



## Bachelor's courses Faculty of Law

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2018-2019



# Law and Ethics on Robots and Artificial Intelligence

<b>Course code</b>	R_LERAI ()
<b>Period</b>	Period 5
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid
<b>Coordinator</b>	dr. mr. M. van der Linden
<b>Examinator</b>	dr. mr. M. van der Linden
<b>Teaching staff</b>	dr. mr. M. van der Linden
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Seminar
<b>Level</b>	600

## Course objective

Students that have graduated for this course:

- Acquire an advanced knowledge of legal and ethical issues related to robots and artificial intelligence;
- Explain their own well-founded opinion on the tasks and challenges for the law related to robots and artificial intelligence;
- Are able to 'translate' practical problems into legally manageable problems, and independently analyse complex factual situations and apply the law to these situations and make useful legal recommendations;
- Are able to construct a legal argument based on a proper use of legal sources;
- Display an independent, critical attitude with regard to existing theories and knowledge;
- Are able to critically reflect on the state of the law in the light of technical topics related to robots and artificial intelligence, and to formulate their own well-founded opinion in current academic debates in this field.

## Course content

Amongst emerging technologies robotics and artificial intelligence are prominent both in terms of existing as well as expected use in society. These technologies are special, because they come close to how we humans function. At this moment both robots and artificial intelligence are primarily used for specific tasks (playing games, surgery, self-driving cars), but developments are moving fast. What exactly the future brings is difficult to tell, but no one denies the potential and risks related to robotics and artificial intelligence. Not surprisingly, in the legal and policy arena an active discussion is going on related to legal and ethical issues. These are the issues addressed in this course. The legal angle includes both existing law and the need for new law. If new law is needed, discussion will also be on how this new law should be drafted. For instance, presently the European Parliament is analyzing if maybe some time in the future we may need some sort of legal personality for robots, and Harari is even fantasizing about legal personhood for algorithms. Ethics can apply to both the development and use of robots and artificial intelligence. In this course ethics is primarily used to either constrain the application of existing law or to guide the drafting of new law.

Applications that are covered in this course include softbots, the internet of (robot) things, ambient technology, autonomous intelligent vehicles, and social robots (care and sex).

**Form of tuition**

The course will be delivered through lectures and seminars, partly given by guest-lecturers who are experts in their respective fields. Students are expected to read the required materials beforehand, prepare assignments for interactive tutorial classes, and to actively participate in the discussion.

**Type of assessment**

Paper assignments.

**Course reading**

Literature will be made available in the online learning environment Canvas.

**Target group**

Apart from regular students, the course is also available for:

Students from other universities/faculties

Contractor (students who pay for one course).