

Course title

Emerging Technologies and the Law

Course duration

30h (6 days @ 5hr per day)

Course description

This course addresses the legal implications of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the internet of things. It includes theoretical as well as technical backgrounds illustrating the complexity of the Internet value chain. The course presents the legal landscape of the Digital Economy against the background of current business trends and developing commercial practices, such as surveillance capitalism. By giving a snapshot of the e-commerce market, its major players and dominant revenue models, the individual topics focus on existing challenges of both legal and technological nature. More specifically, they discuss the legal issues surrounding the introduction of novel technologies into mainstream commerce and the adaptation of existing business to the online environment. The subject is practice-oriented and designed to give students more confidence when confronting legal problems of technological origin. It also enables students to tackle basic regulatory issues and equips them with the tools necessary to build convincing arguments. The course is suitable both for students intending to pursue a career in private practice and for those who intend to work for regulators.

The following topics and concepts are included:

Emerging Technologies: from TCP/IP and Ubiquitous Computing, to Artificial Intelligence and Distributed Ledger Technologies (including Blockchain)

The Main Theories: Cyberspace, Generativity, Amara's Law, "Code is Law" and "The Law of the Horse"

The Internet Value Chain: from Amazon's "Click to Brick" to the "Attention Economy"

The Automation of Everything: from Electronic Agents to Intelligent Machines

The Regulatory Framework of E-commerce: Model Laws and local implementations

The Contractual Framework of E-commerce: "Wrap-cases" and "Contract Design"

Remote Authentication: Problems of Identity and Anonymity

Smart Contracts and Blockchains

Payment Mechanisms: from PayPal to Bitcoin

Legal Technology: the changing face of the legal profession