

FI 8460 – The FinTech Ecosystem

CRN: 22861

Room: online

Time: R 5:30 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.

Spring MiniMester II 2022

NOTE: This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Instructor:

Jonathan Godbey, Ph.D.

Office: RCB 1209

jgodbey@gsu.edu

404.413.7328

Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisite: none

Course Description:

Financial technology (FinTech) is revolutionary and rapidly changing the financial services industry. This course provides an introduction to the FinTech ecosystem and recent developments. Topics may include but are not limited to: blockchain technologies and applications, technological advances in payments, innovations in raising capital, alternative lending, wealth management, digital banking, and insurance, applications of machine learning, and implementation of smart contracts. Students will also have hands-on and problem solving experiences that can be useful in FinTech applications and innovation.

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- understand recent FinTech developments and analyze their impact on the financial services industries;
- describe the technologies underlying cryptocurrencies and blockchains;
- understand the impact of FinTech on traditional banking and developments in payments, digital banking, alternative lending, and P2P technologies;
- understand crowdfunding and its impact on investment banking and entrepreneurial financing;
- describe the effects of machine learning on robo-advising and FinTech;
- understand InsurTech and innovations in the insurance industry;
- engage in the process of FinTech innovation.

Recommended Textbooks:

None

COURSE SECTION POLICIES**Attendance Policy:**

Each student is expected to attend **all** scheduled class meetings for the **entire duration** of the class meeting. An attendance may be confirmed by commenting as requested in Zoom chats. Students who do not comment when requested will be considered absent. Students arriving late or leaving early may be counted as present only at the discretion of the instructor.

Any student who is absent from more than **two** class meetings will be dropped from the course by the instructor. Absences include the first week of class regardless of when a student registered for the course. The last day to withdraw and receive a “W” is the midpoint of the grading period (per GSU’s academic calendar). If a student is withdrawn for excessive absences after the midpoint of the grading period, a final grade of WF will be assigned automatically.

Late or Make-up Work

No late or make-up projects or assignments will be allowed. Please hand in your projects/assignments before the due date.

iCollege:

Course materials, including slides, reading materials, problem sets, and solutions to quizzes or exams will be posted on the iCollege website of the course. The students are expected to check the iCollege website regularly and download the requisite materials.

Communication:

The students’ GSU e-mail addresses (as shown in GoSOLAR) will be used as the primary means of communication. Students should therefore check their GSU email accounts regularly. The instructor cannot reply to iCollege emails from their GSU email account.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**Grade Weights:**

Quizzes/Presentations	25%
Midterm	25%
Opportunity project	25%
Final	25%

In accordance with Department of Finance policy, for masters level courses (MBA and FI prefixed) it is expected that no more than 35 percent of the students in a given class section will receive a grade of A+, A, or A-. The majority of remaining students are expected to receive grades of B+, B, or B-. Those students demonstrating significantly lagging performance shall earn grades at the C-level or lower as appropriate.

The Department of Finance employs the +/- grading system. A grade of "C-" is considered a passing grade for this course. Refer to the University catalog for information concerning +/- grading and quality points for GPS calculations.

Academic Honesty:

The Department of Finance **adheres strictly** to the University's policy on academic honesty as contained in the **Academic Regulations** section of the University catalog. Any student found copying during exams or quizzes, signing someone else's name to the attendance list, using stored formulas in programmable calculators, using non-authorized formula sheets or other notes during exams, collaborating on and/or copying any in-class or take-home assignments, or the like will receive an F for the course and possibly be subject to additional University disciplinary action.

In general all university and college regulations concerning academic honesty shall apply. Students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The university assumes as a minimum standard of conduct in academic matters that students be honest and that they submit for credit only the products of their own efforts.

It is particularly important that students read and understand the portions of the University Policy on Academic Honesty that relate to plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsification, and multiple submissions. As mentioned before, the University Policy on Academic Honesty is explained in detail in the Student Handbook (available online at <http://studenthandbook.gsu.edu>) and the Student Code of Conduct (available online at <http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu>). This Policy represents a core value of the University. All members of the University community are responsible for knowing and abiding by its tenets. Students are expected to carefully review the online Policy prior to undertaking any research or other assignments.

Students are encouraged to discuss freely with faculty any questions they may have pertaining to the provisions of the Policy on Academic Honesty prior to submitting assignments. ***Lack of knowledge of the contents of the University Policy on Academic Honesty is not an acceptable defense to any charge of academic dishonesty.***

Disabilities or Special Needs:

Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought.

Please let your instructor know if you have a disability or special need that requires accommodation.

Miscellaneous Policies:

- Students are expected to be punctual for class — being tardy means missing important course announcements and disrupting the learning process for others. Students who arrive late are expected to enter and take a seat quietly.
- Beepers, cell phones and similar devices should be turned off or put in vibration mode at the beginning of the class. E-communication devices should not be used during class, and must not be used during examinations.
- A computer/iPad or other digital devices should only be used during class to access course materials and to work on relevant course content.
- All students are to conduct themselves consistent with University policies concerning behavior in the classroom and toward others in the University community. Students should consult the student handbook (available online at <http://studenthandbook.gsu.edu>) for details on these policies.

Student Assessment:

Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State and helping to improve this course for future students. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Tentative Course Schedule

See iCollege