

Course title and number: Bitcoin and the Future of Money

Instructor’s name, email, and office hours will be provided by the school

Course format

All activities are online

Course prerequisites

None

Course overview

In this course, students will learn all about bitcoin, including its history, development, and context within the modern global economy. Students will learn the basic cryptographic principles that underlie bitcoin, and gain confidence by demonstrating strong security principles in storing and transacting bitcoin. Key principles such as mining, wallets, and hashing will be introduced. And finally, they will be familiarized with the nascent industry of digital currencies and how they function.

Course outline by module

1. What is Bitcoin?
2. Cryptography for Beginners
3. Public and Private Keys
4. Nodes, Wallets, and Addresses
5. Bitcoin Mining
6. Transacting Bitcoin
7. Bitcoin Security
8. Bitcoin and Money
9. Altcoins and Regulations
10. Bitcoin: the Past and the Future

Course calendar

The course is broken down into 10 modules (plus an introduction, Module 0) and is spread out over a 20-week semester. Each module is broken into 5 sections, which generally consist of a video lecture, a reading, and either a concept check or discussion prompt. After the 5 sections is the short answer assignment and quiz to finish the module. Enough time is worked in for the completion of these tasks.

| <u>Week #</u> | <u>Module #</u> | <u>Sections</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Week 1 | Module 0 Module 1 | 1 1, 2 |
| Week 2 | Module 1 | 3, 4, 5 |
| Week 3 | Module 2 | 1, 2, 3 |
| Week 4 | Module 2 Module 3 | 4,5 1 |
| Week 5 | Module 3 | 2, 3, 4 |
| Week 6 | Module 3 Module 4 | 5 1, 2 |

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Week 7 | Module 4 | 3, 4 |
| Week 8 | Module 4 Module 5 | 5 1, 2 |
| Week 9 | Module 5 | 3, 4, 5 |
| Week 10 | Module 6 | 1, 2, 3 |
| Week 11 | Module 6 Module 7 | 4, 5 1 |
| Week 12 | Module 7 | 2, 3, 4 |
| Week 13 | Module 7 Module 8 | 5 1 |
| Week 14 | Module 8 | 2, 3, 4 |
| Week 15 | Module 8 Module 9 | 5 1, 2 |
| Week 16 | Module 9 | 1, 2, 3 |
| Week 17 | Module 10 | 1, 2 |
| Week 18 | - | - |
| Week 19 | Module 10 | 3, 4 |
| Week 20 | Module 10 Review & Final Exam | 5 |

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define bitcoin
- Contrast bitcoin with cash and other forms of payment
- Learn basic cryptographic concepts such as hashing, ciphers, encryption/decryption, and keys
- Demonstrate how to open a bitcoin wallet
- Demonstrate how to transfer, receive, and spend bitcoin
- Describe the double spend problem and how it is addressed by bitcoin's structure
- Discuss the pros and cons of bitcoin
- Discuss the limitations of bitcoin
- Compare and contrast bitcoin with other digital currencies
- Evaluate historical types of money
- Identify potential career opportunities within bitcoin and other cryptocurrency projects

Materials needed:

All of the required articles we will read in class will be available online.

Other Office Supplies That May Be Helpful

- A notebook or folder to store paper copies of texts that you print out
- Pen and pencil
- Highlighter
- Printer and printer paper

Software

- Basic Office suite of software (a word processor). If you do not have Microsoft Office on your computer, you can either download Open Office (a free suite of Office software) or use Google Docs.
- A web browser. Several options are free online, including Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari.
- Access to YouTube as all video lectures and most supplemental videos are hosted on YouTube.
- A functional email address that you check every day to maintain in contact with your instructor.

Technical skills required:

- Download and upload files
- Download and install software
- Use email with attachments
- Create, save, and submit files in commonly used word processing program formats
- Copy and Paste
- Work in multiple browser windows and tabs simultaneously

Course requirements

Grading:

- Syllabus Quiz: 5%
- Class participation activities: 20%
- Discussion: 20%
- Module Quizzes: 20%
- Short answer assignments: 20%
- Final exam: 15%
- Total: 100%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following:

- 89.5%–100% A
- 79.5%–89.4% B
- 69.5%-79.4% C
- 59.5%-69.4% D
- Below 59.5% F

Syllabus Quiz – 2.5%

Before beginning Module 1, there is an orientation called Module 0. In there you will find a preview of the course, an orientation video, and a couple of videos on evaluating sources and plagiarism. Finally, there is a quiz on the information covered in this Syllabus. This is a quiz you can re-take as many times as needed. So this is an opportunity to have a great start to this course with 2.5% in the bag!

Class Participation Activities – 30%

Students are expected to participate in the class by watching the video lectures, completing the readings, and completing the concept checks provided throughout the modules. Participation and completion of these activities will be verified through your learning management system. There will be

3% of your grade allocated to each of the 10 modules, which totals 30% contribution of participation to your final grade.

Discussion – 30%

Discussions are an important part of the learning process for students to “participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.” (Common Core CCR Standard SL.CCR.1)

Students are expected to prepare for and participate in online class discussions in the forum. Students are required to participate in at least one discussion each for each of the 10 modules. Each module’s discussions will count towards 3% of the total grade (for a total of 30%). For each module, you should contribute one initial post and reply to a minimum of 2 posts from other students.

