STUDY PROGRAMME	ACADEMIC YEAR	SEMESTER
1. POL 2. MATA	2023 - 2024	Second

COURSE TITLE

EU Digital Law and Policies

COURSE PROFESSOR	COURSE ASSISTANT
Dimitri LORENZANI	Thibault BESNIER

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)	LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
Optional	English

ECTS CREDITS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The goal of this course is to provide an integrated and cross-cutting overview of how digital policies and legislations are intertwined with the EU's political priorities. This includes how the digital transition interacts with the pursuit of the green transition and of the overarching goal of Europe's open strategic autonomy in an increasingly contested global arena. At the end of the course, participants will have developed the capacity to critically discuss the role of EU digital laws and policies within the EU's long-term strategy also vis-à-vis third countries.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The above course objectives link up with the following programme-specific learning outcomes:

1.1 Students possess a pluri-disciplinary understanding of European integration, allowing them to understand fully the nature, dynamics and functioning of the EU system.
1.2 Students have a general knowledge of the main components of the EU political system: institutions, actors, decision-making procedures, competences and policies.
1.4 Students possess an in-depth knowledge of fundamental aspects of the EU political system (institutions, actors, policies etc.).
1.5 Students develop a concrete understanding of the logics of policy-making and negotiations within the EU political system, thanks to simulation exercises and oral presentations.
2.1 Students can recognize, contextualize, explain, and interpret political, societal and economic

phenomena in European integration. They can assess events, governance problems and political crises.

2.2 Students can analyse the process and actors of EU policy-making at different levels of governance and can reflect on potential developments.

2.3 Students can transform a complex problem into a research question, mobilize theories, develop a research design, and conduct empirical work to provide solutions in an analytical and balanced way.

2.5 Students are able to analyse, in a limited amount of time, complex and new issues, by finding and investigating various sources of information and delivering an analytical and critical synthesis.

2.7 Students can communicate clearly and effectively, through oral presentations or written documents, to different kinds of audiences.

2.8 Students are capable of evolving in a multi-cultural context and of taking into account the variety of political systems, institutional logics and cultural backgrounds.

For MATA students, the following MATA programme-specific learning outcomes are relevant:

1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.

1.4 The graduate has insights into historical, political, legal and economic aspects of transatlantic affairs as well as into those policy areas that are of essential importance to transatlantic affairs. He or she can use these insights to contextualize and interpret new developments.

2.1 The graduate can approach the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.

2.2 The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems regarding an extensive range of transatlantic affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.

2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.

2.5 The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

The course will consist of 5 main sessions (of some 6 hours each) covering the following subjects:.

1. General introduction: strategic foresight and dynamic coherence as analytical lenses for EU digital laws and policies

   This introductory session will provide an overview of the course and the teaching and assessment methods. It will then focus on strategic foresight (the capacity to look into –and prepare for– the expected impact of long-term trends on today's policies) and dynamic coherence (the capacity to exploit synergies and assuage trade-offs between digital and

other policies) as a method to analyse EU digital laws or policies.

2. Digital sovereignty: a leg of Europe's open strategic autonomy.
This session will focus on digital aspects of the new EU industrial policy focussed on open strategic autonomy, delving into domestic as well as into foreign policy aspects thereof. This will include a debate on the security (CSDP) implications of digital technologies and on the role of technological sovereignty for a 'Europe that protects'.

3. Twinning: how the digital and green transitions interact.
This session will focus on the synergies and trade-offs between the EU's green and digital policies, starting from the cross-cutting analysis in the Commission's 2022 Strategic Foresight Report. A political discussion will focus on possible implications for the Digital Agenda and European Green Deal for the next EU political cycle(s).

4. Social implications of digital techs
This session will investigate social policy issues related to digital tools like artificial intelligence and related policy responses and regulatory challenges (e.g. privacy and IPR). The focus will be on the Commission's proposal for an AI Act. Looking at some longer-term challenges of artificial intelligence for society and democracy will also enable a broader discussion on the "battle of models" (including digital models) between the EU and some of its main partners and systemic rivals.

5. Regulatory issues: Europe as a digital normative superpower (including a seminar)
This session will feature *inter alia* a seminar by an external guest involved in the negotiations of the recent Digital Services Act and Digital Market Act. The seminar will aim to give a flavour of the process, including negotiations in trilogues as well as main political dilemmas, underlying recent key cases of EU digital regulation. A discussion will follow on the role of regulation and standard setting, also in terms of first mover advantage for Europe to become a digital normative superpower.

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will be interactive, with students expected to participate actively. All course materials and references will be provided during the course, including a few short readings to go through before each of the classes, in order to ensure a debate and Q&A. References to current events and developments will be included to enable the link with the real world.

Starting from the course's second session onwards, students will be asked to do oral group presentations. Those presentations will last 30 minutes (excluding question time from the professor and peers). Those presentations will have to be supported by a slideshow and will allow students to present their critical take about the long-term and cross-policy impact of one piece of EU digital

policy or law. Presentations are expected to be lively and entertaining, combining an analytical part with some policy conclusions / personal recommendations.

Each group will be expected to submit an outline of the presentation, of maximum 2 pages (excl. bibliography) at least 24 hours before the start of the course session where they will present.

The final exam will be a traditional 2-hour written exercise, where students will be asked to reply to 2 short-essay questions linked to the content of the course.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

All course materials and references will be provided during the course, including a few short readings to go through before each of the classes, in order to ensure a debate and Q&A.

6. EVALUATION

Final grades will be given on the basis of following components:
i)   final written exam (60 %)
ii)   oral group presentation (30 %)
iii)   active participation in class (10 %)

Assessment at second attempt
During the second examination session the course is assessed 100% on the basis of a written resit exam. The format of the resit exam is identical to that of the first session.