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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Juridical and Social Issues in Information Society

2223-1-FDS01Q005

Learning objectives

The course Juridical and Social Issues in Information Society is divided in two modules: one concerns the ethical-legal questions arising from the transformation of society in Information Society (prof. Ricci), the other concerns social issues (prof. Masiero).

As far as the module on ethical-legal issues (prof. Ricci), the course aims to equip students with theoretical and argumentative tools useful to develop critical thinking of students who will directly work with technologies in the field of Information Society. Discussion of an ethical case will be integral part of this aim. At the same time, as ethics comprises also the law, regulations concerning the main aspects of interest for Data Science Students will be analysed. In particular, the Regulation on Data Protection (GDPR) and the Artificial Intelligence Act (AIA) proposal.

The goal of the module "Social Issues in Information Society" (Prof. Roberto Masiero & Camilla Bellini) is to prepare students to understand the impacts and to face the challenges of the Data Revolution on the Economy and the Society. This module is instrumental in providing students with an overall understanding of the domains that are going to benefit most from the Data Revolution and in helping them to experience a more successful professional career path in the future. While students will be progressively learning to use the methodologies and technical tools that are the main content of the overall Master of Science in Data Science, the module should prepare them to look for, identify and understand the meaningful patterns of social, environmental, and economic phenomena and the philosophical and ethical implications related to the Data Economy.

Contents

The course Juridical Issues in Information Society analyses the ethical-legal questions arising from technologies pervading the process of informatization and digitalization of society in its different sectors.

The module "Social Issues in Information Society" covers topics such as:

- introducing some key social issues in the information society
- the impact of digital innovation on employment and wealth distribution
- challenging social and philosophical issues in the information society
- the challenging role of the data scientist. New jobs and the industries of the future
- The Game: About the technological and mental revolution that brought us from the vision of the '900 to the "Augmented Humanity".

Detailed program

Ethical and Juridical Issues in Information Society, Prof. Stefano Ricci

The course will be divided in two parts:

- a general part dealing with distinction between and identification of technical and ethical-legal problems; philosophical perspectives supporting different conception of technological development influencing the law making process in this field; specific domains benefiting from data revolution like medicine;

-a special part dedicated to GDPR and Artificial Intelligence Act proposal.

Social Issues in Information Society, Prof. Roberto Masiero & Camilla Bellini

- Course introduction - Main objectives, contents, and methodology – From the cognitive Revolution to the Information Society
- How ICTs are changing the philosophy, ecology, and ethics of information. The Digital Revolution. Interfaces and protocols. The concept of "Infosphere"
- Technological and Scientific Revolutions- The fourth revolution
- Identity and privacy in the onlife world – Personal identity, self-concept, and social self
- Political and Environmental issues in the digital world
- How ICTs are changing the Society: the impact of the Internet and the Network Society
- How ICTs are changing the Economy and the Enterprise
- Countries, Companies and People in the 2020s: an Alec Ross Perspective
- Theoretical Social and Ethical Issues related to Artificial Intelligence – Datafication and Data justice
- The impact of the digital innovation on growth, employment, and wealth distribution

Prerequisites

None

Social Issues in Information Society, Prof. Roberto Masiero & Camilla Bellini
Basic knowledge of recent technology evolutions: mobile, cloud, social networks, big data, IoT

Teaching methods

Juridical Issues in Information Society, Prof. Stefano Ricci

E-learning platformFrontal lectures

Discussion of ethical-legal cases

Intervention of experts as regards specific topics

Lectures of Ricci's module will be in presence and for those students who cannot attend streaming will be granted in order to allow direct online participation

The link to streaming will be published before the beginning of the course on the e-learning platform.

Social Issues in Information Society, Prof. Roberto Masiero & Camilla Bellini
Lectures, projects and e-Learning platform

Assessment methods

Juridical Issues in Information Society, prof. Stefano Ricci

There are no partial exams.

The exams will be written with ten multiple choice questions plus one open question. Students receive 3 points for each correct answer. Eleven correct answers entails 30 cum laude.

Important information. For those who enrolled in the course in the years preceding this one, the exam will be in the language of the year of enrolment, therefore in italian, but the program is the one you can read in this syllabus.

The final note will be recorded once the student has taken the exam of both modules (Juridical and Social/Ricci-Masiero). The student must register for each module in order to take each exam separately, preferably in the same session.

Social Issues in Information Society, Prof. Roberto Masiero & Camilla Bellini
Written Exam. An optional "Taking Home" project

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Legal issue in Information Society, Prof. Stefano Ricci

- Luciano Floridi, The Fourth Revolution: How the Infosphere is Reshaping Human Reality (2016) – Ed. OUP Oxford
- Knowledge of the laws and regulations that will be explained during the lessons (GDPR; Artificial Intelligence Act proposal) is necessary

EU GDPR
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj

EU AI act (AIA) proposal
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52021PC0206

Social Issues in Information Society, Prof. Roberto Masiero & Camilla Bellini

- Luciano Floridi, The Fourth Revolution: How the Infosphere is Reshaping Human Reality (2016) – Ed. OUP

Oxford
- Alec Ross, The Industries of the Future, Simon & Schuster (2016) and The Raging 2020s: Companies, Countries, People - and the Fight for Our Future (2021)
- Alessandro Baricco, The Game, Einaudi, 2018
- A detailed list of further papers and articles will be delivered during the course.

Sustainable Development Goals