

Course proposal

Course name: ISSSV1860 AI Policy and Governance

Course level: 1000

Course leader: Alex Moltzau

Credits: 10

Course content

The course is designed to provide students with interdisciplinary competence in artificial intelligence governance, regulation, institutional implementation, and societal impact. It is a highly interdisciplinary course, yet is grounded in political science, sociology, law, social anthropology and informatics. The course aims to prepare students to understand and shape how AI systems are governed, building an understanding of the current landscape of international governance of AI, and the geopolitics that permeate discussions. In particular, the interface between concerns of AI safety and security, as well as the emerging institutions that seek to influence the discussions of regulations and standards.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

Having completed this course, students:

- Understand foundational concepts in AI governance and policy
- Provide a clear overview of international actors that govern AI and what the major frameworks, acts and bills that operationalise this.

Skills

Having completed this course, students can:

- Analyse regulatory frameworks including the EU AI Act and related standards
- Evaluate ethical and societal implications of AI deployment
- Assess organisational AI governance models and risk management approaches

Competence

Having completed this course, students can:

- Develop policy recommendations for public and private institutions
- Critically examine the relationship between AI, democracy, labor, education, and public trust

Admission to the course

If you would like to take this course, you must apply directly to the International Summer School.

Teaching

The course consists of three hours of daily instruction, Monday to Friday, for four weeks.

Classroom sessions include lectures, policy workshops, case-based seminars, guest speakers from academia, government and industry.

Examination

The examination consists of an oral exam (counts towards 60 % of the final grade) and a take home exam (counts towards 40 % of the final grade).

Language of examination

The examination text is given in English, and you submit your response in English.

Grading scale

Grades are awarded on a scale from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is a fail. Read more about [the grading system](#).

Overview of lectures (outline)

1. What is international AI policy and governance - Why a course, why now? The geopolitics and tensions of the field of AI.

- Significant shifts in the geopolitics of AI
- Stock exchange dominance - perceived value of NVIDIA, OpenAI, Anthropic, etc.
- The IPOs of 2026, Anthropic, OpenAI, etc.
- G7 Hiroshima Declaration and AI Summit Series, Geneva AI Summit 2027
- UN Security Council and UN Resolutions
- AI Policy as a research subject for evidence-based policymaking.
- Governance of AI increasingly set up in governments, companies and civil society.

- Norwegian National Strategy on AI.
- 2025 setting up of new national structures for governing AI.
- The field of AI is international, introduction to EU policy+regs, US Big AI, the AI value chain,
- Resources – power, energy, water, minerals. AI as security policy, AI security. Institutes and multilateral emergent collaborations (US Pax Silica, Chinese WAICO – World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization).

2. Empires of AI - The Current Multi-Polar Tech Sphere of Big AI

- Consolidation of wealth and power
 - Why new AI companies depend on legacy tech companies
 - Access to cloud compute and financial muscle
 - Access to markets
 - OpenAI and its journey from nonprofit to commercial company (deals)
 - OpenAI and its evolving partnership with Microsoft
 - The OpenAI big weekend, Sam being thrown out of the company, leaving for Microsoft then returning to OpenAI.
 - Anthropic, its creation, and its partnership with Amazon
 - Meta and its partnership with Hugging Face
 - Google and its prior partnership with Anthropic
 - Google and its launch of Gemini 3
 - Microsoft and Copilot
- ★ Karen Hao and her book Empires of AI
- ★ [The Atlantic - Something Ominous Is Happening the AI Economy](#)

3. Hopes and Fears Shaping AI Policy - Perceptions and Risk

- The big promises of AI – “just trust me bro...”
 - <https://youtu.be/l0K4XPu3Qhg?si=imM6ty1YAxbHZdZU>
- Perceptions of AI – Terminator, World Extinction – Matrix, etc.
- The AI Arms Race (Kai-Fu Lee, Erik Schmidt, Kissinger)
- Research on Public perceptions of AI (Ada Lovelace Institute)
- Biased and Discriminatory Outcomes of AI Systems (examples)
- LDO guide on how to develop AI systems that attempt not to discriminate

4. EU AI Policy I – The European AI Office - why was it created, how is it structured and what way does it work?

- General introduction to the European AI Office.
- How was the European AI Office created, and why?
- How is the AI Office structured?

- Who works in the AI Office? The Eurocrats in DG CNECT.
- Narrative experiences from working in Brussels (Alex).
- Opportunities for contributing from Norway. Seconded National Experts and National Experts in Professional Training.

