Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: This is a 3-credit course, offered in an accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

Faculty Information: Faculty contact information and office hours can be found on the faculty profile page.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

Course Description:

The course provides a broad and detailed overview of the investment portfolio segment within the financial planning process. Students will learn the basics of investments and explore theories and methods as they relate to the individual client. Topics covered include efficient market hypothesis theories, securities valuation concepts, investment portfolio theory, investment strategies, asset allocation/diversification, and portfolio management.

Course Overview:

The Investments course is intended to give you a broad overview of the investment portfolio segment within the financial planning process. You will learn the basics of investments and explore theories and methods as they relate to the individual client. Specifically, we will cover topics such as types of securities, their characteristics and tax implications; types of risk; measures of investment risk and return; securities valuation concepts; investment portfolio theory; investment strategies; asset allocation and diversification; and portfolio construction. You will acquire valuable information for success as a financial planner as well as important skills impacting future investment decisions which must be made by investors universally—specifically, investments toward retirement planning and saving for future financial security.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Evaluate the securities markets and the instruments commonly traded toward positive financial performance within client portfolios.
2. Assess how to develop a portfolio for various classes of risk using modern portfolio theory.
3. Analyze diversification techniques within an investment portfolio.

4. Evaluate the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), along with other asset pricing models.
5. Interpret the key fundamentals of securities to make informed buy, sell, and hold decisions through analysis of factors at the individual and firm levels.

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

Bodie, Z., Kane, A., & Marcus, A. J. (2017). *Investments* (11th ed.). McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9781259277177

Suggested:

n/a

NOTE: All non-textbook required readings and materials necessary to complete assignments, discussions, and/or supplemental or required exercises are provided within the course itself. Please read through each course module carefully.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Due Dates

The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards:** The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and peer responses posted by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.
- **Live Classroom:** Although participation is not required, Live Classroom sessions are held during Week 3 and Weeks 6. There are two total sessions.

WEEKLY READING AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Module 1

Required Readings

· Chapter 1 in *Investments*
· Longo, J. M. (2016). Investing skill, strategy, and temperament: Part of the series: The art of investing [Video file]. *The Teaching Company*.

Recommended Readings

· Lydenberg, S. (2016). Integrating systemic risk into modern portfolio theory and practice. *Journal of Applied Corporate Finance, 28*(2), 56-61.
· Munk, C. W. (2017). The fiduciary rule goes live at long last. *Barron's, 97*(23).

Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking (75 points)

Option #1: Investment Analysis

CSU-Products is a start-up computer software development firm. It currently owns computer equipment worth $50,000 and has cash on hand of $15,000 contributed by CSU's owners. For each of the following transactions, identify the real and/or financial assets that trade hands. Are any financial assets created or destroyed in the transaction?

1. CSU takes out a bank loan. It receives $25,000 in cash and signs a note promising to pay back the loan over 5 years.
2. CSU uses the cash from the bank plus $18,000 of its own funds to finance the development of new financial planning software.
3. CSU sells the software product to Microsoft, which will market it to the public under the Microsoft name. CSU accepts payment in the form of 2,000 shares of Microsoft stock.
4. CSU sells the shares of stock for $75 per share and uses part of the proceeds to pay off the bank loan.
5. Prepare its balance sheet just after it gets the bank loan. What is the ratio of real assets to total assets?

Option #2: Investment Analysis

Research the Insider Trading Act and read a case study about insider trading.
● Insider Trading Act of 1988
● The Economics of Insider Trading: A Free Market Perspective
● SEC Charges CEO and Close Friend With Insider Trading Ahead of Company Sale (case study example)

Discuss your selected case study and provide a summary. Then, discuss how securities regulations were violated. Also, discuss possible ways investors could have been affected.

Complete your response in 4-5 pages (1200-1500 words) using Microsoft Word or Excel. For calculations, you must show work to receive credit. Your well-written response should be formatted according to

CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements with any sources properly cited. Upload your completed work to the Week 1 Assignments page.

