SUMMER PROGRAMMES

UNDERGRADUATE MODULE SYLLABUS

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Module title	Digital Law
Module code	
Module level	Level 4 (First year Undergraduate UK Higher Education)
Credit value	Equivalent to 15 King's credits, 7.5 ECTS, 3-4 US Credits
Duration	2 weeks
Workload	45 contact teaching hours + 105 Independent study hours. (See detail below)
Entry Requirements	Standard entry requirements here
Mode of Delivery	Face to face, on campus
Contributing Faculty	NA
Date last updated	Created Oct. 17, 2026

MODULE INFORMATION
Module description
Digital Law examines how law is adapting to a world shaped by data, artificial intelligence, online platforms by looking at international and comparative law. Over two weeks, students

will explore the legal questions raised by digital technologies: how personal data should be collected and used; how AI systems can be made accountable; how platforms govern speech, markets and online harms; and how regulators balance rights, risk, innovation and public trust in international law, UK and EU laws. The module introduces students from law, politics, social sciences, humanities, business and related disciplines who are interested in the legal and regulatory implications of digital technologies and the core legal principles and policy debates through contemporary examples from different jurisdictions, case studies and practical problem-solving. Students will learn to analyse emerging digital issues, apply legal concepts to unfamiliar technological settings and evaluate different regulatory responses. By the end of the course, students will have a clearer understanding of why digital law matters for individuals, businesses, governments and society, and a practical toolkit for thinking critically about law in fast-changing digital environments.

Educational aims

The module aims to introduce students to the legal and regulatory challenges created by digital technologies. Through contemporary case studies, students will examine how established legal principles are being applied and challenged in digital environments. The module will introduce students to different regulatory approaches and develop their ability to identify legal issues, work with legal and policy sources, evaluate competing interests and construct reasoned arguments about the governance of emerging technologies from comparative perspectives.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- Explain the main legal themes and regulatory challenges associated with digital technologies.
- Apply core legal principles to digital contexts involving AI, data protection, privacy, platform governance.
- Analyse emerging legal issues in the digital world using relevant legal sources, policy materials and contemporary examples
- Compare different regulatory approaches and evaluate their implications for rights, privacy, accountability and the public interest.
- Present clear, evidence-based arguments about the role of law in governing digital society.
- Understand modern challenges to the legal profession

Teaching methods

The module will typically consist of activities distributed as stated below. Please note that individual tutors may vary this in accordance with discipline-specific requirements.

Lectures	Seminar/ tutorials	Field/lab/studio/ supervised learning	Project work	Other/private study

19	20	6	0	105
Assessment				
Method	Number	Duration/length	Pass mark	% of final grade of module
Written Assignment	1	1800 words	40	70
Group presentation	1	10-15 minutes	40	30
Attendance requirements				
Students must attend a minimum of 80% of timetabled contact hours to receive a Record of Agreed Results.				
Reading list				

Indicative reading/viewing resources (students will be directed to selected chapters, excerpts and short policy materials rather than full texts):

Core academic literature

- Cohen JE, 'The Regulatory State in the Information Age' in Between Truth and Power: The Legal Constructions of Informational Capitalism (OUP 2019)
- Crawford K, 'Data' in Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence (Yale University Press 2021)
- Edwards L, '"With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility?": The Rise of Platform Liability' in L Edwards (ed), Law, Policy and the Internet (Hart Publishing 2018)
- Hildebrandt M, '"Legal by Design" or "Legal Protection by Design"?' in Law for Computer Scientists and Other Folk (OUP 2020)
- Lynskey O, 'The Role of Individual Control over Personal Data in EU Data Protection Law' in The Foundations of EU Data Protection Law (OUP 2015)
- Pasquale F, 'Watching (and Improving) the Watchers' in The Black Box Society: The Secret Algorithms That Control Money and Information (Harvard University Press 2015)

Key legal and regulatory frameworks (UK/EU)

- UK GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018 and selected materials on the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025: personal data, automated decision-making, data subject rights and accountability.
- EU GDPR: selected provisions on lawful basis, transparency, special category data, data subject rights and automated decision-making.
- Regulation (EU) 2024/1689, Artificial Intelligence Act: selected provisions on prohibited practices, high-risk AI systems, transparency duties and general-purpose AI models.

- Online Safety Act 2023 and Ofcom online safety guidance: selected materials on illegal harms, children's safety, platform risk assessment and content moderation.
- Freedom of Information Act 2000 (as amended)
- Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, Digital Services Act: selected provisions on intermediary liability, platform duties, advertising transparency and systemic risk.

Policy papers, regulator guidance and case studies

- Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, A pro-innovation approach to AI regulation (White Paper, 2023) and government response (2024), selected sections.
- Information Commissioner's Office, Guidance on AI and data protection, selected sections on fairness, transparency, accountability, DPIAs and automated decision-making.
- Ofcom, Illegal Harms Codes and Protection of Children Codes/guidance under the Online Safety Act, selected summaries and risk-assessment materials.
- UK Intellectual Property Office / DSIT / DCMS, Copyright and Artificial Intelligence consultation and report materials, selected sections on copyright works used for AI training.
- Selected contemporary case studies, enforcement decisions, policy briefings and media examples on generative AI, platform governance, privacy, online harms and digital IP, supplied through KEATS/pre-arrival materials.