

Course Report WASP Graduate School

Date: 2023-11-27

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Name of course, Ethical, Legal, Societal and Economic Aspects of AI & AS 2023

Semester: Spring 2023

Number of registered students: 77

Answering frequency (course evaluation): 33/tot (%)

Examination results

Number of students examined: 73 (4 students neither show up nor submitted)

Fail: 6 (8.2%)

Pass: 67(91.78%)

Brief summary of student viewpoints and suggestions

Results of WASP base-line quantitative questions

- What is your overall rating of the course (1-5): 3.3
- Did you enjoy the course? (1-5): 3.15
- Was it time well spent? (1-5): 3.03
- Did you enjoy the AI Ethics part? (1-5): 3.36
- Did you enjoy the legal part? (1-5): 2.85
- Did you enjoy Olympians? (1-5): 3.27

Answers to free text-questions to be (shortly) summarized under “Strengths” and “Weaknesses”

- What was the best aspect of the course?
- What would you suggest improving?
- What advice would you like to give to future participants?
- Other comments. Is there anything else you would like to add?

"Strengths" according to students²

- The course pushes the students to think about ethics—for the first time—in their own research.
- The ‘Olympians’ case study.
- The legal aspects were completely new to many students.

¹ The report should be written by the examiner together with the teachers and possibly others, such as teaching assistants

² Based on both quantitative results and key viewpoints from students’ free-text answers

- The lectures around human factors, transparency, and fairness.

"Weaknesses" according to students²

- Compared to the second day, which contained the 'Olympians' case study, the first day was less interactive.
- The legal aspects took a lot of time and focused too much on the EU.
- The lack of technical discussions and time for class discussions in general.

Comments from teachers on the implementation and outcome of the course³

- This is the first year that we are running the course in person. Overall, the course run smoothly with its logistics were handled by WASP-HS.
- There were some very vivid discussions during the lectures and lunch time.
- The integration and mix-up of WASP and WASP-HS students went well.
- The lectures in law were considered the worst parts of the course based on the quantitative feedback but it seems to be well received in the qualitative feedback. We believe that this polarisation is because of the fuzziness around regulations at the time of the course and need to introduce basic law content to the students. Given that AI regulations (e.g. AI Act, US Executive Orders) have become much clearer, it will be possible to rework the lectures in the next iteration.
- The newly added lecture on *fairness* was well received by the students.
- The changes in the assignment seem to have fixed any concerns raised in the prior iteration of the course.
- Overall, we are happy with the comments received –including the explicit praise of the WASP faculty involved.

Proposed changes/comments/measures

- The case study will be shortened to give time to another technical-focused lecture on XAI.
- We will introduce flipped classroom elements to have more space for discussions.
- We will complement the lectures with more interactive exercises on the first day.
- We will coordinate the feedback gained to the WASP-HS faculty handling the legal aspects of the course and work with them in reorganizing the content.
- For the WASP students interested, we will provide technical material and short lab exercises for them to try.

³ Including changes effected during the course