Multiple prompts will appear in each module, generally as “reflections,” so you will not need to have an initial post for every prompt, but at least one per module. Students should contribute and check the forum at least two to three times per week. Grading for discussions will be assessed on the following qualities:

| Criteria | Grading Scale | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Initial Post Student’s initial post clearly addresses the original prompt. They demonstrate a good understanding of the topic and include details from the materials covered.</p> | <p>10 Excellent. Initial post is of excellent quality. Student references very specific details as evidence and may offer new ideas that have not been mentioned previously.</p> | <p>8 Good. Initial Post is very good. Student demonstrates a good understanding of the topic and includes some evidence.</p> | <p>6 Satisfactory. Student’s initial post demonstrates a fair understanding of the topic.</p> | <p>0 No initial post is made.</p> |
| <p>Replies (2 minimum) Student responds to at least two other student’s ideas in the discussion.</p> | <p>10 Excellent. Student responds to at least two other students. Responses take the discussion deeper by asking questions, challenging ideas, or addressing new topics.</p> | <p>8 Good. Student replies to at least two other students. The reply adds depth to the discussion.</p> | <p>6 Poor. Student replies to one or two other students but replies lack depth.</p> | <p>0 No replies made.</p> |
| <p>Total Points per Module: 20pts (2% of grade)</p> | | | | |

For class discussions to be meaningful, posts must be made in a timely manner according to the class schedule. Therefore, no credit will be given for that module's discussion after a deadline passes (which is when the next module begins). The Discussion deadlines are as follows:

- Module 1: September 10, 2018
- Module 2: September 21, 2018
- Module 3: October 3, 2018
- Module 4: October 17, 2018
- Module 5: October 29, 2018
- Module 6: November 9, 2018
- Module 7: November 21, 2018
- Module 8: December 5, 2018
- Module 9: December 17, 2018
- Module 10: January 9, 2018

Quizzes – 10%

At the end of every module, students are required to take a quiz that will assess them on the learning objectives and vocabulary for that module. Each quiz will be worth 1% of your grade, so with 10 quizzes, this will total 10% of your final grade.

Assignments – 20%

Every module will have a short answer assignment and a project, which is designed to get you thinking, and more importantly, writing about and experiencing the topics discussed in that module. Each paper is only two-paged double spaced (with 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font with no more than 1-inch margins on the header, footer, left, and right margins), so be concise and make sure to address all questions. Each module's assignments will be worth 2% of your grade, so with 10 graded submissions, this will total 20% of your final grade.

Each short answer assignment will be graded according to the following rubric:

| Contributions | Description | Points Assigned |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Provocative | Answer goes beyond simply responding to the questions; goes deep and provides greater insight | 20 |
| Substantial | Answer provides most of the content required, but does not require further analysis of the subject | 15 |
| Superficial | Answer provides obvious information without further analysis of the concept; lacks depth of knowledge or reasoning | 10 |
| Incorrect | Answer does not accurately address the questions; rambling and/or without consistency | 5 |
| None | No response provided to the questions within the required timeframe | 0 |

Final Exam – 7.5%

A final exam, which will cover all the materials in the course, will be available at the end of the course and will count towards 7.5% of your final grade.

Late work or retakes

Late work or re-takes of quizzes must be discussed and arranged directly with your instructor.

Getting help

It is important to seek help if you have trouble understanding course materials or encounter technical problems. Depending on the situation, questions can be addressed to your instructor or your school's help desk. For Learning Management System-specific questions, find the support email or phone number on your Learning Management System's website. For course-specific questions or issues, please email support@pointfuleducation.com

Netiquette

- Never write anything in the course that you wouldn't be comfortable printing in your local newspaper to be read by all your friends and family.
- Use appropriate emoticons (emotion icons) to help convey meaning. Use "smiley's" or punctuation such as :-) to convey emotions.
- Avoid sarcasm. People who don't know you may misinterpret its meaning.
- If you get upset by a message, take a little break. Don't respond when you're angry. Take a little while to think about it first!
- Keep posts to the point. Keep messages concise—about one screen, as a rule of thumb.
- Use appropriate language:
 - Avoid coarse, rough, or rude language.
 - Observe good grammar and spelling.
- Use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning.
 - Avoid sentences typed in all caps.
 - Use asterisks surrounding words to indicate italics used for emphasis (*at last*).
 - Use words in brackets, such as (grin), to show a state of mind.
 - Use common acronyms (e.g., LOL for "laugh out loud").
- Always be polite. Remember, you're dealing with real people, not just words on a screen.

(Sources: <https://www.education.com/reference/article/netiquette-rules-behavior-internet/> and Kipp, K., & Patrick, S. (2013). *Teaching on the education frontier: instructional strategies for online and blended classrooms: grades 5-12*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.)

Plagiarism

Be careful to avoid plagiarism. All plagiarized assignments will receive a zero and could have further disciplinary actions. When in doubt, cite the source or don't use it. Ask your instructor if you need assistance on citing sources or paraphrasing.

Companies mentioned in the Course

While many companies, schools, and projects are mentioned throughout the course, Pointful Education does not promote, endorse, or work with any company. All company names and products mentioned in the course are trademarks of those respective companies.

Privacy Policy

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<https://www.pointfuleducation.com/privacy-policy>

Accessibility

Pointful Education is committed to making our courses accessible to all. We have a national user base and are dedicated to continuously improving accessibility of our products with a focus on both the U.S. accessibility guidelines of [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) (Revised in 2000), and the international [WCAG 2.0 guidelines](#) (Level AA) of the World Wide Web Consortium Web Accessibility Initiative of 2008. In addition, products are evaluated both manually and programmatically for conformance to Section 508 and WCAG 2.0 Level AA guidelines.

OCLC recognizes that creating accessible products is a continuous process that can only be improved by input from our users. Whether you have enjoyed or had difficulty using one of our products, or would like to make general comments, please contact us by emailing us at support@pointfuleducation.com.