

Bitcoin Basics: From Skeptic to Stacker Syllabus

Wednesdays 10:45 - 12:15 pm | Summer 2026

Maryland Administrative Building 2 (MAB2)

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Course Description

Bitcoin Basics: From Skeptic to Stacker is a 10-session introductory course designed for adults who are curious about Bitcoin. No prior technical experience, no math, no financial knowledge or expertise required. We begin with the fundamentals of money — what it is, why it exists, and how the current system works (and doesn't). From there we examine Bitcoin: what it is, how it works, why millions of people around the world are choosing it, and the real risks and misconceptions. By the end of the course, you'll have the knowledge to make your own informed decision.

Course Materials

Slides, handouts, and supplementary resources will be shared each week. You will need your phone to download a digital wallet and other resources, if interested.

Week	Topic
Week 1 / 27 May	What Is Bitcoin? (And What It Isn't) — Introduction & orientation; common myths busted
Week 2 / 3 June	History of Money & Why Bitcoin Exists — From barter to gold to fiat; the Federal Reserve; the 2008 financial crisis
Week 3 / 10 June	Bitcoin vs. The World: Critics, Crypto & Context — Energy use, regulation, altcoins; class debate
Week 4 / 17 June	How Bitcoin Works (Without the Math) — Mining, nodes, and the blockchain
Week 5 / 24 June	21 Million: Scarcity, Halving & Sound Money — Fixed supply, the halving schedule, inflation comparison; sound money scorecard
Week 6 / 1 July	Buying, Storing & Protecting Your Bitcoin — Custodial vs. self-custody; exchanges; hardware wallets
Week 7 / 8 July	Bitcoin Security & Self-Custody Deep Dive — Seed phrases, hardware wallets, multisig, and protecting your stack
Week 8 / 15 July	The Lightning Network — Instant, near-zero-fee Bitcoin payments
Week 9 / 22 July	Bitcoin & Your Financial Life — Dollar-cost averaging, Bitcoin IRAs, taxes, and inheritance basics
Week 10 / 29 July	Field Trip: Steak 'n Shake - Cannery Casino Hotel – We will purchase lunch with our bitcoin wallets

***Content/order/classes/speakers subject to change if necessary.**