Independent Study Proposal: Blockchain Development Curriculum

Student: Joseph Weller

Faculty Member: Jonathon Magana

Date: 11/8/2021

Learning Outcomes:

- Document blockchain topics including Crypto Currency and Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)
- Create and deploy an Algorand Standard Assets (ASAs) in the Algorand developer ecosystem
- Reinforce understanding of blockchain development concepts by creating tutorial material
- Develop blockchain learning modules suitable for an MSOE senior (CS/SE)

Description of Independent Study:

The purpose of this independent study is to develop a deep understanding of blockchain by developing examples, tutorials, and material suitable for use by a CS/SE MSOE senior. The examples will include lab-like exercises, including how to represent assets with blockchain using the Algorand Standard Asset feature. This material could be used as the basis for developing a technical elective course suitable for CS/SE seniors, and other students with previous courses in Data Structures and Network Protocols.

Proposed Method of Solution:

The independent study will include an overview of blockchain and the Algorand developer ecosystem, and the creation of tutorial/learning materials.

Deliverables:

In addition to weekly check-in with faculty coordinator about project progress, the following should be provided on or before the indicated week in the quarter (adjustments may be made by the faculty coordinator as needed)

Proposed Course Material:

- W1: Topics documented: History of Blockchains, Blockchain Essentials & Cryptography, Consensus Mechanisms
- W2: Topics documented: Proof-of-Work (PoW), Mining, Crypto Currency, Security Issues
- W3: Creation of a tutorial: Creating a blockchain currency from scratch using python
- W4: Topics Documented: Layer 2 Networks & Cross Chain Swaps, Soft/Hard Forks, Network Fees/Scaling
- W5: Topics Documented: Smart Contracts & Decentralized Applications, Ethereum & Smart Contract Platforms
- W6: Development of examples in Algorand/ASA, Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)
- W7: Continued Development of examples in Algorand/ASA, including creation of a Tutorial

- W8: Additional Crypto Currency tutorials and examples (Will be determined by the student and faculty coordinator together once a better understanding of the previous material in the course has been obtained)
- W9: Document Legal Issues and current developments in Blockchain
- W10: Preparation of Final Presentation

Grading Criteria:

Final Project: 50%

Weekly Deliverables: 25% Final Presentation: 25%