

Topics in Investments: Managing Retirement Wealth, Spring 2012

6 Classes Tuesdays 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Room: KMC 3-120

February 7 through March 21

FINC.GB 40.3176.30

Office Hours 4:30 to 5:30 on Tuesdays at KMC 8-51

John H. Biggs

Former Chairman and CEO of TIAA-CREF, one of the largest Retirement Income Providers in the U. S.; at Stern: an Executive in Residence and Adjunct Professor of Finance

Regular Guest Lecturer: Orla Beggs

Principal at PriceWaterhouseCooper, and Fellow of the British Institute of Actuaries

This course will cover three broad subjects:

- (1) What are successful strategies for individuals to accumulate, manage and protect their retirement wealth? The course will also explore why most American fail to use such strategies.
- (2) What are opportunities in managing the \$12 trillion of accumulated U.S. retirement wealth? What are the opportunities for investors, advisors and analysts
- (3) What are the problems and solutions for financing our national, state and local governments' retirement entitlements?

Textbooks:

Textbooks for the course will cost less than \$50 at current Amazon.com prices for new editions, and are also available at the NYU professional bookstore.

Coming Up Short by Alicia Munnell on 401(k) plans

Fundamentals of Employee Benefit Programs, a handbook published by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (Several copies are available at the Professional Bookstore and unlimited at Amazon .com. But you can download free the chapters to read using the following link;
<http://ebri.org/publications/books/index.cfm?fa=fundamentals>

Unconventional Success: A Fundamental Approach to Personal Investment by David Swensen

Teaching Method:

Lectures and guest presentations will be used in the course.

Guest Lecturers will include an authority on government entitlements, an actuarial expert and authority on state and local government pensions plans, one on long term care insurance and another on investment strategies

Student participation will be expected and evaluated. Attendance is important. Be sure to bring your name plates and sit in the place you select on the seating template in the first class.

Case studies and interesting related media coverage will be put on Blackboard for class discussion.

The NYU ethic policies will apply to all aspects of the class.

Grading:

Class participation: 20%

3 to 5 one-page essays, answering a question from the previous class: 30%

A final exam will be a two hour, timed based set of four essays, selected by you from 6 possible topics: 50%