

LW5672: INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION LAW

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Introduction to Information Law

Subject Code

LW - Law

Course Number

5672

Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

College/School

School of Law (FL)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

D8 - Professional Doctorate

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The increasing role of technology in humanity raises constant major challenges to law in a variety of moral, theoretical and doctrinal dimensions. The purpose of this course is to discuss the interface of law, technology and networked communication platforms. The course examines legal aspects of the Internet and digital technologies with emphasis on the creative industries. Topics to be discussed include: legal regulation of search engines, liability for online copyright infringement, ISPs and third parties liability, net neutrality, digital cultural preservation, online privacy and new business models for content distribution.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Students attending the course are expected to gain background and knowledge regarding the legal regulation of networked communication platforms and digital content environments. In addition to obtaining command over doctrinal and positive law aspects, students are expected to develop diversified theoretical understanding of the interface between law and innovative technologies. The course's additional focus on real-life case studies is expected to provide the students with tools to analyze skillfully cutting edge legal challenges in the fields of information law and digital content markets.	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	The course is based on oral lectures by the course's teacher combined with active participation of the students. Regarding each learning topic, the discussion in class commences with a critical-theoretical analysis of the topic to be followed by a real-life case-study analysis regarding the same topic. The legal coverage of each topic touches upon both doctrinal and comparative dimensions of the relevant topic.	1	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Nil	1	0	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

0

Examination (%)

100

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

40

Additional Information for ATs

Grading of Student Achievement: Standard (A+ A A- ... F)

Applicable to students admitted in Semester A 2022/23 and 2023/24

To pass this course, students must obtain an aggregate mark of 50% and a minimum of 50% in each of the coursework/ assignment, class participation and the examination elements of the assessment. Coursework for this purpose means those ways in which students are assessed otherwise than by the end of session examination.

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and Semester A 2024/25 and thereafter

To pass this course, students must obtain an aggregate mark of 40% and a minimum of 40% in each of the coursework/ assignment, class participation and the examination elements of the assessment. Coursework for this purpose means those ways in which students are assessed otherwise than by the end of session examination.

The portion of the overall mark allocated to performance/participation in inter-active in class activities will be assessed on the quality of the participation. Assessment criteria for those activities, their nature and their timing will be set out in the study guide/course manual and will be further expanded upon by the course leader.

The duration of the examination may be 2 hours at the discretion of the course leader. The course leader will announce the duration of the examination in the first week of the course. Similarly the course leader will announce whether the examination will be closed book or open book.

To enable the full benefit to be obtained from this course, students should attend all of the classes and activities.

Assessment will be formative to enable students to demonstrate their capacity to understand, analyse and apply rules and principles and summative to assess ability to synthesise primary and secondary material to solve novel problems.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

Ability to analyse facts, identify relevant issues, apply legal/ethical principles, and communicate one's reasoned views in writing

Excellent

Excellent analysis of facts, identification of issues, application of legal/ethical principles, and communication of one's reasoned views

Good

Good analysis of facts, identification of issues, application of legal/ethical principles, and communication of one's views

Fair

Adequate analysis of facts, identification of issues, application of legal/ethical principles, and communication of one's views

Marginal

Barely adequate analysis of facts, identification of issues, application of legal/ethical principles, and communication of one's views

Failure

Poor analysis of facts, identification of issues, application of legal/ethical principles, and communication of one's views

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Copyright Law; The Political Economy of Media Markets; The Political Economy of the Internet; Third Parties Liability; ISP's Liability and Content-Sharing Platforms; Peer to Peer File-Sharing; Law and Technological Design; Blocking Orders; The Google Book Project; Google News; Free Culture; Net Neutrality; Search Engines; Privacy and Big-Data

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Please refer to the attached reading list