

ECTS Syllabus

Course Title	EU Policy and Digital Governance				
Course Code	PGT-312				
Course Type	Elective				
Level	1 st Cycle				
Year / Semester	3 rd Year				
Teacher's Name	Dr. Petros Petrikkos				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	1 / 12	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	Course Purpose: The course focuses on delivering comprehensive material related to the nexus of European Politics, EU Law, International Relations, and Governance. In a fast-paced and ever transformative technological environment, and with particular emphasis on the politics of the European Union, this course takes a holistic approach by (a) examining the political and institutional structures of the EU and their evolution through technology, (b) highlighting the ways through which member-states in the EU retain sovereignty and engage in cooperation over matters of digitalisation, the economy, security, and digital governance, (c) assessing the extent to which the EU legal, political, and security landscape is compatible with technological innovation, and (d) providing in-depth case studies through which students can learn how to apply academic knowledge in the real world. The course will ultimately help students equip themselves with transferrable academic skills and knowledge that can be applied to other areas and disciplines beyond their studies, thus effectively contributing to policymaking, research, and the decision-making process in the EU and beyond. Course Objectives ○ Understand and assess the various toolkits and agencies the European Union has vis-à-vis digitalisation, cyber, and technology. ○ Describe the disruption of politics by digital cultures. ○ Review the ways through which the EU contributes to the legal and regulatory discussions on surveillance technologies in the EU and beyond.				

	○ Analyse the strategic documents that contribute to the EU's technology policy, such as the AI Act. ○ Discuss the ways through which EU member-states accommodate EU policy and law that relates to digitalisation and technological innovation. ○ Examine the impact of technological transformation and transformative technologies on the future of European regional security. ○ Compare and contrast different case studies within the EU and beyond, in relation to politics and technology ○ Assess the role of EU institutions and agencies in delivering key outcomes to the process of e-governance in their member-states. ○ Identify and evaluate key socio-political challenges such as the issue of lawful access to data and data encryption. ○ Discuss strategies for identifying the ways through which national C-SIRTs can complement national security and cybersecurity policies. ○ Analyse the role of EU institutions and related directives, such as the NIS Directives in transforming domestic and regional politics and policy. ○ Demonstrate awareness of debates over politics and digital culture in the areas of government, exploitation and everyday life, in the EU and beyond. ○ Understand how the EU and its member-states practice politics through online political communication in the age of platforms. ○ Explore the influence of the EU technology agenda on defending the democratic process against internal and external threats. ○ Engage in critical discussions and debates on key political issues transformative from the EU's collective technology policy.
Learning Outcomes	After completion of the course students are expected to be able to: • Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the EU's institutional and legal frameworks related to technology policy, including their evolution and scope. • Analyse how technological innovations impact EU policymaking, governance structures, and intergovernmental cooperation. • Critically evaluate strategic EU policy documents, such as the AI Act and NIS Directives, with respect to their objectives, implementation, and implications for member-states. • Assess the relationship between EU member-states' domestic sovereignty and digital cooperation within the broader regional framework. • Apply knowledge of EU technology policy to key issues such as surveillance, data encryption, cybersecurity, and e-governance.

