

FINC 361_SECTION 01: Financial Innovation: Features and Applications

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

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[Recipient of the Outstanding COBE Faculty Award
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Office hours:

Monday: 3.20 pm to 4.50pm

Wednesday: 3.20 pm to 4.50pm

or by appointment.

Course Objective

This course exposes students to various new financial applications that they can apply in their personal life and professional career. In this course, I plan to introduce students to the new developments in financial services and investments. We are focused on teaching our students the importance and applicability of innovative techniques and practices in the area of service innovation. My area of expertise is finance; therefore, I will be focused on innovation in financial services sector. Specifically, I will be including the following areas:

1. Personal Finance

- In this section, students will learn new ways of using financial methods to pay their bills and carry out routine transactions. Students will be introduced to the new methods that are very easy to use and can raise personal financial services to a new level. Examples include but not limited to the following situations: a) Wallet less Payment: The use of digital payment systems like Apple pay, Google wallet, Samsung mobile pay, to name a few, b) Credit checking: Expose students to the apps and websites that can help them to check credit and analyze the score among other things.

2. Investment and Financing

- Bitcoin: What is a bitcoin, how one can earn returns on it, how can it be used as a substitute of a currency, what could be the potential issues of its use in the future.
- What are cryptocurrencies, mechanism to value crypto assets, and ICOs.
- Basics of crypto mining, trading, and exchange platforms.

Crowdfunding

- Crowd Funding: What it is, how it is different from others, and what it can be used for.
- Why crowdfunding is better and efficient way to raise money.
- Why to use one platform over the other, why to use one form of crowdfunding over others.
- How Crowdfunding differs from angel investors and venture capitalists.

3. *Blockchain Technology*

- Basics of Blockchain Technology.
- Applications and Future of Blockchain technology.
- How Blockchain can be used to lower barriers to entry and create new & vibrant ecosystem.

In addition, I will be inviting guest speakers periodically so that students are exposed to the ideas and implications of various innovation techniques. Since this course is an interactive course, different from a traditional course; therefore, learning curve and success are heavily dependent on class attendance & participation. In other words, students must understand that attending classes and active participation will play a crucial role in this course.

Course Materials

We will be using one textbook for this course:

Customized Financial Innovation Textbook ISBN#

9781307541809, \$129 net

eBook: FINC 361: 9781307551235, \$88.59

[Students click on this link to purchase the eBook for FINC 361](#)

Assessment Measures

Students' progress will be measured by their performance on assignments, tests, term papers, and in class presentations & discussions.

Exams 51%

There will be three exams altogether. Each exam is worth 17 percent.

Group Project 10%

Students are allowed to work in groups. I prefer no more than three students per group. The final project and presentation will be conducted in the last week (s) of the semester.

Class Participation & Attendance	9%
Assignments	30%

Each assignment is equally weighted. At this point, I am not sure how many assignments will be given to students. For example, if 10 assignments are given to students then each assignment is worth = $30\%/10 = 3\%$. If 5 assignments are given then each assignment = $30\%/5 = 6\%$. **All Exams**

Will Be Proctored

Because of social-distancing issue, students whose turn is not on campus on the day of the Exam, they will take the test on the Course D2L.

Below are the details

This course will make use of an online proctoring tool that requires you take one or more exams on a Windows or Mac computer equipped with a functional webcam, microphone and high-speed Internet connection. You will be required to display a photo ID to the camera to validate your identity before the exam begins. The Radford University RU Express photo id is the preferred form of identification. Any government-issued photo ID can be used as an alternate, but the Radford University RU Express card is recommended. The remainder of the exam session will be recorded and may be reviewed by a proctor and the instructor.

You are required to be in a private setting for your exam. The system will be recording video and audio of you and your surroundings throughout the exam. Prior to taking an exam, you should inform roommates, family members, potential visitors, etc., that the exam session and the surroundings will be recorded. You should ask others to leave the room while you are taking the exam. Any violations of the Standards of Student Conduct observed during the exam session and the course as a whole will be reported to the Student Standards and Conduct Office.

As part of the university agreement, the vendor has been authorized as an agent of Radford University to access education records protected under the U.S. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 34 CFR 99. During the examination, you and your actions will be recorded via webcam. Video recordings will be stored on the vendors' systems, with access restricted to authorized personnel only. A review of such recordings will only be permitted for authorized vendor personnel and any party authorized by the University, including the Student Standards and Conduct Office.

Respondus Monitor Specific Support

There are no fees associated with using Respondus Monitor to take an online exam. Students will be required to install the free Respondus Lockdown Browser application and are encouraged to test their equipment (a functional webcam, microphone and high-speed Internet connection) well

in advance of any online quiz/exam to ensure their system is functioning appropriately. Please contact the Radford University Technology Assistance Center at 540-831-7500 or www.radford.edu/itonestop to help resolve any problems.

Tentative Exam Schedule

1 st Mid-Term Exam	17%
2 nd Mid-Term Exam	17%
Final Exam (based on the University Schedule)	17%

There will be **5 additional bonus points** beyond 100 points. You may call it as an extra credit. These 5 bonus points are based on various factors that include but are not limited to class participation, attendance, class etiquettes, and my personal observations during class sessions. **There is no typical formula for these points; distribution of these points by far is based on my discretion.** As I mentioned earlier that they are extra credit points (bonus points) beyond 100 assigned points. Students expect to receive anything from 0 to 5 points in this extra credit (bonus points) section.

