Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
LAW-320	Internet Law	6
Prerequisites	**Department**	**Semester**
N/A	Law	Fall or Spring
Type of Course	**Field**	**Language of Instruction**
Elective	Law	English
Level of Course	**Lecturer**	**Year of Study**
1st Cycle	Irini Stamatoudi	3rd or 4th
Mode of Delivery	**Work Placement**	**Corequisites**
Conventional	N/A	N/A

Course Objectives

The main objectives of the course are to:
- Discuss the various schools of thought about the application of law to the internet within the 4th Industrial Revolution landscape.
- Familiarise the students with the history of internet legislation in the EU and in the US, as well as with the relative, essential case law. The dual role of communications network users as both consumers and citizens, and the economic and human rights arguments pertinent to each category, will also be explored.
- Address the National, Supra-national, International, Transnational dimensions of internet regulatory initiatives, and the self-regulation v. co-regulation debate
- Acquaint the students with the main challenges of internet from the normative, regulatory, and ethical perspective.
- Present the key legal/ethical challenges of internet from a comparative EU/Council of Europe/US/China law perspective.
- Address the jurisdictional and applicable law questions in cross-border internet law cases.
- Examine the internet governance/regulation/normativity issues, and the distinction among law, rules, norms, customs, and codes of conduct in the internet environment.
- Explore the intermediaries' liability.
- Provide adequate knowledge of the principles and rules of special fields of Internet regulation (such as intellectual property, digital commerce, cybercrime, privacy and data protection, surveillance and interception, defamation and hate speech) under EU law.

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Learning Outcomes

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:
- Understand and reproduce the main challenges for law in the Information Society
- Be familiar with the major legal and public policy debates involving the Internet regulation.
- Be acquainted with the major substantive areas of Internet law, and how they have been addressed.
- understand how the development of the Internet continues to pose new questions for governments, courts, lawmakers, and internet's societal and economic stakeholders.
- Critically think about the internet applications in society.
- Comprehend and appraise the problem of balancing freedom of speech with privacy and with other fundamental rights within the online environment.
- Explain and discuss the immunities of intermediaries in online regulation.
- Identify core issues which are relevant with the protection of copyright and of intellectual property on the Internet; cite, analyse, and apply the relevant rules.
- Recognize the implications of digital commerce and of online contracting; cite the relevant rules.
- Assess the justificatory foundations of a specific right to data protection; cite, analyze and apply the principles, rules, and rights of the data protection regime.
- Classify the types and forms of computer-related crime and of cybercrime; illustrate the legal attempts for combating cybercrime.
- Cite, analyse, and apply the principles regulating lawful interception of digital communications; identify and describe the development of the data retention regime in the EU; cite the relevant jurisprudence of the CJEU.
- Illustrate the principles and standards of the ECtHR regarding the limitation of freedom of online speech vis-a-vis the right to protection of reputation and of private life; appraise the intensity of the need to limit online hate speech.
- Discuss issues such as "right to personality", "personal data protection", "privacy", "defamation", "access to information highway", "digital content protection" within the context of internet law.
- Become familiar with concepts such as "private constitutionalism", "self-regulation", transnational law", "private law-making", "multi-stakeholderism" within the internet environment.

Course Content

1. Development of internet/disruptive technologies regulation (e.g., internet of things, big data, artificial intelligence, blockchain technology)
2. The current EU regulatory initiatives: Digital Markets Act, Digital Services Act, Digital Governance Act, Data Governance Act.
3. Free speech/Cyber-speech and personality protection in the social networking media and the online gaming platforms. The normative effect of the "meta-verse" paradigm.

4. Ethical, legal and policy-making challenges of internet law through the principles of accuracy, accountability, fairness, legality and non-discrimination.
5. Internet, privacy, and personal data protection.
6. Digital commerce, domain names, digital content, consumer protection
7. Internet regulation under a comparative normative perspective: EU, USA, Council of Europe, China, as regional and global regulators.
8. Communications and Broadcasting Regulation
9. The phenomenon of computer-related crime - Cybercrime typology – The Budapest Convention - Computer forgery and fraud – Hacking - The Internet and computer pornography - Detecting and prosecuting computer crime.
10. Surveillance and interception – The problem of Internet anonymity - Data retention –The emergence and the 'fall' of the EU data retention regime - IPA 2016 - The jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights - Basic principles regarding interception.
11. Intermediaries' Liability
12. Private International Law Issues (jurisdiction and applicable law)
13. IP law and the internet

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods

Interactive lectures, discussion based on analysis of case-law, case studies, mid-term exam, final exam

Assessment Methods

Final exams, midterm exams, student participation, assignment(s)

Basic Reading

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Internet Law and Regulation, 5th ed.	Graham Smith	Sweet & Maxwell	2020	9780414084803

Further Reading

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Information Technology Law: The Law and Society (4th edition)	Andrew Murray	Oxford University Press	2019	978-0198732464
Information Technology Law (5th edition)	Diane Rowland, Uta Kohl, Andrew Charlesworth	Routledge	2016	978-0415870160
Information Technology Law (8th edition)	Ian J. Loyd	Oxford University Press	2017	978-0198787556
EU Internet Law (2nd edition)	Andrej Savin	Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd	2018	978-1784717957
Code and other Laws of Cyberspace, Version 2.0	Lawrence Lessig	Basic Books	2006	0465039146