**BUSI 448 Teaching Manual**

(last modified 12/17/2024)

Beginning of course:

1. Turn off “Enable course grading scheme” in Settings > Course Details
2. Turn on “Hide totals in student grades summary” in Settings > Course Details
3. Turn on “Hide grade distribution graphs from students” in Settings > Course Details
4. Turn off “let students see their quiz responses” for all assignments.
5. Remove link to optimal bidding in Session 9 canvas page
6. Send out welcome email about 1 week before class

Each week:

1. After due date has passed, edit problem set to “let students see their quiz responses” and to “Let students see the correct answers”

End of course:

1. After posting grades, turn off “Hide totals in student grades summary”
2. Enable course grading scheme based on this year’s curve.

Canvas notes:

Quizzes can be moderated to allow extra time for each student, but only after it has been published.

Browser notes:

* Plotly slides work best in Firefox. Chrome does not display hover data correctly.
* can log into Colab using [kpc2@rice.edu](mailto:kpc2@rice.edu)

Quarto notes:

* Needed to `pip install jupyterlab` on new machine (Jan 2025) (yaml issue)
* Can run `quarto check` to
* Can run `conda list` to see installed packages

Updating Notebooks and Slides:

* Notebooks can be updated in the busi\_448 repo
* Slides need to be updated both in the busi\_448 repo and copied to the kpcrotty.github.io repo
* PDFs of slides: Create HTML with preamble flack `incremental: false`. This is like handout mode in beamer. Then run run “convert\_to\_pdf.ipynb” for relevant slides to create pdf versions. Then change HTML back to `incremental: true` and re-render.
* **NOTE: still getting font rendering issue for PDFs (Jan 2025)**
* To post to the website, rerun the busi448.qmd (ctrl + shift + k) and add/commit changes

**Welcome Announcement: (add syllabus link)**

**Welcome to Investments!**

Hi everyone,

Happy new year!  I hope you’ve had a restful break.  I look forward to meeting you all for our first meeting of Investments.  You can find the syllabus on the course canvas page.  Please bring your laptops for class, as we'll be working through some calculations on bonds in our first meeting.

A note about software: Our in-class models and calculations will be implemented using a mix of Excel and Python.  I am assuming that you have zero Python experience.  To that end, I've put together a brief [overview](https://kevin-crotty.com/busi448/python_basics.html) of some Python basics.  We will discuss these in class together as we encounter them, but it's useful to have a reference.  If you're interested in trying things out for yourself, the examples in the overview can be run interactively in the *00\_python\_basics.ipynb* notebook on [Google Colab](https://colab.research.google.com/github/kpcrotty/busi448/blob/main/class_notebooks/00_python_basics.ipynb).

See you soon!

Kevin

**Final Announcement:**

Hi all,

The final exam is now fully graded. You did pretty well on the exam. The average (median) score was 79.8 (82.5), and the standard deviation was 14. The first and third quartiles were 71 and 91, respectively. I also posted participation grades. These started at 8 points (by far the most common score). Higher participation earned 9 points, and exceptional participation earned 10 points.

Your overall course grade, calculated per the weighting scheme in the syllabus, should be visible now as well. On Canvas, go to Grades on the left-hand side. The overall grade is at the bottom. At the top right, you can see the overall grade and the assigned letter grade.

I enjoyed our time together this semester. If you have not done so already, please be sure to complete the course evaluation. Your feedback will be especially valuable for future cohorts. I'd appreciate any comments you have on (1) the course pace (2) the topics covered and (3) specific suggestions for improvements.

Best of luck with your other classes and with internships/jobs going forward! I look forward to hearing what you all end up doing. For those of you graduating next week, congrats!

Regards,

Kevin

PS - Some of you asked about additional references on investing. A couple books I like are:

1. A Random Walk Down Wall Street by Burton Malkiel. This is a classic reference on personal investments.

2. Unconventional Success: A Fundamental Approach to Personal Investment by David Swensen. Swensen was a super well-respected, long-time manager of the Yale University endowment.