Course Syllabus

ECO21: The Bitcoin Standard

Dr. Saifedean Ammous

Summer 2019

This course will be based on *The Bitcoin Standard: The Decentralized Alternative to Central Banking*. A 1-hour lecture will be delivered online once a week, for 10 weeks, at the times listed below.

Lectures are delivered live, but can be accessed online at any time until the course ends. Students can ask questions and vote on which questions they would like to see addressed at the end of the lecture.

**Week 1: Money**

The Bitcoin Standard, prologue and chapter 1


**Week 2: Primitive Money**

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 2


You may also be interested in watching the movie *His Majesty O’Keefe*, with Burt Lancaster. Or you may read the book on which it is based, written by Laurence Klingman and Gerald Green.
Week 3: Monetary Metals

Required reading:

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 3


Christopher, Ben. How the Hunt Brothers cornered the silver market and lost it all. Priceconomics blog, August 2016.

Recommended reading:


Week 4: Government Money

Required reading:

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 4


Recommended reading:


**Week 5: Money and Time Preference**

Required reading:

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 5


Recommended reading:


Week 6: Capitalism’s Information System

Required reading:

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 6


Further reading:


Week 7: Sound money and individual freedom

Required reading:

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 7


Further reading:


Week 8: Digital Money

Required reading:

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 8

Pritzker, Yan. “Inventing Bitcoin.”


Further reading:


PlanB. Modeling Bitcoin’s value with scarcity.

Week 9: What is bitcoin good for?

Required reading:

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 9


Further reading:


**Week 10: Bitcoin Questions. Conclusion**

The Bitcoin Standard, chapter 10

This week draws on all the combined readings of the previous weeks.

**General Bitcoin Resources:**

Bitcoin.org: The original domain used by Nakamoto to announce Bitcoin, share the white paper, and distribute the code. It continues to be run by several contributors and serves as a good resource for information.

NakamotoInstitute.org: The Satoshi Nakamoto Institute curates primary source literature on cryptography and society, with a focus on the history and economics of Bitcoin. It also maintains an archive of all Satoshi’s known writings: the Bitcoin white paper, the emails he sent, and the forum posts he made.

http://lopp.net/bitcoin.html: An excellent, comprehensive, and regularly updated page listing Bitcoin resources maintained by Jameson Lopp.