5. EU AI Policy II – AI Regulatory Developments with the EU AI Act and Product Safety Regulation

- An introduction to the EU AI Act
- How was the EU AI Act created? The process of EU law.
- Governance of the AI Act across Europe
- Governance of High-risk on the national-level vs. General Purpose AI Models on the European-level. Who is legally responsible for what?

6. EU AI Policy III – The EU AI Act and its Current and Future Implementing Acts

- Implementing Acts in the AI Act
- Scientific Panel Establishment Implementing Act (adopted March 2025)
- Implementing Act on AI Regulatory Sandboxes (operational rules)
- High-Risk Implementing Act
- Implementing Act on enforcement? Conditions and procedures for AI Office compliance evaluations (Article 92).
- ★ [National Implementation of the EU AI Act.](#)
- ★ [AI Act Implementation Documents.](#)

7. Why Research Policy Is Crucial to AI Policy. AI R&D in Private Companies and the Need for Public AI Research

- Examples of R&D in large tech
- NeurIPS and the recent EurIPS.
- Private R&D in AI and significant teams
- American research policy vs. Horizon vs. Chinese research policy
- KI-milliarden and more... Is it enough? Is it focused enough?

8. AI Policy in Intergovernmental Organisations The Summit Series, IGOs, OECD, Council of Europe and UN

- Summit series, UK, France, India
- OECD Global Partnership on AI
- The AI Treaty and Norway's role
- The AI Treaty conference of the Parties
- UN Resolutions on AI (Ole-Martin Martinsen)
- Proliferation of AI in existing international fora, IGF as an example.

9. EU AI Policy IV – National AI Strategies and Policies in Europe – The EU Coordinated Plan on AI and Its Evaluation

- How did Norway join the Coordinated Plan on AI?
- What is the Coordinated Plan on AI?

OECD report - [Progress on Implementing the Coordinated Plan on AI](#)

10. EU AI Policy V - AI Gigafactories, Applied AI Strategies, Horizon, Digital Europe and more

- The EU AI Policy 'Diamond'
- From AI Factories to Gigafactories

11. General Purpose AI Models, Foundation Models or Frontier AI - Governance developments

- What is the distinction for GPAI, foundation models or otherwise?
- EU and their responsibilities for GPAI, regulation
- The EU Code of Practice
- UK AISI recent reports on foundation models

12. The AI Value Chain I - materials and people

- The recent case and scandal with Apple and Congo
- Minerals and labour

- ★ Atlas of AI
- ★ Mining Capitalism

13. The AI Value Chain II - data/AI centres

- The current state of international data storage and compute ownership
- Sigma2 and national compute in Norway, mapping project status
- How does data centres work? What are typical ways to construct data centres?
- The construction and current paradigm.
- Water cooling and water needs – controversies around the world, protests.
- Energy needs and societal energy costs – current politics.
- High performance computing

14. The AI Value Chain III - data markets to train the AI models

- The Extraction Machine – The annotator, the engineer, the technician, the operator, the investor, the organiser (Feeding the Machine).

- Why data labelling? Data labelling as a practice – supervised machine learning, unsupervised machine learning and semi-supervised machine learning.
- Data brokers – a growing market and marketplace.

★ Feeding the Machine

15. The AI Value Chain IV - selling AI models

- Who makes money in AI (article)
- Shift towards AI model sharing
- Hugging Face and others - selling shovels in a goldrush
- Securitisation - Scale.ai, Palantir and the usual suspects
- Platformisation, the push from vendors and the pricing models of AI. GE Healthcare, etc. Sector-based platforms.

16. The AI Value Chain V – Questions of AI Infrastructure and Infrastructuring AI

- Existing infrastructure - infrastructuring – politics
- Sea Cables, data centres ownership, trade, data ownership
- Stargate Norway
- Private vs. public ownership
- Infrastructuring, power play, histories of infrastructure (science and technology studies, anthropological fieldwork).

17. AI Policies and AI Governance of the Largest Social Media Platforms and Enforcement

- Meta
- Snap
- TikTok
- LinkedIn
- Automating content moderation

18. AI Models, Data Access and Privacy

- Learnings from Datatilsynet with their sandbox
- Explainable AI and/or black box
- Transparency
- AI Model Cards and/or data sheets
- Guest lecture from the Norwegian DPA (Kari Laumann or other relevant lecturer)

19. Surveillance Capitalism and AI — Consumer Protection Concerns

- OpenAI and its recent moves towards advertising
- Finn Myrstad (reports and cases) - legal battles with Grindr, etc.

