# BCIS 5750 Fall 2025

## Instructor Information

**Name:** Kane J. Smith, PhD.

**Email:** Kane.Smith@unt.edu

**Office Location:** 304B

**Class Time:** Thursday 6:30pm to 9:20pm

**Class Location:** BLB 005

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

**TA Email:** TBA

### Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Evaluate strategies to protect data, including cryptographic systems and their use in real world applications. Examine latest developments in blockchains and their role in security and data management. Students, through hands-on learning, will explore topics such as crypto-mining, the evaluation and application of blockchains as well as how to evaluate and leverage blockchain-based technologies in the business world. Additionally, students will learn the basics of cryptography and how it is utilized via blockchain technology.

Prerequisite: None

**Course objectives**: Upon successful completion of this course the student will:

* Understand the origin and evolution of blockchain technology from crypto-mining to other business-related applications

## Understand the fundamentals of cryptography and how it is applied in blockchain technology

* Explain how blockchains can be used along with cryptography to secure information in various business sectors
* Learn how blockchains are developed for various business-related applications
* Analyze and evaluate the blockchain-based technologies for relevance and value-add within organizations

## Required/Recommended Materials

* No Textbook is required. All materials are provided by the instructor on Canvas.
* All supplementary materials and/or readings are provided by the instructor on Canvas.
* Technology requirements for courses with digital materials:

This course has digital components.  To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System and other required equipment or software. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content.  Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn) (https://online.unt.edu/learn).

## ADA Accommodation Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### Communication Practices

The best way to connect with me is through email and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated. Additional meetings via Zoom can be set up by appointment.

Ethics/Code of Conduct

## Students found to be in violation of academic integrity standards will incur penalties ranging from a failing grade of a specific assignment to a failing grade in the course. Cheating on an exam or assisting others in cheating, misrepresenting others’ work as your own, and severe plagiarism (over 30% similarity on the project) will result in a grade of F in the course. All academic integrity violations will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office.

## Assessing Your Work

There are no late submissions accepted in this course. This is a project-based and group-based course and it is the responsibility of each group to ensure it is done according to the dates listed in Canvas. There are 3 individual submissions in this course beyond the group-based work; Mid-term exam, Final Exam and AS10/11.

The following is the grading scale for the course I will use to calculate your final grade:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 50-59%

Point totals are broken down as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assignments | 400 points |
| Term Paper | 200 points |
| Mid-term Exam | 200 points |
| Final Exam | 200 points |
|  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| TOTAL | 1000 points |

The following criteria will apply to the grading of Assignments and Exams:

**A** - Work demonstrates not only a clear understanding of the material and superior ability to utilize that material in the assignment. All criteria are met. The student’s work goes beyond expectations.

**B** - Work that demonstrates a good understanding of the material under study, and utilizes the material well in the assignment. The student meets the assignment criteria, with few errors or omissions.

**C** - Work that minimally demonstrates a basic or technical understanding of the material under study, and uses some relevant material in the assignment. Work may not address one or more criteria or may not accomplish what was asked.

**D/F** - Work that is incomplete, inappropriate and/or shows little or no comprehension of the material under study.

## Class Attendance and Participation

In-person class attendance is expected. No standard accommodations for non-attending students will be provided. Come on time and stay for the duration of each class. It is critical that you not only attend class meetings, but are fully engaged and participating in such meetings. Excessive absences and failure to participate will impact your grade. Specifically, more than 2 absences without a documented medical reason may reduce your overall points by ½ a letter (5%) and more than 4 absences may reduce your grade by 1 letter (10%). Coming to class late is defined by the instructor as entering the classroom ‘5 minutes after the scheduled start time.’ In addition, if you must miss a class, you remain fully responsible for all material, changes in the schedule, and other information given during class.

## Student Conduct

Students are expected to behave in a respectful and professional manner when in class and when interacting with the instructor and other students. Talking in class during the lecture is very disruptive even when done at a low voice. If you want to contribute or ask a question, please raise your hand. Students engaging in disruptive behavior, including talking during the lecture without an explicit permission, will be asked to leave the classroom resulting in an absence and a corresponding grade penalty as described in the section on attendance. Disruptive students, including those talking in class without permission of the instructor, who refuse to leave the class will incur grade penalties up to a failing grade in the course, will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may be forcefully removed from the classroom by the UNT police.

## Professional Communication

## Students will communicate with the instructor verbally and in writing using professional language. All written communication will be composed using proper grammar and spelling. All electronic communication will be conducted over email (not on canvas). All student emails to the instructor will be sent from the student’s official UNT email with a subject line starting with: BCIS 5120: <Type of concern>. Emails sent in violation of these guidelines will be ignored. All grade related questions and concerns need to be communicated in writing over email (not on canvas) with the subject line: BCIS 5120: Grade Concern. Any grade-related emails should only contain information relevant to the grade in question. Any references to your grades in other courses, or the impact of the grade on your overall academic standing are non-relevant and will result in the grade concern being dismissed.

## Course Requirements/Schedule

Schedule is subject to change as necessary. Any updates will be announced and posted on Canvas.

| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment Due** | **Points Possible** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Week 1* | *8/21* | *Introduction & The Origins of Blockchain* |  |  |
| *Week 2* | *8/28* | *The Fundamentals of Blockchain* | *Assignment 1* | *100 pts.* |
| *Week 3* | *9/4* | *Cryptography & Blockchain I* |  |  |
| *Week 4* | *9/11* | *Cryptography & Blockchain II* |  |  |
| *Week 5* | *9/18* | *Consensus Mechanisms* | *Assignment 2* | *100 pts.* |
| *Week 6* | *9/25* | *Cryptocurrency* |  |  |
| *Week 7* | *10/2* | *Cryptocurrency in Action* |  |  |
| *Week 8* | *10/9* | *Blockchain in Business* | *Assignment 3* | *100 pts.* |
| *Week 9* | *10/16* | ***Midterm Exam*** | ***Test*** | ***200 pts.*** |
| *Week 10* | *10/23* | *Blockchain in Business -Finance* |  |  |
| *Week 11* | *10/30* | *Blockchain in Business –Supply chain Management* |  |  |
| *Week 12* | *11/6* | *Blockchain in Business –Healthcare* | *Assignment 4* | *100 pts.* |
| *Week 13* | *11/13* | *Evaluating Blockchain – Is It Right for Your Business?* |  |  |
| *Week 14* | *11/20* | *Legal & Ethical Issues of Blockchain* |  |  |
| *Week 15* | *12/4* | *Putting it all together – Final Review* | *Term Paper* | *200 pts.* |
| *Week 16* | *12/11* | ***Final Exam*** | ***Test*** | ***200 pts****.* |

## College of Business and University Policies and Procedures

## Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity (available at https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity ), academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Additional information regarding RCOB and ITDS academic integrity policies and practices will be posted on the Canvas site.

## Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

## Health-related Absences

## Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. If you cannot attend a specific class section due to a health-related reasons, it is important that you communicate with the me prior to being absent so that we can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. If you experience a medical emergency that may result in more than one absence or inability to submit assignments on time, please notify the Dean of Students and the instructor as soon as possible to minimize the impact on academic standing.

## Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

## Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Business Leadership Building

Severe Weather. In the event of severe weather, all building occupants should immediately seek shelter in the designated shelter-in-place area in the building. If unable to safely move to the designated shelter-in-place area, seek shelter in a windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building. All building occupants should take shelter in rooms 055, 077, 090, and the restrooms on the basement level. In rooms 170, 155, and the restrooms on the first floor.

Bomb Threat/Fire. In the event of a bomb threat or fire in the building, all building occupants should immediately evacuate the building using the nearest exit. Once outside, proceed to the designated assembly area. If unable to safely move to the designated assembly area, contact one or more members of your department or unit to let them know you are safe and inform them of your whereabouts. Persons with mobility impairments who are unable to safely exit the building should move to a designated area of refuge and await assistance from emergency responders. All building occupants should immediately evacuate the building and proceed to the south side of Crumley Hall in the grassy area, west of parking lot 24.