

**University of Delaware**  
**CISC 859 – Fall 2021**  
**Distributed Ledger Technology (Blockchain)**

## 1 Administrative Information

- Instructor: Chien-Chung Shen
- Meeting Time and Room: TuTh 11 am – 12:15 pm in Memorial Hall 126
- Contact Information:
  - Office: 450 Smith Hall
  - Email: [cshen@udel.edu](mailto:cshen@udel.edu)
  - Phone: (302) 831-1951
- Office Hours: Monday 1:45 pm – 3:45 pm and by appointment
- Course Website: <http://www.cis.udel.edu/~cshen/859>

## 2 Course Description

The objective of the course is to review recent advances in the areas of Distributed Ledger or Blockchain and related technologies. In the first few weeks, I will lecture on the design of Bitcoin. Later, the course run in a seminar-discussion style with student presentations.

The course will require reading (books and papers), homework/programming assignments, in-class presentations, and discussions. Students are responsible for being *proactive* in their learning, and becoming knowledgeable on topics in the areas of Blockchain and decentralized applications.

## 3 Student Background

Enthusiasm about Blockchain and related technologies.

## 4 Work Requirement

During the semester, students are responsible for completing the assigned readings, programming assignments, and in-class presentations.

## 5 Grading

Final scores will be determined using the following formula:

- 50% Homework and programming assignments
- 30% In-class presentations
- 20% Coursera course on **Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency Technologies**

Final grades indicate absolute performance, and hence will be determined according to the following table.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-
90%	87%	84%	80%	77%	74%	70%	below

## 6 Required and Recommended Textbooks

There are required and recommended textbooks. We will also be reading papers.

## 7 Academic Honesty

I don't mind if you help each other with understanding the material; in fact, I encourage it. However, **all** work turned in on programming assignments must be your own (group) work. If any portions of the work are found to be shared between two (or more) students or groups, there will be 0 (zero) credit given to all students concerned and all students will be disciplined. We will act harshly at any sign of plagiarism or other academic misconduct. This policy is in the interest of those students who do their own work, which hopefully applies to all of you in this class. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the University's Policy of Academic Dishonesty found in The Official Student Handbook.

## 8 Laptops and Cellphones

I love my job teaching at UD, and promise to work extremely hard to make this class exciting and challenging. In return, I expect your full attention in class. I believe cell phone texting, using a laptop for doing other class assignments, reading email, playing video games, visiting Facebook, Twitter, *etc.*, while someone is working to educate you is as rude as it gets, and I will be personally offended. At the beginning of class, turn off your cellphones, and close your Gmail/Facebook/Twitter/*etc.* pages.