Portfolio Reminder (0 points)

This week, examine the Portfolio Project description and the Portfolio Project Grading Rubric, found in the Module 8 folder, to see how you will be graded for this assignment. Please feel free to contact your instructor with any questions or concerns about the project now or at any time during the course.

Think about the topic for your Portfolio Project and how you will develop the assignment. Complete parts of the Portfolio Project throughout the course, with your proposed topic to be submitted in Week 3 and a thorough outline of the project due in Week 5. The complete project is due at the end of Week 8 and constitutes about one-third of your course grade.

Module 2

Required Readings

· Chapters 2 & 3 in *Investments*
· Barratt, J. (2015). The five building blocks of the stock market [Video file].

Recommended Readings

· Clift, T. (2016). Modern investing trends reframe the active vs. passive debate. *Journal of Financial Planning, 29*(8), 34-35.
· Horton, M. (2018). What are the 9 major financial institutions? Retrieved from https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/061615/what-are-major-categories-financial-institutions-and-what-are-their-primary-roles.asp
· Huang, P., Kabir, M. H., & Zhang, Y. (2017). Does corporate derivative use reduce stock price exposure? Evidence from UK Firms. *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, 65*, 128-136.

Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking (75 points)

Option #1: Security Analysis

Here is some price information on CSU stock. Suppose that CSU trades in a dealer market.

Bid	Ask
55.25	55.50

● Suppose you have submitted an order to your broker to buy at the market. At what price will your trade be executed?
● Suppose you have submitted an order to sell at market. At what price will your trade be executed?
● Suppose you have submitted a limit order to sell at $55.62. What will happen?
● Suppose you have submitted a limit order to buy at $55.37. What will happen?

Complete your response using Microsoft Word and/or Excel. For calculations, you must show work to receive credit. Your well-written response should be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to

Writing and APA Requirements with any sources properly cited. Upload your completed work to the Week 2 Assignments page.

Read the following article and complete the assignment below.

Marc Pilkington. (2017). Can Global Elites Pave the Way for a New Transnational Unit of Account? A Reflection on the Numerical Nature of Money. World Review of Political Economy, 8(4), 542. doi:10.13169/worlrevipoliecon.8.4.0542

Next, review the Coinbase app (https://www.coinbase.com/) to see how it is being used to trade cryptocurrencies.

- Provide a summary and evaluation of the article. Then, discuss cryptocurrency/digital money and its influence on how investing is done/changing. Also, discuss any personal experiences you have had with investing with cryptocurrency.

Complete your response in 4-5 pages (1200-1500 words) with at least 6 references, at least 4 of which are scholarly/peer-reviewed. For calculations, you must show work to receive credit. Your well-written response should be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements with any sources properly cited. Upload your completed work to the Week 2 Assignments page.

Module 3

Required Readings
- ·   Chapters 5 & 7 in *Investments*
- ·   Barratt, J. (2015). Building a balanced portfolio [Video file].
- ·   Brinkman, R. (2016, January 6). *Modern portfolio theory* [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=210&v=NAJsjobIZoI

Recommended Readings
- ·   Daniel, K., & Hirshleifer, D. (2015, November). Overconfident investors, predictable returns, and excessive trading. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *29*(4), 61-88.
- ·   Umutlu, M. (2015, November). Idiosyncratic volatility and expected returns at the global level. *Financial Analysts Journal*, *71*(6), 58-71.

Discussion (25 points)

Live Classroom (0 points)

Critical Thinking (75 points)

Option #1

In your portfolio, you have two stocks. You have a 50% investments in Stock A and 50% investment in Stock B. Stock A has a standard deviation of 25% and a beta of 1.2. Stock B has a standard deviation of 35% and a beta of 0.80. The correlation between Stock A and Stock B is 0.4.

a. What is the standard deviation of your portfolio? Give them multiple choice:

    (i) Less than 30%

(ii) 30%

(iii) More than 30%

b. What is the beta of your portfolio?

c. Which stock carries more risk if you want to keep a diversified portfolio?

