Violation of Course Rules, (F) Facilitating Academic Dishonesty, and (G) Abuse of Confidentiality. For a full statement of the policy refer to the University of Indianapolis Student Handbook, Section I, Academic Information.

ADA & Disability Accommodation

The professor will provide accommodation for students qualifying for disability-related needs. The student should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) to begin the process. (see <http://www.uindy.edu/ssd> for more information).

Class Attendance, Preparation & Participation

Class attendance is an important part of the academic process, and you are expected to attend classes regularly and to manage your schedule in order to meet the demands of this course. If you are absent, you will be responsible for arranging makeup work to be completed prior to the absence or immediately upon return to class at the instructor's discretion. As per the student handbook, reasonable documentation or verification of claims regarding absences may be requested.

Class preparation is critical to success in this course. You are expected to:

- (a) read the assigned material prior to arriving to class, as well as
- (b) review the solved problem illustrations in the chapter
- (c) prepare a list of questions that you have about the topic.
- (d) participate in class discussions

Please note that the course topics build upon prerequisite knowledge of fundamental business concepts, algebra and basic spreadsheet skills. If you feel you may be deficient in any of these areas, you are encouraged to review them and/or seek tutoring outside of class.

Recording & Copyright Policy

Recording of course lectures and reproduction of class content is not permitted without his expressed permission of Dr. Will. All content created by Dr. Will is copyrighted and he reserves all rights of reproduction and distribution.

Student Handbook

All students are required to have a complete understanding of the student handbook, especially as it relates to student rights and responsibilities. It is up to the student to understand this document.

FIN 440 - Winter 2026

Tentative Schedule (subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

Date		Description	Readings / Videos / etc.
12-Jan	Class meets	Introduction Course overview & IPS	Weblink 1, 2, 3, 4
14-Jan	Class meets	Research & AI	Weblink 5, 6
16-Jan	Class meets	Holdings Assignment	
19-Jan		NO CLASS - MLK DAY	
21-Jan	Class meets	<u>Holdings Analysis Thesis Due</u> Holding Presentations	
23-Jan	Class meets	Holding Presentations	
26-Jan	Class meets	Holding Presentations	
28-Jan	Class meets	Holdings Vote / Review research expectations	Five Rules - Ch 3 & 13 Weblink 7, 8
30-Jan	Class meets	AI Research Workbook Training (setup + prompts + closed-corpus)	Weblink 9
2-Feb	Class meets	Company news discussions	Five Rules - Ch 14 thru 25 Weblink 10
4-Feb	Class meets	Company news discussions	Essentials - Ch 12 Weblink 11
6-Feb	Help session	Company research	Weblink 12
9-Feb	Help session	Company research	
11-Feb	Help session	Company research	
13-Feb	Class meets	<u>Company Thesis Due</u> Company presentations	
16-Feb	Class meets	Company presentations	
18-Feb	Class meets	Company presentations	
20-Feb	Class meets	Company news discussions	
23-Feb	Help session	Company research	
25-Feb	Help session	Company research	
27-Feb	Class meets	<u>Company Thesis Due</u> Company presentations	
2-Mar	Class meets	Company presentations	
4-Mar	Class meets	Company presentations	
6-Mar	Help session	Company research	
9-Mar		NO CLASS - Spring Break	
11-Mar		NO CLASS - Spring Break	

13-Mar		NO CLASS - Spring Break	
16-Mar	Class meets	Custom GPT & Thesis Creation	Weblink 13, 14, 15
18-Mar	Class meets	Create Custom GPT	Weblink 16, 17, 18
20-Mar	Class meets	Create Custom GPT	
23-Mar	Class meets	Company valuation models	Essentials - Ch 13 & 14 Weblink 19, 20
25-Mar	Class meets	Company valuation models	Five Rules - Ch 9 thru 12 Weblink 21
27-Mar	Class meets	Company valuation models	Five Rules Chapters 9 thru 12 Weblink 22
30-Mar	Help session	Company research	Weblink 23
1-Apr	Help session	Company research	
3-Apr		NO CLASS - University Closed	
6-Apr	Class meets	<u>Valuation Models Due</u> Valuation model presentations	
8-Apr	Class meets	Valuation model presentations	
10-Apr	Class meets	Valuation model presentations	
13-Apr	Help session	Company research	
15-Apr	Class meets	Status Reports	Weblink 24
17-Apr	Class meets	Research reports due Company research presentation – Team 1 (full class period + Q&A)	
20-Apr	Class meets	Company research presentation – Team 2 (full class period + Q&A)	
22-Apr	Class meets	Company research presentation – Team 3 (full class period + Q&A)	
24-Apr	Class meets	Company research presentation – Team 4 (full class period + Q&A)	
Finals Week	Class meets	Final Vote & Portfolio Wrap Up	