

LLM MODULE SYLLABUS

Module Code Module Title Module convenor: MVV347K AI, Law, and Governance

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Module Overview

The evolving area of AI and robotics gives rise to many ethical and legal questions over the status of robots, the rights and responsibilities arising from their use and liability for any harm caused. The module will explore the issues of legal personhood, the protection of autonomous agents and their outputs through IP law, the responsibilities arising from data use and the various approaches to allocating responsibility and liability.

The module aims:

- To acquaint students with both regulatory as well as non-regulatory mechanisms (standards and best practices) with regards to development and deployment of AI technologies across different sectors of their application.
- To provide understanding of potential legal, regulatory, and practical challenges in relation to development and deployment of AI, including accuracy, accountability, fairness and discrimination.
- To enable students to reflect on the benefits and limitations of the governance frameworks when developing and deploying AI applications and expert systems.

Module lecture outline

Lecture 1 – Introduction to the module

The module will start with an overview of the wide scope of AI applications and significant milestones in their development and deployment. It proceeds to outline core concepts and modes of governance that can effectively address the issues, challenges, and risks arising from the design and use of various AI applications. The global response has varied in jurisdictions across the world, and we will explore the range of legal and regulatory responses to the ethical and legal risks posed by the development and deployment of AI, focusing on EU, UK, US, and other countries where relevant. What role do regulation, self-regulation, regulatory guidance, standards, and best practice play in this field?

Lecture 2 – AI Ethics

Al Ethics today encompasses a broad range of concerns, from privacy and data protection to bias and fairness in Al systems. With Al increasingly integrated into various sectors, including healthcare, finance, and law, ethical considerations become crucial in ensuring these technologies benefit society without infringing on individual rights or exacerbating inequalities.

Lecture 3 – AI and Data

Al and data exist in a synergy with each other. Big data analytics leverages Al for better data analysis. In turn, Al requires a massive scale of data to learn and improve decision-making processes. There are generally two types of data – structured and unstructured – that are the foundation of any Al system or application. They may involve both personal and non-personal data and have legal implications for privacy, intellectual property rights, or confidentiality. This lecture will focus on the relationship between Al and privacy. In regulation, licensing, contracts, and litigation, the allocation of risk and responsibilities along the Al supply chain is currently hotly debated.

Lecture 4 – Generative AI and IP

This lecture will explore the concept of creativity and the capacity to invent and the scope for protecting AI-generated works and inventions.

Specific IPR-related considerations with regards to AI include:

- Generative AI
- Text and data mining
- Applicability of copyright exceptions such as parody, pastiche, and caricature
- Deepfakes
- Using AI for the purposes of IP enforcement

Lecture 5 – AI and Liability

The society is at a crossroads in deciding how and whether or not to employ various AI applications. In order to support further investment and deployment of AI applications, it is essential to establish a legal regime for dealing with consumer liability claims for damage caused by AI products and services. Some of the key issues are:

- Reducing legal uncertainty surrounding liability claims and AI-related damages
- Ensuring that victims can seek effective redress for AI-related damages
- Revising existing liability rules

Reading List

To be provided.

Learning Outcomes

Sophisticated manifestations of artificial intelligence have left the research lab and arrived in our homes, businesses and public spaces. This module examines the wide spectrum of ethical, public policy and legal issues that needs to be addressed by designers, manufacturers and legislators alike.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the legal issues created by autonomous technologies, and an awareness of the range of legal issues that are affected
- Have extensive knowledge of existing legal responses, both through legislation and relevant case law
- Comprehend and analyse the interaction between economic, psychological, political, societal and ethical issues that regulators face when dealing with autonomous technologies and identify legislative initiatives and reform proposals both nationally and internationally.