

LAWS 2351- The Regulation of Crypto Assets (Intensive)

CREDIT HOURS: 1

For better or worse, Canada is a global leader in regulating the buying and selling of crypto assets. Better, because Canadian investors are arguably among the best-protected crypto asset consumers in the world, in the face of the high-profile failures of platforms like FTX. Worse, because some global platforms – including Binance, the world’s largest – have declined to serve the Canadian market because of its regulatory burden.

This course will provide an introduction to the regulation of crypto assets under Canadian securities law and other applicable regimes (such as banking regulation and consumer protection regimes). In addition to the requirements applicable to basic transactions, we will examine regulators’ approach to emerging issues, such as staking and stablecoins, and the role of decentralized finance (DeFi) more generally in Canadian financial services. We will also examine high-profile failures, litigation and enforcement actions by other regulators (notably, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)) for lessons learned.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-requisite(s): LAWS 2138 Securities Regulation

Assessment Method: Pass/fail, based on a take-home assignment.

Restrictions: None