

COURSE INFORMATION

Course title:	FinTech	Credits:	1.5
Course code:	BAIT 523	Class location:	SWNG 305
Session, term:	2022 W1	Class times:	MW 10:00 – 12:00PM
Section(s):	001	Pre-requisites:	None
Division:	Finance	Co-requisites:	None
Course duration:	Sep 06, 2022 to Oct 07, 2022		
Course website:	https://canvas.ubc.ca		

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Professor Markus Baldauf	Office location:	HA 873
Phone:	604-822-8558	Office hours:	By appointment
Email:	baldauf@mail.ubc.ca		

Teaching assistant: Keling Zheng
Email: keling.zheng@sauder.ubc.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

New technologies continue to disrupt and revolutionize how finance functions are performed. This course covers a range of topics that illustrate how FinTech providers and users employ technology to create new financial products and transform financial services. These innovations affect a range of financial market participants and have significant impacts on firms, individual investors and households. For example:

- Robo-advising, AI and commission-free trading have changed how investors and households manage their investments in financial assets.
- iBuying—the use of valuation algorithms in real estate, used automobiles and other markets—has changed how people buy and sell those assets.
- High-frequency trading and the use of alternative data have changed how professional traders behave and are transforming the financial management industry.
- Cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology have introduced new possibilities for payment systems and have expanded the set of alternative assets (including NFTs) available to investors.

This course gives students tools to evaluate the challenges and opportunities of the FinTech revolution, and teaches how to connect these innovations to traditional finance frameworks. The course is open to everyone who seeks to learn about new and emerging trends in finance and finance technology, whether they seek a career in finance, high-tech innovation or technology management, or whether they want to improve their own financial decision making. The specific topics covered each year will vary according to the interests of the students and the instructor and with new developments in FinTech and related fields.

COURSE FORMAT

The course format will consist primarily of lectures, supplemented with worked-examples, case discussions, small presentations, interactive activities, and guest speakers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be:

1. familiar with FinTech and other new trends in finance and finance technology;
2. able to assess recent innovations using traditional finance paradigms;
3. well-equipped to understand regulatory debates surrounding FinTech challenges.

ASSESSMENTS

Summary

The course grade will be determined based on the weights that are given in the table below.

Component	Weight
Assignments	30%
Group project	30%
Midterm exam	30%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

Details of Assessments

Assignments. There will be 1 assignment which will be administered via Canvas and ComPAIR (accessible via the Canvas website, <https://isit.arts.ubc.ca/compair/>). Every student has to submit their individual submission (i.e., this is not a group project).

Group project. There will be a single group project that asks you to work on a pitch about a crypto investment to the institutional investor UBC Investment Management Trust. Group sizes between 3 and 5 members are permitted.

Midterm exam. The midterm will take place in class and it will be administered via Canvas. You will need to bring a laptop. More details will follow on Canvas closer to the date.

Participation. I strive to create a respectful and interactive learning environment. Student participation is critical to accomplish that. Your participation grade has multiple components:

1. in-class participation: come prepared to class, do the readings, ask questions, and contribute to the discussion;
2. be prepared for interactions with any guest speakers: use the opportunity to interact with potential employers; and
3. contribute to the online components of the class: participation does not have to be verbal, but you can answer questions on the Canvas discussion board or provide feedback on ComPAIR.

LEARNING MATERIALS

Links to all of the readings will be posted on Canvas.

All cases can be accessed via Ivey Publishing:

1. Go to the Ivey Publishing website at www.iveypublishing.ca
2. Log in to your existing account or click "Register" to create a new account and follow the prompts to complete the registration. If registering, choose the "Student" role.

3. Click on this link or copy into your browser: <https://www.iveypublishing.ca/s/ivey-coursepack/a1R5c00000F3N7bEAF>
4. Click "Add to Cart".
5. Go to the Shopping Cart (located at the top of the page), click "Checkout", and complete the checkout process.
6. When payment has been processed successfully, an Order Confirmation will be emailed to you immediately and you will see the Order Confirmation screen.
7. Once you have completed your order, click on your username on the top right --> Orders -->Downloads

Estimated cost of required materials: \$10.35 Additional materials recommended but not required.

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Missed or late assignments, and regrading of assessments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows. If the submission is more than 1 minute late, then the grade will be reduced by 5%. If the submission is more than 1 hour late, then the grade will be reduced by 10%.

