



IM378 Law, Society & Technology: Power, Policy & Practice



Term 1

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Description

This course is designed to examine the role that law plays in regulating technology in a global, contested, and unequal world. Technology is influencing the lives we lead, shaping work, education, leisure and resetting conventions and values that underpin our societal fabric. These changes also affect the arrangements and design of regulation to ensure that they can keep pace and remain effective with the emergence of new technology.

Technology affects different people, and contexts differently, and fundamental to the design of this course is to show how technology shapes power, between countries, people, and institutions.

Taking a global approach acknowledges that there is a plurality of legal perspectives, concerns and objectives that need to be addressed across different jurisdictions, and domains of law.

This course will examine intersecting concerns that emerge around technological developments. It will discuss regulations around artificial intelligence, data, platforms as well as offer approaches that study human rights, gender and discrimination from interdisciplinary lenses. It is not restricted to a particular area of law, nor the study of a specific regulation; it encourages students to build a legal understanding of socio-technical issues



Content and Structure



The course is organised over 10 weeks and is structured in four parts.

- ❖ **The first part** frames the role that law plays at a global level in its interactions with technology. It examines technology as an object as well as form of regulation.
- ❖ **The second part** looks at three domains where technology regulation has emerged: Data, Platforms and Artificial Intelligence. In this section, lectures will introduce different regulatory approaches across jurisdictional, and ideological lines.
- ❖ **The third part** focusses on lenses to study the intersection between law, and technology through discussions on human rights, gender, and anti-discrimination.
- ❖ **The fourth part** of the course will focus on a critical reflection where students will participate in a mock trial to examine and share what they have learnt in the course.

Assignments

15/30 CATS

- **15 CATS:**
 - Presentation (20%)
 - Review Essay (1,200 words) – based on 3 articles (40%)
 - Reflective Essay – based on mock trial (40%)
- **30 CATS:**
 - Presentation (10%)
 - Review Essay (2,000 words) - based on 3 articles (45%)
 - Reflection Essay – based on mock trial (45%)



Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand why the law matters in studying technology through a socio-technical point of view.
- Explore models of technology regulation that are being proposed globally.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the political economy of regulation, and its implications on people and the planet.
- Understand and showcase which policy design, and legal and regulatory practice have responded to technology facilitated change.
- Present, analyse and write on a legal issue that may have emerged in the course.