- OpenAI announcement – what happens when questions and conversations are monetised and optimised towards profit?
- How can the consumer of AI products and services be protected?
- Have we learned anything from the 2010s growth of Big Tech with the growth of Big AI?

- ★ Shoshana Zuboff – Surveillance Capitalism
- ★ Guest lecturer Finn Myrstad, or someone from Forbrukertilsynet.

20. AI Lobbying and Special Interest Pressure

- Attempts in recent years to influence AI regulations in Europe, the US and Norway.
- Partnership on AI
- TEK Norge (AI Office), Digital Norway
- New Nordics AI Centre
- Digital Europe
- Big tech lobbying in Brussels – from experience. The Brussels House of Cards - which cards have already been flipped? (Alex)
 - Observations from Brussels, anecdotes of lobbying, experienced.
 - Academic articles on perceptions of EU lobbyists on their own work.

21. Unethical AI, Harms and AI Incident Registries

- What is unethical AI, how can we define harms?
- Are there larger systemic risks?

22. Discussions of AI and Existential Risk, with AI Act and the Upcoming Biotech Act as examples

- The growing scientific concerns of AI and existential risks
 - Countermovement of real harms – Timnit Gebru, Margaret Mitchell, etc.
 - Biosecurity as an example – cracking models, safety and restrictions that are broken many times over.
 - How does the AI Act and Biotech Act interact?
- ★ Invited guest speaker on AI and biotechnology

23. AI Rule of Law and Rule By Law – Philosophical and Legal Discussion

- Natalie Smuha invited speaker (possibly).
- **Algorithmic Rule By Law:** How Algorithmic Regulation in the Public Sector Erodes the Rule of Law.
- Algorithms of Mass Destruction (book)

24. AI and our Democracy, Elections, Deepfakes, Trust

- Niels Schia - election analysis / brief
- TRUST
- Factiveverse - Marie Amelie

25. AI Policy in China, India and ASEAN collaboration

- Chinese Big AI – who are the players?
- Main policies for AI in China.
- Chinese AI Regulations
- The India AI Impact Summit.
- The Indian Seven Sutras and AI Guidelines.
- ASEAN collaborations.

26. AI and Education Policy Developments in Norway

- The NoU on AI in education
- Contrarian perspectives
- Automated evaluations, good or bad?

27. Policies and Governance of AI Auditing and AI Model Evaluations

- The AI Safety Network that turned into the network for AI Evaluations, Measurement and Science
- Benchmarking
- Standards
- Metrology - no, not the weather... The science of measurement.
- Auditing tools
- Research collaborations

28. Governing AI With Algorithm Registries?

- The Dutch scandal
- The Dutch algorithm registry
- Other AI Model registries
- Talk by Dutch government officials
- The path forward

29. Human Rights Meets AI

- Based on the MILA AI and Human Rights Summer School (invited guests from MILA)

- International treaties, returning to the AI treaty
- Examples of AI and human rights violations

30. Securing AI and AI for Security or Defense

- Developments in the Ukraine war
 - Current applications of AI for warfare
 - NSM and FFI present their work
- ★ Guest lecture from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

31. AI, Robotics and Autonomy - Norway's Emerging Ecosystem

- The US strategic plan for robotics
- 1X, Wheel.me, AutoStore, Zeabus, FIELD, etc.
- Why are they moving? Testing elsewhere?
- A new technology race...

32. Sustainable AI and AI for Sustainability

- Is AI contributing to a more sustainable world considering its significant consumption?
- Can AI be used to contribute to reaching goals related to sustainability?
- AI and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Potential readings

Books

- **The Cambridge Handbook of the Law, Ethics and Policy of Artificial Intelligence**
- *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence.*
- *Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI.*

Books – optional readings:

- *Algorithmic Rule By Law: How Algorithmic Regulation in the Public Sector Erodes the Rule of Law.*
- *Feeding the Machine: The Hidden Human Labour Powering AI.*
- *Human Compatible: Artificial Intelligence and the Problem of Control.*

Articles (note: this will be expanded on and worked on in the reference group as well as deciding on the overall lecture structure).

- Sustainable AI: AI for sustainability and the sustainability of AI

- o <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43681-021-00043-6>
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