UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Advanced Foundations of Law and Regulations in Privacy and Data Protection

2627-2-F9103Q006

Aims

The main aim is for the students to acquire an in-depth understanding of the course contents, such as the basic features of normative reasoning, the current problems of and approaches to the interaction of law and artificial intelligence, privacy and data protection.
The course moreover aims at making the students acquire the ability to identify the structure of arguments and theories, to present focused objections to arguments and theories, and to rationally defend a point of view, possibly original, in order to communicate it effectively.

Contents

The course aims at introducing and discussing the essential features of legal systems (with a focus on the difference between common and civil law systems), of normative and legal reasoning, some of the main current problems and approaches of law and artificial intelligence, AI safety, and an overview of the interplay between national legal systems and the EU system, with a specific focus on the purposes and functioning of personal data protection law (in particular, G.D.P.R. (EU Regulation 2016/679)) and the EU AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689).

Detailed program

The course will deal with the problems of the definition of AI techniques in legal texts, actual and projected uses of AI in the civil and criminal legal domain, the EU AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689), law-following AI, the control and alignment problems, normative uncertainty and normative risk, the fundamental elements and regulation (national, european and international) of personal data protection law.

The course is composed of two modules:

- AI Law and AI Safety (24 hours)
- Foundations of Law, Regulations of Privacy and Data Protection (24 hours)

Prerequisites

The student should have basic knowledge of the main tools and techniques used in AI, and an introductory knowledge of formal methods.

Teaching form

Lectures. Discussion sessions. Seminars. Guided readings of research papers. Talks by invited experts. Project work.

Textbook and teaching resource

F. Faroldi, AI: Ethics, Law, Safety, Normative Risk Lab, 2024.

EU AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj Chapters I, II, III (Sections 1, 2, 3), IV, V and Annexes II, III.

G.D.P.R. (EU Regulation 2016/679): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0679 Chapters I, II, III, IV Sections 1-2, VIII.

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For further reading, students can consult:
Handbook on European data protection law: https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/handbook-european-data-protection-law-2018-edition

P. Voigt, A. von dem Bussche, The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)- A Practical Guide, Springer, 2017

P. Sirena, Introduction to Private Law, Il Mulino, 2019, chapters 1, 4, 7, 8.

Semester

First semester

Assessment method

There will be no intermediate assessments. The final assessment will be an exam employing a mix of multiple-choice questions, to evaluate knowledge of the course content, and possibly open questions, to evaluate critical and argumentative skills. Partial credit might be assigned for optional in-class work.

Office hours

Before and after class, and by appointment.
Prof. Faroldi's office hours are Tuesdays, 16–17, by appointment (Federico.faroldi@unipv.it) at Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza, Second Floor, Strada Nuova 65, 27100 Pavia.
Prof. Castronovo's office hours are after class and by appointment (francesco.castronovo@unicatt.it).

Sustainable Development Goals