Your presentation should include any calculations in a table within your presentation and be sure to submit only one document to be graded in response to this assignment. Your PowerPoint presentation must be formatted in accordance with CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Examine the Critical Thinking grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 3 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Option #2

In an essay, address the following:

You have $5,000 to invest for the next year and are considering three alternatives:

1. A money market fund with an average maturity of 30 days offering a current yield of 2.0% per year
2. A 1-year savings deposit at a bank offering an interest rate of 4.0%
3. A 20-year U.S. Treasury bond offering a yield to maturity of 4.0% per year
4. A 20-year corporate bond offering a yield to maturity of 7

What is the risk profile of each of these assets?

What role does your forecast of future interest rates play in your decisions?

Your paper must be in a Word document of two to four pages, not counting the title page and reference page. Include your calculations in a table within your paper and be sure to submit only one document to be graded in response to this assignment. Your paper must be formatted in accordance with CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Examine the Critical Thinking grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 3 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Portfolio Milestone (50 points)

Option #1: Topic

The topic selection for your Portfolio Project is due by the last day of Week 3. Please submit a one-page document including:

● Your topic,
● Key points you plan to address within your paper, and
● A brief discussion of why you selected your specific topic.

Option #2: Theory

The theory discussion for your Portfolio Project is due by the last day of Week 3. Please submit a one-page document including:

- Introduction,
- Summary of each theory, and
- A brief discussion of the use of each theory in contemporary markets.

Module 4

Required Readings

- · Chapter 11 in *Investments*
- · Evans, A.J. (2018, March 1). Efficient market hypothesis [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fTq21QklxY

Recommended Readings

- · Mackey, A. M., & Bacon, F. W. (2017). Signaling with stock issues and repurchases: a test of semi-strong form market efficiency. *Journal of Business and Behavioral Sciences, 29*(1), 34-44.
- · Miari, R. C., de Mesquita, J. C., & Pardini, D. J. (2015). Market efficiency and organizational corruption: Study on the impact on shareholder value. *Brazilian Business Review (English Edition)*, 1-23.

Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking (75 points)

Option #1: Earning Process and Efficient Markets

Much of the information on earnings surprises is supplied from Zacks.com. Each day, the largest positive and negative surprises are listed. Go to:

https://www.zacks.com/earnings/earnings-reports.

Identify the top positive and the top negative earnings surprises for a recent day. You will need to select the day(s) to find examples. The table will list the time and date of the announcement. Do you notice any difference between the times of day positive announcements tends to be made versus negative announcements?

Identify the tickers for the top three positive surprises. Once you have identified the top surprises, go to https://finance.yahoo.com. Enter the ticker symbols and obtain quotes for these securities. Examine the 5-day charts for each of the companies and answer these questions:

1. Is the information incorporated into price quickly?
2. Is there any evidence of prior knowledge or anticipation of the disclosure in advance of the trading?

Choose one of the stocks listed on Zacks.com and click on its symbol to follow the link for more information. Click on the link for an interactive chart that appears under the graph. You can move the cursor over various parts of the graph to investigate what happened to the price and trading volume of the stock on each trading day. Do you notice any patterns?

Your paper must be in a Word document of two to four pages, not counting a title and references page. Include any calculations you wish to support your argument in a table within your paper and be sure to submit only one document to be graded in response to this assignment.

Cite a minimum of six sources (with at least 4 being scholarly or peer-reviewed), one of which may be your course textbook, in support of your responses. Your references and your paper must be formatted in accordance with *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Examine the Critical Thinking grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 4 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Option #2: Earnings Process and Efficient Markets

Use data from https://finance.yahoo.com. to answer the following questions:

Collect the following data for six firms of your choosing. I would ask students to include cryptocurrency as one of the six.

- Price-to-book ratio
- Price-earnings ratio
- Market capitalization (size)
- Price-cash flow ratio (i.e., market capitalization/operating cash flow)
- Another criterion that interests you.

You can find this information by choosing a company and then clicking on Key Statistics. Rank the firms based on each of the criteria separately, and divide the firms into three groups based on their ranking for each criterion (top two performers in each category would be the first group, 3rd and 4th ranked stocks in the second group). Calculate the average rate of return for each group of firms. You will have three groups for each of the five categories.

- Use the price history from the Historical Prices tab in Yahoo Finance to calculate the beta of each of the firms in part (a). Use this beta, the T-bill rate, and the return on the S&P 500 to calculate the risk-adjusted abnormal return of each stock group.
- Now form stock groups that use two criteria simultaneously. For example, form a portfolio of stocks that are both in the lowest performing group of price-earnings ratio and in the highest performing group of Price-to-book ratio. Does selecting stocks based on more than one characteristic improve your ability to devise portfolios with abnormal returns?

Submit the answers to the assignment in PowerPoint presentation. Include any calculations you wish to support your work in an Excel spreadsheet. Cite a minimum of six sources (with at least 4 being scholarly or peer-reviewed), one of which may be your course textbook, in support of your responses. Your references and your presentation must be formatted in accordance with *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Examine the Critical Thinking grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 4 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Module 5

Required Readings

- Chapter 9 & 28 in *Investments*

· Anonymous. (2016). 2016: Defined contribution outlook: Do DC plans need to be redesigned? *401(k) Advisor, 23*(4), 11.
· Dawson, P. (2015). The capital asset pricing model in economic perspective. *Applied Economics, 47*(6), 569-598.
· Konečný, Z., & Zinecker, M. (2015). Measuring risk structure using the capital asset pricing model. *Acta Universitatis Agriculturae Et Silviculturae Mendelianae Brunensis, 63*(1), 227-233.
· Stice, J., & Stice, E. K. (2014). Finance foundations: Capital asset pricing model [Video File]

Recommended Readings

· Carroll, R., Conlon, T., Cotter, J., & Salvador, E. (2017). Asset allocation with correlation: A composite trade-off. *European Journal of Operational Research, 262*(3), 1164-1180. (To view this reading, please open the link provided and download the "PDF full text.")
· Fallon, W., Park, J., & Yu, D. (2015). Asset allocation implications of the global volatility premium. *Financial Analysts Journal, 71*(5), 38-56. (To view this reading, please open the link provided and download the "PDF full text.")

Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking (75 points)

Option #1: Capital Asset Pricing Model

In a PowerPoint presentation, address the following:

Here are data on two companies. The T-bill rate is 4% and the market risk premium is 6%.

Company	$1 Discount Store	Everything $5
Forecasted Return	12%	11%
Standard Deviation of Returns	8%	10%
Beta	1.5	1.0

What would be the fair return for each company, according to the capital asset pricing model (CAPM)? Explain how the CAPM is used to perform this calculation and how a financial advisor would utilize this information to advise a client. Discuss how to do changes in expected returns impact company stock prices.

Your PowerPoint should include any calculations supporting your argument in a table within the slide deck. Cite at least two outside references and/or your course textbook in support of your responses. Your references and your paper must be formatted in accordance with *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements*. Examine the Critical Thinking grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 5 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Option #2:
In an essay, address the following:

- John Wilson is a portfolio manager at Austin & Associates. For all his clients, Wilson manages portfolios that lie on the Markowitz efficient frontier. Wilson asks Mary Regan, CFA, a managing director at Austin, to review the portfolios of two of his clients, the Eagle Manufacturing Company and the Rainbow Life Insurance Co. The expected returns of the two portfolios are substantially different. Regan determines that the Rainbow portfolio has a higher return and therefore concludes that the Rainbow portfolio must be superior to the Eagle portfolio.
  - Do you agree or disagree with Regan's conclusion that the Rainbow portfolio is superior to the Eagle portfolio? Justify your response with reference to the capital market line.
  - Wilson remarks that the Rainbow portfolio has a higher expected return because it has greater nonsystematic risk than Eagle's portfolio. Define nonsystematic risk and explain why you agree or disagree with Wilson's remark.
- Wilson is now evaluating the expected performance of two common stocks, Furhman Labs Inc. and Garten Testing Inc. He has gathered the following information:
- The risk-free rate is 3.0%
- The expected return on the market portfolio is 9.0%
- The beta of Furhman stock is 1.5
- The beta of Garten stock is .8

