FINTECH (FTEC)

FTEC 493. Blockchains, Cryptocurrencies, and Cryptoventures. 3 Units.
It behooves today's business leaders to be well acquainted with
blockchain technologies and AI, two seemingly disparate technologies
that have the potential to fundamentally disrupt a wide range of
businesses. The popularity of blockchain technologies has increased
exponentially since the release of bitcoin in 2009. While bitcoins garnered
a lot of attention during the initial days, the focus has shifted over time to
the underlying technology: blockchain. This wildly innovative technology
has made possible tasks that were hitherto deemed implausible:
validate ownership in a digital asset, verify the true state of a transaction
without relying on a costly intermediary etc. Accurate predictions and
sound judgements are two critical ingredients of any decision making
process. While the jury is still out on whether algorithms can make sound
judgements, recent developments in a field called machine learning (and
its sub-field, deep learning) have led to dramatic improvements in the
accuracy of predictions made by these algorithms. Significantly, this gain
in accuracy has been accompanied by a reduction in overall costs. These
in turn have spurred the recent interest in AI. Organizations that have
enabled AI at the enterprise level appear to be making more informed
decisions and innovating new products. In this course, we will unpack
these technologies and examine a wide range of relevant business use
cases. Our objective is to provide a practical introduction to these key
technologies and their business implications. We focus on business
perspectives, rather than on the technical dimensions. Fittingly, this
course is open to all graduate students of Weatherhead School (MBA and
all specialty Masters). Students are not expected to have any specific
programming background; however, a basic understanding of statistics
is required to better appreciate the discourse on Artificial Intelligence.
Offered as BTEC 493, FNCE 493 and FTEC 493. Prereq: For Master of
Science in FinTech students only.