Syllabus for Pensions and Health Insurance LRS 533
Monday, May 23 to Wednesday, June 22, 2016
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Monday
May 23rd
Overview, Introductions and Explanation of Assignments

Part One: Brief History, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, ACA

Part Two: Retirement Benefits: Public and Private Sector

A Brief Overview of Defined Benefit, Defined Contribution and Hybrid Plans

Reference: Fundamentals of Employee Benefits from EBRI Chapters 1-6, 16 and 18. (Optional Chapters 7-13 and 19) with some commentary on these State and Local Pensions What Now by Alicia H. Munnell, Brookings Institute Press, 2012

Part Three: Health Insurance Today, Yesterday and the Future: Is it Universal Health Care?

Reference: Fundamentals of Employee Benefits from EBRI Chapters 20, 21, 24, 26, 27 and 29. Selections from America’s Bitter Pill, Steven Brill

Assignment: Prepare and present on May 25th a one page summary of either your own or a relative’s personal retirement plan. It could be a defined contribution, a defined benefit plan, a cash balance plan or some other variation

In addition for Wednesday May 25th review a financial web site or app and very briefly explain its utility in managing a small investment portfolio.

Wednesday, May 25th

Part One: Presentation of information on your financial web site or app and pension plan

Part Two: Discussion of your future investment project

Reference: The Motley Fool Investment Guide

Part Three: Consideration of various major topic possibilities

Monday May 30th Memorial Day

Independent Study and Research on your Investment and Major Projects
Assignment for Monday June 6\textsuperscript{th}: Describe in brief your personal health insurance plan or that of a relative, including cost to you and to employer.

\textbf{Wednesday, June 1st}

Part One: Overview of Investments by Speaker Thomas Forma from Morgan Stanley
Including Discussion of How Pension Investing Works

Part Two: Presentation of your personal Pension Plan

Part Three: (If time) Discussion of early retirement incentives and phased retirement.

\textbf{Monday, June 6\textsuperscript{th}}

\textbf{Part One: Health Plans: Past and Present:} Managed Care, Point of Service, Flexible Benefits, Defined Contribution Health Insurance, Health Savings Accounts and Other Consumer Driven Health Accounts, Prescription Drug Coverage, High Deductibles and others

Part Two Retiree Health Insurance: Budget impact due to unfunded costs of Retiree Health Care pre and post Medicare, in particular in public sector regulations GASB 43 and 45.

Part Three: Presentation of your personal health insurance plan

\textbf{Wednesday, June 8\textsuperscript{th}}

\textbf{Part One: Speaker: Steve Lemanski, FSA, Actuary on Pension Valuations and related explanation of various recent pension plan changes and problems, cf. Rhode Island and other local plans.}

\textbf{Part Two:} Any additional health plan descriptions and relevant reviews of health care

Part Three: Review of progress on Major Presentations and Investment Project

\textbf{Monday, June 13\textsuperscript{th}}

Further Discussion of Health Care today

\textbf{Wednesday, June 15\textsuperscript{th}}

Presentation of Investment Projects and Major Projects

\textbf{Monday, June 20\textsuperscript{th}}

Continuation of Major Projects and Investment Results.
Part Two  Summation and Distribution of Final as Take Home Exam due via e-mail to taylor_suzanne@sbcglobal.net no later than noon on June 23rd.

Wednesday, June 22nd

Take Home Final Exam due by e-mail by noon June 23rd

Your Final Grade will be based on the following Point Distribution
- Website or App Description: 10 points
- Pension Plan Description: 20 points
- Health Insurance Description: 20 points
- Investment Project: 50 points
- Major Project: 50 points
- Final Exam: 50 points

Total Points: 200

So if you divide 200 or less by 2 the points will equal the grades as follows:

186 to 200 = 93 to 100 or A (there is no A+)
180 to 185 = A-
174 to 179 = B+
165 to 173 = B
160 to 164 = B-
160 to 164 = C+
146 to 153 = C
140 to 145 = C-

Hopefully there will be no Cs or lower.
Valuable Resources


_Official Text Health Security: The President’s Report to the American People_, A Touchstone Book published by Simon and Schuster ISBN-0671-89315-7  It is available for 99 cents and $3.49 shipping from Amazon.com . Multiple copies are not available. This is Clinton’s reform attempt in 1993 to provide universal health care to the nation. Now it provides a basis for current discussion of health care reform. This would be only if you have an historical interest in getting to health care reform, but the Brill book also has history on this.


_America’s Bitter Pill_, Steven Brill, Random House, New York, 2015

Financial Texts: Any one would be helpful.

_A Random Walk on Wall Street, 9th edition_, Burton G. Malkiel

_Little Book of Common Sense Investing_, John C. Boyle

_The 4 Pillars of Investing_, William Bernstein

_The only Investment Guide You will ever Need_, Tobias, 1/3/05  $11.20

_Bogglehead’s Guide to Investing_, Taylor Larimore et al

_On Line Buying Stocks_   p. 4, 1/3/06,  $15.72

Jim Cram’s _Real Money_

_Intelligent Investor Revised_, 7/8/2003

_Investing for Dummies, 4th ed._, 12/12/05, New $14.95

_Way of the Turtle_, 3/9/07, $18.45, Curtis Faith
Simple Strategy for Successful Investing in only 15 minutes a week, Phil Town, $15.75 3/21/06

The Smartest Investment Book you’ll Ever Read: Simple Stress Free Way to Reach Your Investment Goals 11/7/05 $12.57 Daniel Solin

Neatest Little Guide to Stock Market Investing, Rev. 12/30/03, New $9.15 Jasin Kelley

Unconventional Success- Fundamental Approach to Personal Investment, David Swenson


The Five Rules for Successful Stock Investing, Morning Star’s Guide 12/29/04 $11.53

Wall St. Journal Complete Money Investing Guidebook, Dave Kanses sp. 12/27/205 $9.42

American Association of Individual Investors Monthly Magazine, Subscription rate is $40 a year. www.aaii.com