Academic Concessions

If extenuating circumstances arise, please contact the RHL Graduate School program office as early as reasonably possible, and submit an [Academic Concession Request & Declaration Form](#). If an academic concession is granted during the course, the student will be provided options by RHL, or by the instructor in consultation with RHL, per [UBC's policy on Academic Concession](#).

In the event of an academic concession for an assignment, the grade weight for that assignment will be set to the weighted average of the other course grades.

Code Plagiarism

Code plagiarism falls under the UBC policy for [Academic Misconduct](#). Students must correctly cite any code that has been authored by someone else or by the student themselves for other assignments. Cases of "reuse" may include, but are not limited to:

- the reproduction (copying and pasting) of code with none or minimal reformatting (e.g., changing the name of the variables)
- the translation of an algorithm or a script from a language to another
- the generation of code by automatic code-generations software

An "adequate acknowledgement" requires a detailed identification of the (parts of the) code reused and a full citation of the original source code that has been reused.

Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

POLICIES APPLICABLE TO COURSES IN THE ROBERT H. LEE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Attendance

Excepting extenuating circumstances, students are expected to attend 100% of their scheduled class hours. Absent students limit their own academic potential, and that of their classmates, and cause unnecessary disruption to the learning environment. Students missing more than 20% of the total scheduled class hours for a course (including classes held during the add/drop period) without having received an academic concession will be withdrawn from that course. Withdrawals, depending on timing, could result in a “W” or an “F” standing on the transcript.

COVID-19 Policies for Attendance & Academic Concessions:

If a student feels unwell, they should stay home and send a courtesy email to each impacted instructor and cc their program manager. The student should also submit an [Academic Concession Request & Declaration Form](#).

If a student suspects possible COVID-19 infection, they should use the BC Ministry of Health’s [self-assessment tool](#), to help determine whether further assessment or testing for COVID-19 is recommended.

Punctuality

Students are expected to arrive for classes and activities on time and fully prepared to engage. Late arrivals may be refused entry at the discretion of the instructor or activity lead. Students arriving later than halfway through a scheduled class will be treated as absent for that class.

Electronic Devices

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and cell phones are not permitted to be used in class unless directed by the instructor for in-class activities. Students who do not follow the School’s policy in this regard may be required to leave the room for the remainder of the class, so that they do not distract others. Research shows that students’ use of laptops in class has negative implications for the learning environment, including reducing their own grades and the grades of those sitting around them.

Citation Style

Please use the American Psychological Association (APA) reference style to cite your sources.

Details of the above policies and other RHL Policies are available at:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,199,506,1625>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to

access support are available on the UBC Senate website at <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>.

Respect for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The UBC Sauder School of Business strives to promote an intellectual community that is enhanced by diversity along various dimensions including status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, social class, and/or disability. It is critical that students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives be valued in and well-served by their courses. Furthermore, the diversity that students bring to the classroom should be viewed as a resource, benefit, and source of strength for your learning experience. It is expected that all students and members of our community conduct themselves with empathy and respect for others.

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

COPYRIGHT

All materials of this course (course handouts, lecture slides, assessments, course readings, etc.) are the intellectual property of the instructor or licensed to be used in this course by the copyright owner. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline and could be subject to legal action. Any lecture recordings are for the sole use of the instructor and students enrolled in the class. In no case may the lecture recording or part of the recording be used by students for any other purpose, either personal or commercial. Further, audio or video recording of classes are not permitted without the prior consent of the instructor. Students may not share class Zoom links or invite others who are not registered to view sessions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam) people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to change)

Class	Date	Topics	Readings	Assessments
1	Sep 7	Introduction, course overview		
2	Sep 9 ⁱ	Trading & Technology	Lecture notes L2	
3	Sep 12	Trading & Technology	L2	Assignment #1
4	Sep 14	Alternative Data: Finance with nonfinancial data	L3	
5	Sep 19	Real Estate & iBuying	L4	
6	Sep 21	Robo-advising	L5	Assignment #2
7	Sep 26	MIDTERM (in-class)		
8	Sep 28	The De-Fi Revolution	L6	
9	Oct 3	The De-Fi Revolution	L6	
10	Oct 5	The De-Fi Revolution	L6	Group Project

ⁱ Make-up class, 10:00-12:00PM in DLAM-125.