

**Commerce 4FY3
Introduction to FinTech
Fall 2024 Course Outline**

**DeGroot School of Business
McMaster University**

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Section 1: Fri 8:30 – 11:20

Dr. Arash S. Dahaj

Instructor

soleia2@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: by appointment

Class Location: Check MOSAIC

Student TA

Sima Fallah Tafti

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Office: --

Office Hours: : by appointment

Course website: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

COURSE ELEMENTS

Credit Value:	3	Leadership:	Yes	IT skills:	No	Global view:	Yes
A2L:	Yes	Ethics:	No	Numeracy:	Yes	Written skills:	Yes
Participation:	Yes	Innovation:	Yes	Group work:	Yes	Oral skills:	Yes
Evidence-based:	Yes	Experiential:	No	Final Exam:	No	Guest speaker(s):	Yes

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Delivery Mode: In-person

Lectures: (three hours)

Prerequisite(s): COMMERCE 2FB3 (or 3FA3) or IBH 3AC3; and registration in any Bachelor of Commerce or Engineering and Management program or relevant minor (see Faculty Note 2.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course provides a broad overview of the financial technology (FinTech) industry. Specifically, it will cover; how financial services have evolved key players and their roles; existing products, how FinTech has evolved key players and their innovations; technologies underpinning FinTech innovations, major FinTech innovations and their impact on financial services, regulations governing the financial services industry and how to identify and analyze future trends/opportunities of FinTech.

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Mosaic](#)
- [Avenue to Learn](#)
- [Student Accessibility Services - Accommodations](#)
- [McMaster University Library](#)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to complete the following key tasks:

- Describe and Analyze Key FinTech Concepts
- Evaluate Regulatory and Ethical Considerations
- Examine the Role of Emerging Technologies
- Analyze Real-World FinTech Cases: Develop analytical skills by examining and evaluating real-world cases of companies within the FinTech sector, understanding their business models, challenges, and innovations.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

- Understand the fundamental concepts and components of FinTech.
- Understand the Regulatory and Ethical Landscape of FinTech
- Recognize the Impact of Emerging Technologies in Finance

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND TEXTS

Required: No textbook is required for this course. lecture notes and readings will be assigned on the course website before each lecture.

Case Study Purchase Requirements

As part of this course, students will engage in group projects that involve analyzing real-world FinTech case studies. The following resources are acceptable for acquiring these cases:

- Ivey Publishing
- Harvard Business School Publishing
- The Case Centre
- MIT Sloan Management Review

Each group is responsible for selecting, purchasing, and analyzing one or more cases from the sources listed above. Please ensure that your selected cases align with the course topics and learning outcomes. The costs associated with purchasing these cases should be shared among group members. If you encounter any difficulties in accessing or selecting appropriate cases, please consult with the instructor for guidance.

CLASS FORMAT

This is an in-person 3-hour course. The three hours will consist primarily of lectures, supplemented with examples, case discussions, small presentations, interactive activities, and guest speakers. There will be one to two short breaks part way through at a convenient time based on what we are working on. Please use this time to take care of personal needs of various kinds.

COURSE EVALUATION

GRADE COMPONENT	WEIGHT in %	DESCRIPTION
Active Participation	10	
In-class test 1(case study)	10	In-class, week 4, Group assignment
Group Assignment	25	Due Week 6, Group assignment
In-class test 2 (case study)	10	In-class, week 10, Group assignment
Final Project	35	
Peer Project Review Report	10	Evaluate a group project

COURSE DELIVERABLES

➤ **In-class test 1 & 2(case study)**

Description: During this in-class assignment, students will work in groups of 3 to research and analyze a case study. Group members will be assigned randomly, each student will be assigned a specific role within their group and will be assessed both individually and as part of the group. Students will produce a written report or presentation on the selected open banking solution. The report or presentation should be concise, well-organized, and supported by credible sources. Additional details on the format and submission will be provided on the day of the test.

Assessment Criteria:

- Depth of Research
- Critical Evaluation
- Innovation Analysis
- Presentation and Structure
- Group Collaboration and teamwork

➤ **Group Assignment**

In groups of 3-4, Students will suggest a portfolio of cryptocurrencies based on their research and understanding of different cryptocurrencies and their market dynamics. They will then conduct backtesting to simulate portfolio performance under various risk appetites of investors. Further details regarding the format and submission will be provided during the class.

➤ **Final Project:**

In this comprehensive case study, students in groups of 3-4, will analyze a real-world financial technology solution that incorporates FinTech. They will assess the advantages, risks, suitability, and challenges of adopting the solution in current business within the financial services industry. The analysis should include recommendations for implementation and mitigation strategies for identified risks.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late submissions are not permitted and will receive a grade of 0. In-class work must be submitted before the class ends. Please ensure you upload or hand in all papers, worksheets, and other materials before leaving the classroom.

COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK

Students who wish to correspond with instructors or TAs directly via email must send messages that originate from their official McMaster University email account. This protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information as well as confirms the identity of the student.

All students must receive feedback regarding their progress prior to the final date by which a student may cancel the course without failure by default.

- For Level 1 and Level 2 courses, this feedback must equal a minimum of 20% of the final grade.
- For Level 3 courses and above, this feedback must equal a minimum of 10% of the final grade.

Instructors may solicit feedback via an informal course review with students by Week #4 to allow time for modifications in curriculum delivery.

REQUESTING RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar [“Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”](#) and the link below*;

<http://ug.degroot.mcmaster.ca/forms-and-resources/missed-course-work-policy/>

COURSE MODIFICATION

From time to time there may be a need to remove/add topics or to change the schedule or the delivery format. If these are necessary, you will be given as much advance notice as possible.

GENERATIVE AI

Students may use generative AI for [editing/translating/outlining/brainstorming/revising/etc] their work throughout the course so long as the use of generative AI is referenced and cited following citation instructions given in the syllabus. Use of generative AI outside the stated use of [editing/translating/outlining/brainstorming/revising/etc] without citation will constitute academic dishonesty. It is the student’s responsibility to be clear on the limitations for use and to be clear on the expectations for citation and reference and to do so appropriately.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY/PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. Avenue to Learn, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn, LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used.

Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a

need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, Avenue to Learn and/or McMaster email.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COURSE POLICIES

Your enrolment in Commerce **4YF3** will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.**

Lack of awareness of the course policies **cannot be invoked** at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

COURSE SCHEDULE

**Commerce 4FY3
International Human Services Accounting
Fall 2024 Course Schedule**

Date	Dates	Topic	Evaluations
WEEK 1	06-Sep	Introduction to Financial Technology	
WEEK 2	13-Sep	Regulatory frameworks in Fin Tech	
WEEK 3	20-Sep	Role of Artificial Intelligence in Financial services industry	
WEEK 4	27-Sep	Role of Artificial Intelligence in Financial services industry	In-class test 1
WEEK 5	04-Oct	Block Chains and Crypto Currencies	
WEEK 6	11-Oct	Block Chains and Crypto Currencies	Group Assignment
WEEK 7	18-Oct	Mid-term recess(es)	
Week 8	25-Oct		
WEEK 9	01-Nov	Open Banking Technologies	In-class test 2
WEEK 10	08-Nov	Open Banking Technologies	
WEEK 11	15-Nov	Crowdfunding and Peer-to-Peer Lending	
WEEK 12	22-Nov		Project Presentations
WEEK 13	29-Nov		Project Presentations and peer review