	• Compare and contrast the domestic and regional dynamics influenced by EU technology directives and strategies across various member-states. • Identify the geopolitical implications of the EU's collective technology agenda, particularly in defending democratic processes from internal and external challenges. • Explore the role of EU institutions, agencies, and national C-SIRTs in addressing cybersecurity threats and ensuring regional security policies align with technological transformations. • Demonstrate awareness of debates concerning lawful access to encrypted data, privacy, and surveillance technologies in the context of EU regulations. • Debate the socio-political and ethical implications of the EU's push towards digital sovereignty, platform regulation, and governance. • Formulate evidence-based arguments about the effectiveness of EU technology policies in balancing innovation with legal, security, and political challenges. • Develop transferable skills for analysing and debating digital governance issues, applicable to academic, policymaking, and professional contexts in the EU and beyond.		
Prerequisites	N/A	Required	N/A
Course Content	1. Introduction to the EU's Technology Policy a. Overview of digitalization, technology innovation, and EU-level policymaking structures. 2. Foundations of EU Institutions and Digital Governance a. Key institutions and their roles in shaping the EU's technology agenda (e.g., European Commission, Council of the EU, European Parliament). 3. Political and Legal Frameworks in EU Technology Policy a. Examination of the EU's legal and regulatory environment, including data protection (e.g., GDPR) and directives like NIS. 4. Technological Sovereignty in the EU a. Dissecting the EU's approach to digital sovereignty: balancing internal innovation with external dependencies. 5. The Role of the EU in Regulating Transformative Technologies a. Focus on the AI Act and its implications for technological innovation, regulation, and intergovernmental cooperation among EU states. 6. Cybersecurity, Data Governance, and Privacy a. Analysis of the EU's policies on cybersecurity (e.g., C-SIRTs), encryption, lawful data access, and privacy regulations. 7. EU Technology Policy and Regional Security a. Examine how technological transformations influence EU strategies for regional security, cyber defense, and countering hybrid threats. 8. The Democratization of Technology: Political and Ethical Dimensions		

	a. Explore how the EU defends democratic processes and citizens' rights in the context of transformative technologies and external threats. 9. Case Studies: How EU Policy Shapes Domestic Digital Agendas a. Compare and contrast case studies of member-states' adoption (or challenges) of EU digital policies (e.g., GDPR, AI Act implementation). 10. Platforms, Digital Cultures, and Online Political Communication a. Analyze how the EU regulates platforms and explores the intersection of politics, social media, and digital cultures. 11. Challenges in EU Technology Policy: Privacy vs. Security a. Debate critical challenges such as lawful access, encryption, surveillance, and their implications for EU governance. 12. The EU and Global Technology Governance a. Examine the EU's influence on global tech governance and its geopolitical role in shaping international norms and agreements. 13. Student Presentations of Research Findings a. Students will present their work on various aspects of the EU's technology policies, demonstrating analytical and applied knowledge. 14. Conclusion and Future Trajectories of EU Technology Policy a. Summarize key themes and explore future developments in the EU's technology policy amidst evolving global challenges.																				
Teaching Methodology	Lectures, Student Presentations, Class discussions																				
Bibliography	Required Textbook: <table><tr><th>Title</th><th>Author(s)</th><th>Publisher</th><th>Year</th><th>ISBN</th></tr><tr><td>Policy-Making in the European Union</td><td>Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack, Christilla Roederer-Rynning, and Alasdair R. Young (eds)</td><td>Oxford University Press</td><td>2020</td><td>978-0-19-968967-5</td></tr><tr><td>Digital Development of the European Union An Interdisciplinary Perspective</td><td>David Ramiro Troitiño, Tanel Kerikmäe, Ondrej Hamulák (eds)</td><td>Springer</td><td>2023</td><td>978-3-031-27311-7</td></tr><tr><td>E-governance in the European</td><td>David Ramiro Troitiño, (ed)</td><td>Springer</td><td>2024</td><td>978-3-031-56044-6</td></tr></table>	Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN	Policy-Making in the European Union	Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack, Christilla Roederer-Rynning, and Alasdair R. Young (eds)	Oxford University Press	2020	978-0-19-968967-5	Digital Development of the European Union An Interdisciplinary Perspective	David Ramiro Troitiño, Tanel Kerikmäe, Ondrej Hamulák (eds)	Springer	2023	978-3-031-27311-7	E-governance in the European	David Ramiro Troitiño, (ed)	Springer	2024	978-3-031-56044-6
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	Union: Strategies, Tools, and Implementation.				
	The European Union in the Age of (In)Security: From Theory to Practice	Claudia Anamaria Iov (ed)	Cambridge Scholars Publishing	2023	978-8119855575
	Handbook of Cyber-Development, Cyber-Democracy, and Cyber-Defense	Elias G. Carayannis, David F. J. Campbell, Marios Panagiotis Efthymiopoulos (eds)	Springer	2022 2018	(10): 1-5275-7825-9 978-3-319-09068-9
Assessment	Class Participation, Class Presentations, Assignment, Final-Exam				
Language	English				