COURSE DETAIL

CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND BLOCKCHAIN: NEW CHALLENGES FOR BANKS AND CENTRAL BANKS

Country
France

Host Institution
Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)
Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Economics

UCEAP Course Number
111

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND BLOCKCHAIN: NEW CHALLENGES FOR BANKS AND CENTRAL BANKS

UCEAP Transcript Title
CRYPTO & BLOCKCHAIN

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units
3.00

Course Description

This course provides an understanding of the recent developments in cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology and their consequences on the banking sector and central banks. Cryptocurrencies and Fintech questions the banking system in its essential intermediary role but also central banks as provider of legal tender currency. Cryptocurrencies like BTC built on blockchains, work on a decentralized scheme disrupting our hierarchical system. This is a serious challenge for Central Banks and regulators since the banking and financial system greatly influences the state of the economy. Cryptocurrencies - the Bitcoin in particular - were born as a way to develop an alternative to the existing system judged corrupted and biased by human action. Cryptocurrencies are more than just the design of a new monetary system, it offers an alternative design for the organization of the society based on decentralization and trust. The course investigates the consequences of their further adoption on banks and central banking together with the response of Central Banks and regulators. After a review of our traditional banking and financial system, the course introduces cryptocurrencies starting with Bitcoin, the Ethereum, stablecoins and CBDCs. The last part of the course is dedicated to the emergence of different regulatory frameworks at the international level, in particular MICA and Genius Act.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
DECO 25A13

Host Institution Course Title
CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND BLOCKCHAIN: NEW CHALLENGES FOR BANKS AND CENTRAL BANKS

Host Institution Course Details

https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/en/?202520/291233

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Seminar

Host Institution Department
Economics

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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