

DFIN-535 Digital Currencies in the Developing World

*Does not require Programming Background



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

Course Code DFIN-535	Course Title Digital Currencies in the Developing World	ECTS Credits 10
Department Finance	Semester Fall/Spring/Summer	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field Finance	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 2 nd Cycle	Year of Study 2 nd	Lecturer(s) George Papageorgiou Adam Hayes
Mode of Delivery Distance Learning	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The main objective of the course is to provide a critical study of how the under-development of financial and institutional systems in developing countries may be hindering growth and understand if there are opportunities for digital currency-based models to accelerate/leapfrog phases of development

The main topic areas include:

- 1/ World Demographics – population growth, density, migration
- 2/ World Income – Distribution, Poverty, Growth
- 3/ Banking Infrastructure and Micro-Finance
- 4/ Efficiency and Obstacles to grow Money Transfer and Payments
- 5/ Areas in the Developing World where Digital Currencies may have potential

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- 1/ Understand the state of financial inclusion and the reasons behind it
- 2/ Evaluate financial and non-financial barriers to growth
- 3/ Understand how microfinance functions, its limitations and the business models it has followed so far
- 4/ Evaluate the degree to which blockchain based digital currencies could play a role in promoting development
- 5/ Establish a continuity between digitizing services and infrastructure via the blockchain, as it relates to the near term geopolitical future events

Course Contents:

1/	Demographics: Population growth, density, migration
2/	Income distribution, poverty, growth
3/	Current State of Banking Infrastructure in the developing world
4/	Problems/Challenges/Obstacles of the current system
5/	Rationale behind Microfinance
6/	Overview of Microfinance History & Basic Models
7/	Critiques of Microfinance
8/	Case studies of different microfinance models in practice
9/	Digital currencies in the developing world
10/	Decentralization via blockchain based systems
11/	Global geopolitical perspective/events for the near/mid future
12/	Perspective on how open digital currencies can influence or be influenced by global geopolitical perspective/events

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Live Discussions, Case Studies, Assignments, Forum discussions
--

Assessment Methods:

4 multipart assignment essays	40%
Forum and live session participation	10%
Final Exam	50%

Assessment Methods:

Assignment essays, Final Exam, Participation
--

Recommended Textbooks/Readings:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Muhammad Yunus, Karl Weber	Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism	PublicAffairs; Reprint edition (January 6, 2009)	2009	ISBN-10: 1586486675 ISBN-13: 978-1586486679
Hernando De Soto	The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else	Basic Books; Reprint edition (July 9, 2003)	2003	ISBN-10: 0465016154 ISBN-13: 978-0465016150

Debraj Ray	Development Economics	Princeton University Press (January 12, 1998)	1998	ISBN-10: 0691017069 ISBN-13: 978-0691017068
Dwight H. Perkins , Steven Radelet , David L. Lindauer , Steven A. Block	Economics of Development		2012	ISBN 978-0-39393435-9
Tonny K. Omwansa, Nicholas P. Sullivan , The Guardian	Money, Real Quick: The story of M-PESA	Guardian Books	2012	

Selected Online Readings:

A large selection of complementary and relevant research and readings are provided with each course material every week