



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

HRS136 AI & the Law, 15 credits

AI & Rätten, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Law on 2020-05-07 and was last revised on 2023-03-28 to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester of 2023.

Field of education: Law 100%

Department: Department of Law

Position in the educational system

The course is given as an advanced course in the Law programme at the School of Business, University of Gothenburg.

Main field of studies

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Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Students following a Swedish law program leading up to a law degree must have passed courses adding up to 150 higher education credits from the first five semesters of the law program. Special requirement for being accepted to the course is that the student must have passed 120 higher education credits from years 1-2 as well as International Law (HRO600).

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to investigate and understand how AI technologies affect and challenge the law. The students will be given the opportunity to study different legal fields and how they are affected by the AI technology, as well as develop tools for the solution of legal problem and analysis of AI. The course specifically focuses on training the students to be able to understand, master and handle technological developments

that challenge law, both by applying legal methods but also by being introduced to interdisciplinary, experimental, and alternative ways of approaching such issues. The course is multi- and inter- disciplinary where the boundaries of law are studied, challenged, and critically investigated to be able to understand where the law ends and where the technology starts, and vice versa.

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Understand different AI and machine learning systems on a general level and the legal problems and challenges that come with such technologies.

Account for how AI-technology affects the law and how this can be analyzed both in theory and in practice.

Identify the technologies that make up different AI systems and how they affect both private and public law, national and international law, with a particular focus on big data, blockchains and digital platforms.

Competence and skills

Present case-studies and analyses based on the societal and legal challenges related to AI technology.

Handle hypotheses, theories and possible solutions and be able to constructively take part in group discussions about law, legislation, policy, and AI technology.

Use different legal perspectives and methods orally and in writing to discuss AI technology.

Formulate and *critically assess* legal problems pertaining to both theory and practice.

Judgement and approach

Reflect over and be able to critically assess the relation between the AI technology and legal methodologies.

Be able to *describe* and *address* ethical issues connected to responsibility, sustainability, justice, discrimination, and bias, that can come up when the AI technology meets the law.

Course content

This course investigates Artificial Intelligence (AI) from different legal and socio-legal perspectives. The course is divided in two parts and eight thematic modules:

Part 1: The Basics

1. AI and rights: What is AI and who is responsible for it and its decisions?
2. AI and private law: Smart contracts and intellectual property
3. AI and public law: GDPR and data rights
4. AI and international law: Laws of war and AI driven weapon systems

Assignment 2

Part 2: The Contexts

1. Lawscape: AI and the ontologies of law
2. Hyperobject: AI as raw material and as infrastructure
3. Capital: AI and the market
4. Frontier: AI and future digital environments

Assignment 3

The chronology of the modules may vary from year to year.

The course is both practical and theoretical in nature. We apply several different methods in investigating AI technology. Doctrinal legal methods are applied to analyze current law, legal cases, and legal doctrines, but the students are also encouraged to explore other experimental and interdisciplinary methods throughout the course. The focus lies on immaterial labor, human and algorithmic decision-making, machine learning and AI driven platforms.

Form of teaching

The course consists of both voluntary lectures and compulsory seminars. All students are expected to have read the literature on the reading list and to actively take part in and contribute to the seminar discussions. The assignments are mainly case based, each thematic module is derived from examples based on real cases/technologies/examples. The students are encouraged to actively search for their own cases and examples, inspired by the thematic modules. Students are asked to work both individually and in groups.

Assignment 1: Seminar attendance and 8 weekly AI Lab reports.

Assignment 2: Group essay and academic poster based on a chosen case study from one of the thematic modules (10 pages essay + poster).

Assignment 3: Essay (15 pages) to be written individually or in pairs.

Language of instruction: English

Teaching might be conducted digitally during the course.

Assessment

The assessment is done through a portfolio examination that includes three forms of

assignments. This means that a student who wants to become a graduate of the course needs to complete and submit a portfolio containing all three assignments (see below). The portfolio content is used to assess whether the student has demonstrated that they have reached the learning outcomes.

Exam codes:

Assignment 1: Seminars (including weekly AI Lab reports): 1 higher educational point.
Exam code 0001

Assignment 2: Group essay and academic poster, 4 higher educational points. Exam code 0002

Assignment 3: Essay, 10 higher educational points. Exam code 0003

Students who do not submit the portfolio at the first opportunity may submit it on a second occasion. Students who fail the course at the first time of submission can complement their portfolio and submit the portfolio two more times during the same academic year.

If a student, who has failed the same examined element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to work experience and VFU, although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Passed with Distinction (AB), Passed with Credit (BA), Pass (B) and Fail (U).

Grades are not given on separate assignments, only a properly submitted portfolio including all three assignments will be graded.

Course evaluation

The Department of Law is obliged to evaluate all courses given by the department. Course evaluation will be conducted and compiled in accordance with the current procedures in the Department of Law. All course evaluations of the courses on the Master of Laws program are scrutinised by the Board of Education of the Department of Law. A student who assists with the compilation of the course evaluations is entitled to a certain remuneration and a certificate to this point. The results of, and possible

changes to, the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.

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Additional information

Language of instruction: English. All obligatory reading is in English, students may choose to read texts in other languages, but assignments, discussions and instruction is conducted in English.

Other relevant instructions will be distributed at course start.