



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](#).

E-Commerce Law

Course Code	R_E.commerc
Credits	6
Period	P3
Course Level	500
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Law
Course Coordinator	P.B. Cardozo Solano LLM
Examiner	P.B. Cardozo Solano LLM
Teaching Staff	P.B. Cardozo Solano LLM, dr. M.R. Leiser LLM, prof. mr. A.R. Lodder
Teaching method(s)	Reading, Study Group

Course Objective

This course aims to obtain a general understanding of several legal issues related to doing business online, that is, e-commerce. The European Union regulations and directives related to e-commerce are a starting point in this course. Specific topics that will be addressed are:

1. Electronic contracting
2. The position of online intermediaries
3. The rules regulating the design of interfaces for commerce; unfair commercial practices
4. Commercial communications
5. Online reviews
6. Online dispute resolution

Students will learn to find the main rules related to e-commerce, describe and apply these rules to cases, critically assess the rules and think creatively about how legal rules may be improved or technical solutions may solve issues.

Course Content

The European Union has a long history of investing in, encouraging, and developing e-commerce. During the past 20 years, the EU has established an elaborate and to a certain extent, coherent regulatory framework for the e-commerce sector. This course gives insight into the main European legal framework regarding e-commerce. We will discuss the main legal issues, such as the liability of intermediary service providers, electronic contracting, electronic identification, and online dispute resolution. The legal rules will be critically assessed from a theoretical and practical point of view. Regarding the theoretical approach, the critical assessments in legal literature are taken as a point of departure. A critical assessment from a practical point of view can be achieved by applying the rules to cases and identifying possible bottlenecks.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

The course will be taught in seven two-hour lectures and three two-hour tutorials. The tutorials are interactive and you will need to prepare. During the first lecture, students will be introduced to the course and to their fellow students (the background of the students is always very interesting, many nationalities, with different backgrounds, for example legal, technical etc.).

Method of Assessment

There are three tutorials. After each tutorial, students will take an online quiz. Each quiz is worth 10%, meaning the quizzes collectively are worth 30% of your overall mark. A final assessment worth 70% of your overall mark is required. You will be asked to work in teams on this submission. As there is always discussion about possible answers and positions, it helps to develop your arguments if you work in teams.

Literature

Articles via Canvas. Deceptive.Design Website; A.R. Lodder & A.D. Murray (eds.), EU Regulation of E-Commerce A

Commentary, Edward Elgar 2017 is available electronically via UBVU.nl. Google Scholar for Mark Leiser and "dark patterns"; Links available via Canvas.

Additional Information Target Audience

Apart from regular VU law students, the course is also available for:

- Students from other universities and faculties
- Exchange students
- Contractors (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's.

Additional Information

At the end of this course students:

- Are able to identify the relevant EU laws for e-commerce
- Understand (in general) the implications of EU Directives and Regulations and the role of the CJEU
- Understand what is meant by the key concepts within the legal framework (such as: information society service, trader, and consumer)
- Understand the reforms in platform regulation when performing commercial practices.
- Can reflect on the legal rules that are discussed during this course, more in particular if they solve the problems related to e-commerce and what (new) problems may arise as a result of the rules
- Can suggest legal or practical solutions regarding the practical or legal problems related to e-commerce.