

# IB2C7-15 Work in the Digital Era

**24/25**

**Department**

Warwick Business School

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

Manuela Galetto

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module is available as an elective for both WBS and non-WBS students and Exchange students.

The rapid acceleration of new digital technologies in the workplace commensurate with the expansion of new working patterns requires deeper managerial understanding of how the “fourth industrial revolution” affects and shapes work and organisations. Advancement in digital and social technologies are shaping and changing the organisation of the workplace, as well as the nature and meaning of work. As such, students will have the opportunity to explore a digitally transformed landscape of work. Students will analyse the opportunities, as well as debate the risks of the digital workplace and, in doing so, further develop their critical thinking and ethical decision-making skills.

### Module aims

This course focuses on the digital transformations taking place in contemporary workplaces and will offer students:

- A multi-perspective analysis of digital technologies increasingly used in the organisation of work;
- Tools to navigate the world of work as employees, managers, and entrepreneurs in the digital era;
- Understand how the acceleration in technological change impact the design, sustainable development, ethical, and strategic dimensions of work;
- In-depth analysis of management theories in relation to contemporary digital workplace

developments;

Use of gamification, high-profile examples, and case studies of managerial practice to better understand the legal, ethical and managerial effects of digital technologies on the workplace.

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The 'Digital Workplace'

- Theories of work and management
- Human capital theory in the digital era  
Algorithmic Technologies in the Workplace: Opportunities and Challenges
- AI decision-making and the changing relationship between managers and employees
- Ethics and the use of artificial intelligence and data analytics in workplaces
- Impact of robotization and task automation on the future of work.  
Management for the Digital Age
- Exploring digital technologies: the design, implementation and promotion of data-driven management practices
- Utilising technologies in sustainable and responsible employing organisations
- Opportunities and implications for management in relation to technology in diverse business organisations, including start-ups, entrepreneurs, and the self-employed  
Digitalisation, Inclusion, and Diversity
- Impact of new technologies and new forms of organising on diversity and inclusion  
Employment status and the new platform economy e.g. found in platform work, crowdwork and Elancing  
Legal Implications of a Digitalised Workplace
- Changing workplace regulation (e.g. Data Protection)
- Surveillance, privacy, and regulation of technology in the workplace (e.g. Article 22 GDPR)
- Working From Home: implications for the intersection of professional and personal  
The future of work: Digital Practices and Changing Workplace Demographics
- Technology and the trajectory of automation's impact on future employment
- New work practices in response to environmental and sustainability challenges (e.g. SDG 8)
- Young workers and the new normal of the digital workplace

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Identify, explain and assess the key drivers, current practices and implications of digital technologies in the workplace
- Recognise and assess the mediating effect of the legal and economic context on the implications of digitallybased innovations at work
- Recall, critique and analyze the legal dimensions of digital transformations
- Application of theories to practical cases in a way that demonstrates nuanced judgment and ethical decision-making;
- Critical thinking in relation to the multi-stakeholder perspective in decision making and

implementation of technology in organisations;

- Personal reflection on contemporary technological developments within broader legal, business and management contexts

### **Indicative reading list**

Adler PS, du Gay P, Morgan G and Reed M (2014) *The Oxford Handbook of Sociology, Social theory and organisational studies*, Oxford University Press.

Blackman A et al (2019) (eds) *Theorising Labour Law in a Changing World. Towards inclusive labour law*, Hart.

BiliÄ P et al (2018) *Technologies of labour and the political of contradictions*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Crawford K, *Atlas of AI. Power, Politics and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence*, Yale University Press

M. D. Dubber, F. Pasquale, & S. Das (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Ethics of AI*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Edoardo A (2018) *Working in Digital and Smart Organisations: Legal, Economic and Organisational Perspectives on the Digitalization of Labour Relations*, Palgrave Macmillan.

EIGE (2020) *Gender Equality Index 2020: Digitalisation and the Future of Work*. Vilnius: European Institute for Gender Equality.

Fleming, P. (2019) *Robots and Organization Studies: Why Robots Might Not Want to Steal Your Job*, *Organization Studies*, 40(1), 23–37.

Will-Zocholl M and Roth-Ebner C (eds) (2021) *Topologies of Digital Work*, Springer

### **Subject specific skills**

Critically assess and analyse the effects of digital technologies from a multi-stakeholder perspective, keeping in mind consequences for sustainable and ethical work, toward developing digital literacy.

Evaluating the complexities of digitally mediated work related design and decision making processes within organisations

### **Transferable skills**

Analytical and debating skills in oral communication;

Develop critical thinking and writing skills;

Critically evaluate ideas and practices in relation to the digital transformation of business toward developing

nuanced personal digital literacy.

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## **Study**

### **Study time**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
Lectures	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Online learning (independent)	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Private study	49 hours (33%)
Assessment	72 hours (48%)
Total	150 hours

### **Private study description**

Private Study.

### **Costs**

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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### **Assessment**

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

#### **Assessment group A2**

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>
Individual Assignment	75%	54 hours
Learning log E-learning log submission.	25%	18 hours

#### **Feedback on assessment**

Feedback via my.wbs.

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### **Availability**

#### **Courses**

This module is Optional for:

- UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
  - Year 2 of L100 Economics
  - Year 2 of L100 Economics
  - Year 2 of L100 Economics

- UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
  - Year 2 of LM1D Economics, Politics and International Studies
  - Year 2 of LM1D Economics, Politics and International Studies

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy