Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please visit the exchange programmes webpages.

The Law of Artificial Intelligence

Course Code	XB_0084
Credits	6
Period	P6
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Science
Course Coordinator	dr. T.A.M. Schrepel LLM
Examiner	dr. T.A.M. Schrepel LLM
Teaching Staff	dr. T.A.M. Schrepel LLM
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Written partial exam, Seminar

Course Objective

At the end of the course, the students will:

- understand the legal, ethical, and societal implications of AI developments. (Knowledge and understanding)
- be able to write informed opinions about AI legislation. (Applying knowledge and understanding) (Communication) (Judgement)
- be trained in acquiring a set of complex legal AI-related topics in a restricted period of time. (Knowledge and understanding)
- be able to work together as a team to identify not only the technical but also the legal issues with the design of AI systems. (Applying knowledge and understanding)
- be able to share their findings through presentations, videos, and writings. (Applying knowledge and understanding) (Communication)
- be familiar with basic knowledge about the law that applies to AI systems, including the law specifically focusing on AI systems such as the EU AI Act, and other more general laws such as data protection law, intellectual property law, competition law, liability, and contract law. (Knowledge and understanding)
- be able to identify legal risks when designing AI systems. (Applying knowledge and understanding)
- be in a position to design AI systems compliant with the law. (Applying knowledge and understanding)
- be able to use legal rules to protect their AI systems. (Applying knowledge and understanding)
- be able to reflect critically on the impact of legal rules on technology. (Applying knowledge and understanding) (Judgement)
- be able to express their own motivated opinions and contribute to the writing of better legal rules. (Applying knowledge and understanding) (Communication)

Course Content

For long, lawyers were primarily seen as a nuisance by software developers, maybe best illustrated by the first lawyer who appeared around 2010 at the board of directors meeting of Github. During a discussion, he noticed some legal issues and cautiously interrupted: “I know you do not want to hear this from a lawyer, but…”. He could not continue, for another board member aggressively said: “… then shut the f**** up.” A similar attitude used to be common for AI people. Developers and designers were concentrating on the possible, the opportunities; lawyers were focusing on the permissible, or what is not possible—often without trying to understand the technology potential.Today, the situation is no longer black and white but rather gray.

Lawyers understand better technology and development processes, and AI specialists understand the need for compliance with the law. Technology and the law are not systematically seen as antagonists anymore. Against this background, many governments worldwide are launching initiatives to regulate AI. Their objective often is to contain high-risk AI while supporting other AI applications. One such example is the 2021 European Union legislative initiative Proposal for a Regulation laying down harmonized rules on artificial intelligence.

This course explores various ways AI technology is regulated by law and what role ethics play. The law that is being addressed is both the law specifically focusing on AI and other laws relevant to such systems—such as data protection law, intellectual property law, liability, and contract law. And, because the law naturally lags behind technological evolutions, ethics also plays a role.

After this course, the student will understand how the law regulates AI. They will also understand how to design AI systems compliant with the law and be protected by it. In short, students will learn about the law and how to benefit from it. This is a world-first.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Students will be given four lectures, including two on “law basics” and two on the European AI Act. Teachers will use a Socratic method to create discussions in the classroom. Students will also take part in two seminars to explore the European AI Act from a practical perspective. They will comment on the AI Act and discuss their inputs with other classmates and professors. Students will work in small teams their professors will assign.

Method of Assessment

During one of the seminars, students will do a written exam in the classroom (50%).

Students (pairs of two) will record a 2-minute video in which they will pick one article of the AI Act and explain either why it is not technically sound or why it creates legal issues (50% of the final grade)

There will be a resit for the written exam but not for the video.

Literature

The literature will be made available through Canvas

Additional Information Target Audience

Bachelor of Artificial Intelligence (year 2)