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.

Law and Ethics on Robots and Artificial Intelligence

Course Code	R_LERAI
Credits	6
Period	P5
Course Level	600
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Law
Course Coordinator	I. Bratu
Examiner	I. Bratu
Teaching Staff	S. De Conca, I. Bratu
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture

Course Objective

Students that have graduated for this course:
- Acquire an advanced knowledge of legal and ethical issues related to robots and artificial intelligence;
- Explain their own well-founded opinion on the tasks and challenges for the law related to robots and artificial intelligence;
- Are able to critically reflect on the state of the law in the light of technical topics related to robots and artificial intelligence, and to formulate their own well-founded opinion in current academic debates in this field.

Course objectives ('Eindtermen'). At the end of the course the student
- is aware of the contextual demands (not to stifle technological development by enacting restrictive legislation, while at the same time protecting fundamental rights and freedoms of a democratic society) law has to deal with;
- is able to assess the legal and societal aspects of a problem in an integrated way and critically reflect on possible approaches and solutions;
- is able to formulate their own well-founded opinion on the challenges posed by particular applications of robots and AI.
Eindtermen: 3-4, 15.

Course Content

Amongst emerging technologies robotics and artificial intelligence are prominent both in terms of existing as well as expected use in society. These technologies are special, because they come close to how we humans function. At this moment both robots and artificial intelligence are primarily used for specific tasks (playing games, surgery, self-driving cars), but developments are moving fast. What exactly the future brings is difficult to tell, but no one denies the potential and risks related to robots and artificial intelligence. Not surprisingly, in the legal and policy arena an active discussion is going on related to legal and ethical issues. These are the issues addressed in this course. The legal angle includes both existing law and the need for new law. If new law is needed, discussion will also be on how this new law should be

drafted. Ethics can apply to both the development and use of robots and artificial intelligence. In this course ethics is primarily used to either constrain the application of existing law or to guide the drafting of new law.

Applications that are covered in this course include softbots, the internet of things, autonomous intelligent vehicles, AI used for space exploration, and social robots (care and sex).

Additional Information Teaching Methods

The course will be delivered through lectures and seminars, partly given by guest-lecturers who are experts in their respective fields. Students are expected to read the required materials beforehand, prepare assignments for interactive tutorial classes, and to actively participate in the discussion.

Method of Assessment

Written exam

Literature

Literature will be made available in the online learning environment Canvas.

Additional Information Target Audience

Apart from regular students, the course is also available for:
Students from other universities/faculties
Contractor (students who pay for one course).

Courses from a master at the faculty can only be taken as a secondary course if you have a diploma that gives access to the relevant master/ specialization and if you are enrolled in a master.