Learning Outcomes

1. To describe undergraduate students new financial products available in the market.
2. To outline and discuss the applications of new financial products to undergraduate students.
3. Understand the challenges and regulations faced by Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.
4. Evaluate initial Coin Offering, challenges and regulations concerning ICOs.
5. Understand the concepts of Crowdfunding and able to evaluate different form of crowdfunding such as community crowdfunding, financial return crowdfunding, donation crowdfunding, reward crowdfunding, peer-to-peer landing, and equity crowdfunding.
6. Evaluate procedures, costs, and benefits associated with different platforms that can be used for crowdfunding e.g. Indigogo, Kickstarter, and others.
7. Understand the basics of Blockchain technology and how this technology can be applied to different businesses.
8. Evaluate the role of Blockchain in transforming financial services and the challenges for incorporating Blockchain into financial systems.

Grade Determination

The course grade will be determined as follows:

91%↑ – 100% = A
87%↑ - 91% = A-
83%↑ - 87% = B+
80%↑ - 83% = B
76%↑ - 80% = B-
72%↑ - 76% = C+
70%↑ - 72% = C
67%↑ - 70% = C-
65%↑ - 67% = D+
62%↑ - 65% = D
60% ↑ - 62% = D-
< 60% = F

Important Notes

Please read carefully.

1. If you should be late for an exam, no extra time will be allotted to you.
2. Cheaters will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. Please note the following statement:

“A fundamental principle of academic, business, and community life is honesty. Violation of this ethical concept will result in penalties ranging from a grade of “F” in the course to dismissal from the university. In all penalties, a letter of fact will be included in the student’s file.”

3. You will be responsible for any material covered in class that is not in your text.
4. You are responsible for withdrawing from the class should you decide to do so.
5. You are expected to be on time for class. This is especially important for exam dates.

Other Class Policies

1. **ADA.** Students may seek accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should review Radford University's ADA Policy and work with the University's Office for Students with Disabilities. A note in this regard is also written below under “Special Accommodation” in this course syllabus.
2. **E-mail.** Students are required to check their email throughout the course. If you use a non-RU e-mail address as your primary e-mail address, arrange for your RU e-mail to be forwarded to your non-RU account. You are responsible for all email sent to your RU account pertaining to this class.

3. **Responsibilities.** Each student is responsible for keeping up with the class schedule, checking email, and checking the course web site on a weekly basis.
4. **Incompletes.** There are no incompletes for this course, except in the case of extraordinary circumstances (e.g., excessive absences due to severe illness).
5. **Failure to complete a quiz or exam or project.** If a student misses a quiz or exam deadline due to an extended illness and a written and a verifiable excuse is provided within two weeks of the missed quiz/exam deadline, then I may offer an alternative quiz/exam. The physician's note must indicate that the student is too ill to take the scheduled quiz or exam during the entire quiz or exam period. The written excuse must also provide the physician's phone number and address, and a copy must be included in the instructor's files.
6. **Late completion of an assignment.** Late assignments will not be graded and will only be accepted (graded) under certain circumstances such as those mentioned in points 5 and 6 above.

Special Accommodation

If you are seeking academic accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act at Radford University, you are required to register with the Center for Accessibility Services (CAS) [formerly known as Disability Resource Office (DRO)]. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please submit your documentation to the CAS 3rd Floor (Suites 301-327), Russell Hall (formerly DRO in the lower level of Tyler Hall Suites 54-69), by fax to 540-831-6525, by email to cas@radford.edu (formerly dro@radford.edu). After submitting documentation to the office, you will set up an interview with a Disability Services Specialist to discuss accommodations. You will be notified via email once your accommodation package is complete and ready to be picked up. Once you have picked up your accommodation package, you will need to meet with each course professor during their office hours to review and discuss your package.

For more information and/or for documentation guidelines, visit <http://www.radford.edu/content/cas/home.html> (formerly www.radford.edu/dro) or call 540-8316350.

Re-Grading

In line with Grading Guidelines for Radford University Undergraduate College, the process of assigning of grades is intended be one of unbiased evaluation. This means that students are encouraged to respect the integrity and authority of the professor's grading system and discouraged from pursuing arbitrary challenges to it.

If a student feels that an inadvertent error has been made in the grading of an individual assignment or in assessing an overall course grade, a request to have that the grade be re-evaluated may be submitted. Students should submit such requests in writing to the professor within 7 days of

receiving the grade, including a brief written statement of why he or she believes that an error in grading has been made.

Classroom Norms

- Arrive to class on time and stay to the end of the class period. Chronically arriving late or leaving class early is unprofessional and disruptive to the entire class. Repeated tardiness will have an impact on your grade.
- Turn off all electronic devices prior to the start of class. Laptops, cell phones and other electronic devices are a distraction to everyone.

General Behavior

The School expects that students will conduct themselves with respect and professionalism toward faculty, students, and others present in class and will follow the rules laid down by the instructor for classroom behavior. Students who fail to do so may be asked to leave the classroom.

Academic Integrity

Integrity is critical to the learning process and to all that we do here at Radford University. As members of our community, all students agree to abide by the Radford University Student Code of Conduct, which includes a commitment to:

- Exercise integrity in all aspects of one's academic work including, but not limited to, the preparation and completion of exams, papers and all other course requirements by not engaging in any method or means that provides an unfair advantage.
- Clearly acknowledge the work and efforts of others when submitting written work as one's own. Ideas, data, direct quotations (which should be designated with quotation marks), paraphrasing, creative expression, or any other incorporation of the work of others should be fully referenced.
- Refrain from behaving in ways that knowingly support, assist, or in any way attempt to enable another person to engage in any violation of the Code of Conduct. Our support also includes

reporting any observed violations of this Code of Conduct or other School and University policies that are deemed to adversely affect the Radford University community.

Honor Code

You are responsible for maintaining Radford University honor code, which mandates zero tolerance for cheating.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to alter the contents, requirements and/or scheduling of this course.