Course Description

This course examines, primarily from the perspective of the regulator, but also from the perspectives of a technology intermediary (e.g. an ISP or an outsourcing service provider) and a user, the legal and policy issues relating to information technology and the use of the Internet. Topical issues examined include electronic commerce, cybercrimes and cyber-security, electronic evidence, electronic banking and digital currencies, unsolicited messages ("spam"), digital surveillance, cryptocurrencies and distributed ledger technologies like blockchains. (Intellectual property law issues are addressed in "IT Law I", and privacy and data protection issues are addressed in "Privacy and Data Protection Law".) Students who are interested in the interaction between law, technology and policy will find this course useful.

Objectives

The main objective of this elective module is to allow you to explore the difficult and vexing issues brought about by advancements in information technology, specifically from the perspectives of a business, a regulator and an end user. This course will examine these issues by drawing from a diverse range of disciplines such as law, economics, technology, business and the social sciences, and study the tensions and interplays between these disciplines.

The main pedagogical objective of this module is not to provide you with an exhaustive treatment of the law in this area. Rather, the objective is to allow you to develop and support your own analytical methodology or perspective for examining these issues.

The other pedagogical objective of this module is to get you to work as a team with your classmates, to manage, collaborate and collate your research. The class presentation component attempts to capture this important dynamic which is a vital skill in any workplace, especially in the legal sector. At the same time, the assignment component exercises your writing skills, and allows you to express yourself and your thoughts in written form, in very much the same way briefs are written and filed before the courts.

Prerequisites

While no formal prerequisites are prescribed for this course, a student who wishes to do well is expected to have a firm foundation from courses done as part of the NUS Compulsory Core Law Curriculum or its equivalent.

A good sense of technology and an inquisitive spirit are also very helpful. A sense of humour also helps.

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Teaching Style

Teaching involves a mixture of seminars, wherein the lecturer will alternate between lecturing, conducting discussions and engaging in problem-solving, with a high level of participation from all students.

Students are expected to have done the assigned readings before classes.

Course Outline (tentative)

Week	Seminar	Topic
Week 1	Seminar 1	Introduction to Technology & Memes
Week 2	Seminar 2	Cybercrimes #1
Week 3	Seminar 3	Cybercrimes #2
Week 4	Seminar 4	Electronic Evidence & Signatures
Week 5	Seminar 5	Electronic Banking
Week 6	Seminar 6	Virtual Currencies and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs)
Recess		
Week 7	Seminar 7	Student Consultations
Week 8	Seminar 8	Student Consultations
Week 9	Seminar 9	Student Presentations #1
Week 10	Seminar 10	Student Presentations #2
Week 11	Seminar 11	Student Presentations #3
Week 12	Seminar 12	Student Presentations #4
Assignment Deadline		

Assessment

Presentation Instructions

The in class seminar presentation will make up 30% of the grades.

Depending on the final enrolment, all students will form themselves into groups of between 5 and 7 students. In consultation with the lecturer, each group will formulate and research an issue based on any of the areas previously covered in class. A rotating and smaller group of between 3 and 5 students will volunteer to be the reviewing group, to review and critique the presenting group's presentations. Each presentation and review cycle is expected to last about 1½ hours, with the presentation lasting about 1 hour and the review about 20 minutes (with time for comments and input from both groups).

The presenting group will also release its presentation one week in advance to the class, including the reviewing group. The performance of the reviewing group will count towards the 10% class performance grade of the reviewing students.

There will be time each week for 2 presentation/review cycles.

Assignment Instructions

The 6,000 word written assignment constituting 60% of the grades will be based on one of the questions that will be set regarding the topics covered in this course, either by way of seminars or presentations. The student is not limited to choosing a question based on his or her presented topic.

The deadline for the assignment is Friday, 16 Nov 2018 (9am). Submissions will be via IVLE.

Further instructions will be released in due course.

A/Prof Daniel Seng

21 May 2018

(version 1.2)