

IM378-15 Law, Society and Technology: Power, Policy and Practice

26/27

Department

Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Siddharth De Souza

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This course is designed to examine the role that law plays in regulating technology in a global, contested, and unequal world. Technology is influencing the lives we lead, shaping work, education, leisure and resetting conventions and values that underpin our societal fabric. These changes also affect the arrangements and design of regulation to ensure that they can keep pace and remain effective with the emergence of new technology.

Technology affects different people, and contexts differently, and fundamental to the design of this course is to show how technology shapes power, between countries, people, and institutions.

Taking a global approach acknowledges that there is a plurality of legal perspectives, concerns and objectives that need to be addressed across different jurisdictions, and domains of law.

This course will examine intersecting concerns that emerge around technological developments. It will discuss regulations around artificial intelligence, data, platforms as well as offer approaches that study human rights, gender and discrimination from interdisciplinary lenses. The course is not restricted to a particular area of law, nor the study of a specific regulation, it encourages students to build a legal understanding of socio-technical issues

Module aims

- Introduce students to the role, potential and limits of the law in the regulation of technology
- Familiarise students with the legal, policy and governance debates that are shaping interactions with technology
- Develop students' ability to understand, evaluate and interrogate technological developments to consider aspects of justice, equity and human rights.
- Support students in engaging with legal, governance and policy design by developing interdisciplinary and collaborative research inquiries.

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 course is organised over 10 weeks and is structured in four parts. The first part frames the role that law plays at a global level in its interactions with technology. It examines technology as an object as well as form of regulation. The second part looks at three domains where technology regulation has emerged: Data, Platforms and Artificial Intelligence. In this section, lectures will introduce different regulatory approaches across jurisdictional, and ideological lines. The third part focusses on lenses to study the intersection between law, and technology through discussions on human rights, gender, and anti-discrimination. The fourth part of the course will focus on a critical reflection where students will participate in a mock trial to examine and share what they have learnt in the course.

Learning outcomes

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

- Understand why the law matters in studying technology through a socio-technical point of view.
- Explore models of technology regulation that are being proposed globally.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the political economy of regulation, and its implications on people and the planet.
- Understand and showcase which policy design, and legal and regulatory practice have responded to technology facilitated change.
- Present, analyse and write on a legal issue that may have emerged in the course.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Students will have an opportunity to produce different writing and oral outputs.

Interdisciplinary

Students will engage with reading at the intersection of law and society, law and technology and law and development.

International

The course takes an intentional approach to surface literature and cases from different parts of the world. It is global, plural and comparative in nature.

Subject specific skills

- Socio- Legal Literacy: Ability to study and analyse key concepts related to the regulation and governance of technology.
- Critical thinking: Critical capacity to interrogate and challenge technological development through an analysis of power dynamics, policy design and institutional practices.
- Epistemic reflexivity: Awareness of legal and knowledge production in different jurisdictions and the implications this has for technological and regulatory development.
- Research Skills: Produce a variety of outputs including a review essay, a research essay and an oral presentation.

Transferable skills

- Problem solving and framing: Ability to navigate different contexts and identify issues and challenges.
 - Legal and ethical reasoning: Ability to formulate coherent arguments backed up with evidence and contextual legal knowledge.
 - Teamwork: Ability to work across disciplines, and with different cultural barriers.
 - Communication: Ability to produce written and oral outputs.
 - Project management: Ability to read, review, analyse and orate in class.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	82 hours (55%)
Assessment	50 hours (33%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Students will be expected to do the prescribed reading and self-directed study for lectures and seminars. They will also need to work on formative and summative assessments.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Presentation	20%	10 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will need to make presentations which are based on a problem provided in class			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Review Essay	40%	20 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will be required to produce a 1200 word review of any 3 articles shared in the class or from the recommended readings, identifying common or contesting arguments, in relation to a theme discussed in the class			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Reflection Essay	40%	20 hours	Yes (extension)
Reflection Essay: Essay on experiences of mock trial.			

Weighting

Study time

**Eligible for self-
certification**

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Students will get written feedback on assessments

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- TIMS-I401 MASc in AI and Society
 - Year 1 of I401 MASc in AI and Society
 - Year 1 of I402 MASc in AI and Society

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TIMS-L990 Postgraduate Big Data and Digital Futures
- Year 1 of TIMS-L991 Postgraduate Diploma in Big Data and Digital Futures
- Year 1 of TIMA-L995 Postgraduate Taught Data Visualisation
- Year 1 of TIMA-L996 Postgraduate Taught Data Visualisation (PGDip)
- Year 1 of TIMA-L99A Postgraduate Taught Digital Media and Culture