Based on his own analysis, Wilson's forecasts of the returns on the two stocks are 11.0% for Furhman stock and 10.25% for Garten stock. Calculate the required rate of return for Furhman Labs stock and for Garten Testing stock. Indicate whether each stock is undervalued, fairly valued, or overvalued.

Your paper must be in a Word document of two to four pages, not counting a title and references page. Include any calculations supporting your argument in a table within your paper, and be sure to submit only one document to be graded in response to this assignment. Cite outside references and/or your course textbook in support of your responses. Your references and your paper must be formatted in accordance with *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements* (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. Examine the Critical Thinking grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 5 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Portfolio Milestone (50 points)

Option #1

The outline of your Portfolio Project is due by the last day of Week 5. This must be a complete outline of all elements to be addressed within the paper. This document should contain a detailed listing of all key points to be covered in all sections of the paper, with a description of facts and sources to be referenced for the final Portfolio, due Week 8.

Please submit your outline by the last day of Week 5. Late submissions will not be reviewed within adequate time for you to incorporate instructor feedback into your final paper, and lateness will cause you to lose points on your Portfolio Project, which is one-third of your final grade for the course.

Option #2

The outline of your Portfolio Project is due by the last day of Week 5. This must be a complete outline of how the paper will be presented. This document should contain a detailed listing of all key points to be

covered in all sections of the paper, with a description of facts and sources to be referenced for the final Portfolio, due Week 8.

Please submit your outline by the last day of Week 5. Late submissions will not be reviewed within adequate time for you to incorporate instructor feedback into your final paper, and lateness will cause you to lose points on your Portfolio Project, which is one-third of your final grade for the course.

Module 6

Required Readings

- · Chapter 17 in *Investments*
- · Barratt, J. (2016, December). How to understand economic cycles [Video file].

Recommended Readings

- · Laopodis, N. T. (2016). Industry returns, market returns, and economic fundamentals: Evidence for the United States. *Economic Modelling, 53*, 89-106.
- · Nahavandi, J. (2017). U.S. economy: Growing signs of decoupling from Washington. *The Journal of Business Forecasting, 36*(2), 38-40,42-43,46.

Discussion (25 points)

Live Classroom (0 points)

Critical Thinking (75 points)

Option #1: Life Cycles

You are a financial planner attempting to evaluate your investment strategy to recommend to clients. Based on your economic background, you believe the Fed is going to loosen monetary policy. Your views may not be consistent with many of your current counterparts. Based on your views, what would be your recommendations about investments in the following industries? Explain how your recommendations are influenced by industry life cycles in:

1. gold mining and
2. construction.

Read the Life-Cycle Hypothesis (LCH)

Your paper must be in a Word document of two to four pages, not counting a title and references page. Include calculations if you wish, supporting your argument, in a table within your paper and be sure to submit only one document to be graded in response to this assignment. Cite a minimum of six outside sources (4 of which should be scholarly or peer-reviewed), one of which may be your course textbook, in support of your responses. Your references and your paper must be formatted in accordance with CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Examine the Critical Thinking grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 6 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Option #2: Industry Analysis

The information in the following exhibit comes from the notes to the financial statements of QuickBrush Company and SmileWhite Corporation:

	QuickBrush	SmileWhite
Goodwill	The company amortizes goodwill over 20 years.	The company amortizes goodwill for over 5 years.
Property, plant, and equipment	The company uses a straight-line depreciation method over the economic lives of the assets, which range from 5 to 20 years for buildings.	The company uses an accelerated depreciation method over the economic lives of the assets, which range from 5 to 20 years for buildings.
Accounts receivables	The company uses a bad debt allowance of 3% of accounts receivable.	The company uses a bad debt allowance of 4% of accounts receivable.

Determine which company has a higher quality of earnings by discussing each of the three notes.

Submit analysis in a PowerPoint presentation Include calculations if you wish, supporting your argument, in a table within your presentation and be sure to submit only one document to be graded in response to this assignment. Cite a minimum of six outside sources (four of which should be academic or peer-reviewed articles), one of which may be your course textbook, in support of your responses. Your references and your paper must be formatted in accordance with CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Examine the Critical Thinking grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 6 folder, to see how you will begraded.

Module 7
Required Readings

- · Chapters 14 & 18 in *Investments*
- · Stice, J., & Stice, E. K. (2016). Dividend-based valuation [Video file].

Recommended Readings
- · Fieberg, C., Mertens, R. L., & Poddig, T. (2016). The relevance of credit ratings over the business cycle. *The Journal of Risk Finance, 17*(2), 152-168.
- · Kok, U., Ribando, J., & Sloan, R. (2017). Facts about formulaic value investing. *Financial Analysts Journal, 73*(2), 81-99.

Discussion (25 points)

Portfolio Reminder (0 points)

Your completed Portfolio Project is due in Week 8—next week. You should be working on this assignment to complete it on schedule. Contact your instructor by email if you have any questions or concerns.

Module 8

Required Readings

- · Chapter 20 in *Investments*
- · De Gregorio, Z. (2016, July 24). Types of financial derivatives [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=199&v=Ojf_c0loq-c
- · Rzeszutek, M., Szyszka, A., & Czerwonka, M. (2015). Investors' expertise, personality traits and susceptibility to behavioral biases in the decision making process. *Contemporary Economics, 9*(3), 337-351.

Recommended Readings

- · Folger, J. (n.d.). Options pricing: Modeling. Retrieved from https://www.investopedia.com/university/options-pricing/modeling.asp
- · Schulaka, C. (2015). Daniel Crosby on investor behavior, why planners need planners, and the upside of crazy. *Journal of Financial Planning, 28*(7), 16-21.
- · Trainor, W., & Gregory, R. (2016). Leveraged ETF option strategies. *Managerial Finance, 42*(5), 438.

Discussion (25 points)

Portfolio Project (250 points)

Option #1: Investments in the Finance Profession

Please review the Portfolio Project assignments and the weeks they are due:

- ● **Week 3:** Submit your topic, key points of the paper, and a brief discussion of why you selected your specific topic.
- ● **Week 5:** Submit a complete outline of all elements to be addressed, a detailed listing of all key points to be covered, and a description of facts and sources to be referenced.
- ● **Week 8:** Submit the completed Portfolio Project.

The purpose of this Portfolio Project is to allow you to select an area of the course that has a personal interest to you, having the most direct relevance to your career/professional life, and explore it in depth, creating linkages to other topics of the course.

Using the syllabus and topics covered in the course, as well as readings assigned, select your topic and prepare a 7- to 10-page (double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) paper that addresses the following areas:

1. **Detailed Summary.** Provide a detailed summary to demonstrate an understanding of the concept being researched. Use the textbook, as well as other credible, professional sources to enhance and express your knowledge on the subject area (2-4 pages).

2. **Literature Review.** Use the University library to review professional publications and locate articles that relate to your topic. These articles should be published in journals that are utilized by financial planning professionals. Do not cite sources such as Wikipedia, Investopedia or general websites in your review of the literature. The CSU-Global library is a good place to do research.

   Only professional sources (i.e., journals from the library) should be used. Please consult with your instructor or the CSU-Global librarian if you are unsure what qualifies as a professional source. You should include 5-7 articles and within your review compare, contrast and synthesize the points presented within the articles to reach a conclusion on how professionals feel on the issue being researched (2-4 pages). Use an APA format for the literature reviews including an abstract for each source.

