

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Academic School / Department:</b> | Richmond Business School                              |
| <b>Programme:</b>                    | MA International Business Law                         |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                   | 7                                                     |
| <b>Course Title:</b>                 | International Technology Law                          |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                  | MBL 7403                                              |
| <b>Course Leader:</b>                | Inma Ramos                                            |
| <b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>     | 200 (standard 4 credit MA course)                     |
| Lectures:                            | 39                                                    |
| Seminar / Tutorials:                 | 6                                                     |
| Independent / Guided Learning:       | 155                                                   |
| <b>Semester:</b>                     | Fall                                                  |
| <b>Credits:</b>                      | 20 UK CATS credits<br>10 ECTS credits<br>4 US credits |

### **Course Description:**

This module covers the main concepts and legal issues associated with the e-commerce transactions including business-to-business and business-to-consumer. At its core, the course is concerned with the legal issues surrounding electronic contracts in terms of their different types, formation, validity, contents and terms, payment mechanisms, enforcement and conflict of law issues. It will also explore, analyse and compare the treatment of such issues at a national, supranational, and international levels of internet governance including at the UK, US and European Union levels.

### **Prerequisites:**

N/A

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- To understand the key legal issues which underpin the development of e-commerce.

- To assess critically how the current legal framework needs to be adapted to the situations arising from the development of new technologies.
- To evaluate e-commerce as a global legal discipline arising from the development of technology and communications.
- To examine recent cases where e-commerce issues have sprung and develop a critical knowledge and understanding of privacy issues and conflict of law.

**Programme Outcomes:**

A1, A2, A3, A5

B1, B2, B3, B4

C1, C2, C3, C4

D1, D2, D3, D5

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:  
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

**Knowledge and Understanding**

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- Acquire an in-depth knowledge of concepts and perspectives in respect to e-commerce
- Understand critically the law of e-commerce and its development
- Acquire a detailed understanding of different aspects of electronic transactions, especially electronic contracting
- Examine consumer protection issues arising from e-commerce
- Evaluate the forthcoming legal developments to accommodate the evolution of e-commerce issues.

**Cognitive Skills**

- Develop a critical and practical approach in adapting the current legal framework to cope with the issues raised by e-commerce practice.
- Engage in argument regarding the gaps, conflicts and compliance issues within the current and developing legal framework.
- Consider the practical problems derived from setting up an e-business from commencement of trading, including hosting agreements, designing terms and conditions and resolving disputes.
- Take a critical stance as to future developments in internet and evaluate critically whether the current legal framework offers the flexibility of adaptation to the new set of circumstances.

#### **Subject specific, practical and professional skill**

- Present analysis and discussion maximizing the use of modern communication methods and resources
- Understand the rationale behind subjecting the e-business to national laws or to a new growing body of transnational laws
- Become familiar with the procedures involved in pursuing an action under an arbitration agreement.
- Examine critically the applicability of current regulation to forthcoming developments derived mainly from the technology area.

#### **General/transferable skills**

- Analyse policy documents and legal proposals and defend or criticise their effectivity orally and in writing.
- Develop capacity to work in a group either as a leader or as part of the team in a time efficient manner to accomplish the task in hand understanding the potential transnational nature of e-commerce and related issues derived from it.
- Become proficient in communicating an array of legal and policy subjects and concepts to a legal and financial/business audience with a varied expertise on the subject.

#### **Indicative Content:**

- Definition and rationale of electronic commerce
- Laws related to contracts including their formation and terms and conditions
- Security issues related to e-commerce; identification of parties and electronic signature
- Consumer protection laws including enforcement laws
- Data protection: regulation of trans-border data flows both within Europe and with the rest of the world.
- Judicial and non-judicial dispute resolution arising from e-commerce transactions.

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course will be taught through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and practical sessions. Guest speakers will complement the course providing a practical approach.

**Bibliography:**

Lloyd I. (2014) Information Technology Law . Oxford University Press  
Murray (2013) Information Technology Law: The Law and Society. OUP. Oxford.  
Reed, C. and Angel, J (2012) Computer Law. OUP. Oxford  
Rowland D (2016) Information Technology Law . Routledge  
Tang Z.S. (2015). Electronic Consumer Contracts in the Conflict of Laws (Studies in Private International Law)  
Wang F F (2014) Law of Electronic Commercial Transactions: Contemporary Issues in the EU, US and China  
Wild, C. MacEwan N., Weinstein S., Geach N. (2011) Electronic and Mobile Commerce Law. An Analysis of Trade, Finance, Media and Cybercrime in the Digital Age.

See syllabus for complete reading list

***Indicative Text(s):***

***Journals***

Harvard Journal of Law and Technology  
Journal of Internet Law  
Journal of International Commercial Law and Technology  
European Journal of Law and Technology  
Computer and Internet Lawyer

