

ECTS Syllabus

Course title	AI and Law				
Course code	LAW-379				
Course type	Required				
Level	1 st Cycle				
Year / Semester	3 rd Year				
Teacher's name	Dr Themistoklis Tzimas				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	3	Laboratories / week	0
Course purpose and objectives	The course attempts to introduce the students to the main legal and ethical issues raised by artificial intelligence (AI). It examines a) how AI systems are designed and deployed, b) the transformation from automation to autonomy, c) the risks especially in relation to those of conventional digital technologies, d) ethical issues related to AI e) issues of legal personhood f) the impact of AI on the transformation of different areas of law in terms of responsibility In terms of the legal framework the focus is on the EU legal framework, including the EU AI Act and its interaction with GDPR, fundamental rights and different aspects. The course further examines foreign legal frameworks in a comparative approach to the EU. Students will become familiar with AI systems, relevant regulations, risks, practical cases, and potential legal and policy responses.				
Learning outcomes	Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to: • comprehend the main ethical issues about AI • understand core AI concepts and machine-learning at a level appropriate for legal analysis;				

	• identify the risks and rights which are associated with the development and use of AI; • interpret and apply the EU Artificial Intelligence Act; • analyse the interaction between AI regulation, the GDPR, fundamental rights and different aspects of law; • evaluate questions of transparency, explainability, human oversight, accountability and access to effective remedies; • compare EU and international legal approaches to AI governance; • construct a well-supported legal argument and propose proportionate compliance or policy measures for an AI use case.		
Prerequisites	-	Required	None
Course content	Week 1: Artificial intelligence and law: concepts, history, capabilities and limits; why AI presents distinctive regulatory problems. Week 2: AI data, models, algorithms and autonomous decision-making; Week 3: Theories and instruments of AI governance: ethics, risk regulation, standards, co-regulation and enforcement. Week 4: EU Artificial Intelligence Act I: objectives, material and territorial scope, definitions, prohibited practices and risk classification. Week 5: EU Artificial Intelligence Act II: obligations of providers, deployers and other actors; high-risk systems, conformity assessment, supervision and penalties. Week 6: US, Chinese and UK legal frameworks for AI regulation Week 7: Generative AI: foundation models, systemic risk, transparency duties, deepfakes and synthetic content. Week 8: AI, data protection and privacy: GDPR principles, autonomous decisions, data-subject rights and data governance. Week 9: Fundamental rights, discrimination and algorithmic bias; due process, transparency, explainability, human oversight and remedies. Week 10: Civil and criminal liability, consumer protection and professional responsibility for AI-related harm. Week 11: AI and public administration, policing, migration, employment and healthcare: sector-specific case studies. Week 12: International law and AI: killer robots and de- humanization of war.		

	Week 13: Generative AI in legal research and practice; confidentiality, verification, citation and professional ethics; synthesis and revision through a regulatory case study.
Teaching methodology	Lectures, Exams, Homework, In-class Exercises.
Bibliography	• T Tzimas, Legal and Ethical Challenges of Artificial Intelligence from an International Law Perspective (Springer 2021). • W Barfield and U Pagallo (eds), Research Handbook on the Law of Artificial Intelligence (Edward Elgar 2018). • R Brownsword, E Scotford and K Yeung (eds), The Oxford Handbook of Law, Regulation and Technology (OUP 2017). • EU AI Act • EU GDPR (Regulation) • Council of Europe, Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS No. 225, 2024). • UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021).
Assessment	Final Examination, Midterm Examination, Class Participation
Language	English