3. **Case Study.** Using yourself, a relative, or a fictitious client that you may work with at some point, create a basic case study to illustrate how your concept would be applied in an actual financial planning investment decision (2-4 pages).

4. Include some research on cryptocurrency and financial technology (FinTech).

Include both a title and references page (not counted in the 7- to 10-page length).

Your paper may be longer than 10 pages if necessary to illustrate points intended and must be in a Word document. Calculations are not required for this assignment. If you wish to include calculations to illustrate your points, include them in a table within your paper and be sure to submit only one document to be graded in response to this assignment. You must use at least 12 references, at least 10 of which should be scholarly/peer-reviewed. Your references and your paper must be formatted in accordance with CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Examine the Portfolio Project grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 8 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Option #2: Behavioral Finance, Modern Portfolio Theory, and the Efficient Market Hypothesis

The Portfolio Project assignment consists of an academic paper that examines the topics of Behavioral Finance, Modern Portfolio Theory, and the Efficient Market Hypothesis. The schedule for the portfolio is below:

- **Week 3:** Submit a brief discussion explaining each theory.

- **Week 5:** Submit a complete outline of the paper, including a detailed listing of all key points to be covered, and a description of facts and sources to be referenced.
- **Week 8:** Submit the completed Portfolio Project.

The purpose of this Portfolio Project is to allow you to evaluate the prevailing theories in portfolio and investment management. Using the syllabus and topics covered in the course, as well as readings assigned, select your topic and prepare a 7- to 10-page (double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) paper that addresses the following areas:

1. **Detailed Summary.** Provide a detailed summary to demonstrate an understanding of the theories being researched. Use the textbook, as well as other credible, professional sources to enhance and express your knowledge on the subject area (2-4 pages).

2. **Literature Review.** Use the University library to review professional publications and locate articles that relate to your topic. These articles should be published in journals that are utilized by financial planning professionals. Do not cite sources such as Wikipedia, Investopedia or general websites in your review of the literature. The CSU-Global library is a good place to do research.

   Only professional sources (i.e., journals from the library) should be used. Please consult with your instructor or the CSU-Global librarian if you are unsure what qualifies as a professional source. You should include 5-7 articles and within your review compare, contrast and synthesize the points presented within the articles to reach a conclusion on how professionals feel on the issue being researched (2-4 pages). Use an APA format for the literature reviews including an abstract for each source.

3. **Case Study.** Using the theories of behavioral finance, modern portfolio, and efficient markets, create a basic case study to illustrate how/if these theories are relevant in contemporary financial planning investment decision (2-4 pages).

4. Include research on cryptocurrency in some form.

Include both a title and references page (not counted in the 7- to 10-page length).

Your paper may be longer than 10 pages if necessary to illustrate points intended and must be in a Word document. Calculations are not required for this assignment. If you wish to include calculations to illustrate your points, include them in a table within your paper and be sure to submit only one document to be graded in response to this assignment. You must use at least 12 references, at least 10 of which should be scholarly/peer-reviewed. Your references and your paper must be formatted in accordance with CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. Examine the Portfolio Project grading rubric for this assignment, found in the Module 8 folder, to see how you will be graded.

Course Grading

20% Discussion Participation
45% Critical Thinking Assignments
35% Final Portfolio Project
0%   Live Classroom

Grading Scale	
A	95.0 – 100
A-	90.0 – 94.9
B+	86.7 – 89.9
B	83.3 – 86.6
B-	80.0 – 83.2
C+	75.0 – 79.9
C	70.0 – 74.9
D	60.0 – 69.9
F	59.9 or below

IN-CLASSROOM POLICIES

For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our **In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines** or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

Academic Integrity
Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /repurposing your own work (see CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA for a percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and internet resources.

Citing Sources with APA Style
All students are expected to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA when citing in APA (based on the most recent APA style manual) for all assignments. A link to this guide should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

Disability Services Statement
CSU-Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email ada@CSUGlobal.edu for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Netiquette
Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom.

If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.