

MBAD 7090 Foundations of FinTech

Fall 2023

Time:	6:00 – 8:45 pm R
Location:	The Dubois Center 501
Instructor:	Dr. Taichun Piao
Office Hours:	Monday via Zoom by appointment
Email:	tpiao@uncc.edu
Office:	Friday 344B

Textbook and Course materials

Fintech and the Remaking of Financial Institutions by John Hill. Additional reading materials, Slides, homework and solutions will be made available for download from your password-protected Canvas account at UNCC, accessible at <http://canvas.uncc.edu/> for all registered students. The material will be periodically added to the website as we progress through the course. You will also be able to view your grades on homework and exams directly from your Canvas account as well. **Students are responsible for checking their UNCC student e-mail and Canvas regularly for important information.**

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of fintech topics and the ways in which technology is changing the landscape of financial services. Students will learn about the latest trends and developments in areas such as payments, lending, wealth management, and blockchain, and will gain an understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing fintech startups and established financial institutions alike.

By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the basic areas in fintech, and will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to analyze and evaluate fintech innovations and their impact on the financial services industry.

Academic Prerequisites

To enroll in the course, students must have achieved the minimum grade of “C” in the Financial Management course.

I DO NOT HAVE the authority to add students to the course or override any prerequisites to register. Please visit the Undergraduate Advising office with questions.

Grading

- There will be 2 exams, each counting for 25% of your final grade. The exam will not be cumulative. (50%)
- There will be 5 homework assignments each counting for 4% of your final grade. (20%)
- Attendance is mandatory and participation is expected. But there will be 5 random in-class quizzes counting for 5% of your final grade. The quiz will have only 1 or 2 questions. You have to do them all correctly to earn points. (5%)
- The case study report will account for 10% of your final grade.
- The Final group presentation will account for 15% of your final grade.

- **Percentage of Total Points Grade**
 - 90 - 100 A
 - 80 - 89 B
 - 70 - 79 C
 - 60 - 69 D
 - Below 60 F

Comments on Examinations and Report

- Exams will cover homework, exercises, and lecture notes consistent with the tentative class schedule. The format of the exams will be multiple-choice and will include conceptual (e.g., non-mathematic) issues as well as problem-solving and numeric manipulation.
- The homework and exercises assignments will serve as an excellent reference for the content, and structure of the exam questions. The level of difficulty for the exam questions will be slightly harder than homework questions. After all, the homework is supposed to provide exercises for you to fully understand lecture contexts. Exam questions are built up on homework and exercises. Sometimes take one more step to get to the correct answer.
- Students who are unable to attend a scheduled examination **must present the instructor with documentation of a valid medical, family, or personal emergency before the exam** to obtain permission for a make-up examination. In this circumstance, all make-up exams will be given at the earliest convenience. Students who fail to make up a missed examination, or fail to attend the scheduled final exam, will receive a score of zero for all missed work.
- The case study report should use analytical writing. The following general outline is useful: Research question statement, evidence, argument, limitations, and conclusion. The case study prepare you for an applied understanding of digital lending and payment in the real world.
- The final group presentation will be a mock roadshow of your AI fintech company. The presentation prepares you for an applied understanding of topics such as VC in fintech, AI and financial service, and new trends in fintech.

Course Schedule (Subject to Changes)

Module 1: Fintech Overview (week 1 to week 10)

- Chapter 1: Fintech Introduction
- Chapter 2: Disruption and Disintermediation in Financial Products and Services
- Chapter 3: Money: A Medium of Exchange, Unit of Account, and Store of Wealth
- Chapter 4: Financial Institutions
- Chapter 5: Bank Lending
- **Digital lending and payment case study**
- Chapter 8: Equities
- Chapter 13: Startup Financing
- **Exam 1 September 21**
- Chapter 14: Fintech in a Global Setting
- Chapter 15: Fintech and Government Regulation

Module 2: Blockchain and Machine Learning (week 11 to week 14)

- Cryptography and Encryption Algorithms
- Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain Applications
- Trading Environment, Data, and Blockchain Analytics
- Intro to Machine Learning
- Machine Learning Applications in Finance
- **Exam 2 November 2**

Module 3: AI and Financial Services (week 15 to week 16)

- Intro to text-based AI and GPT
- AI and application in Financial services
- **Final group presentation**

Important University and/or College Policies

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.** All UNCC students are responsible for being familiar with and observing the requirements of The UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity (see the Catalog). This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials (such as Library books on reserve), and complicity in academic dishonesty (helping others to violate the code). Any further specific requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor, and are also binding on the students in this course. Students who violate the code can be punished to the extent of being permanently expelled from UNCC and having this fact recorded on their official transcripts. The normal penalty is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to F. If you do not have a copy of the code, you can obtain one from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty they become aware of to the course instructor who is responsible for dealing with them.
- **ATTENDANCE.** Students are expected to attend punctually all scheduled sessions in the courses for which they are registered and are responsible for completing the work from all of the class meetings. Absences from class may be excused by the instructor for such reasons as personal illness, religious holidays, participating as an authorized University representative in an out-of-town event, or unavoidable professional responsibilities that require missing a class. Whenever possible, students are expected to seek the permission of the instructor prior to absences.
- **DISENROLLMENT.** At the discretion of the department offering a course, a student may be disenrolled from a course section if he or she does not attend the first scheduled meeting of the section. The department chair has the responsibility for providing timely notification to the student who is disenrolled.
- **COURSE WITHDRAWAL.** Under the UNCC Course Withdrawal Policy, students may withdraw from a course until the withdrawal deadline and the mark of W will be assigned. No withdrawals will be permitted after the course withdrawal deadline. It is the student's responsibility to determine by the withdrawal deadline whether to withdraw from the course or stay in for a grade.
- **DIVERSITY.** The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to, ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.
- **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS.** UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit their office in Fretwell 230.