# SOCIAL SEMINAR III

**Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Economics PPLE**
**SEP-2023 SS3-PP.3.M.A**

Area Functional Group - Program Direction

Number of sessions: 15

Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: THIRD

Number of credits: 3.0

Semester: 2º

Category: COMPULSORY

Language: English

Professor: **BRIAN BEREZOVSKY**

E-mail: bberezovsky@faculty.ie.edu

Brian Berezovsky is an adjunct professor at IE University and a Public Affairs consultant. His main focus is on the intersection between technology, politics, economics, and policy.

He served as Private Secretary to the Minister of the Treasury of Argentina and as an international advisor to the G20 Deputy. He was also a Legislative Advisor in the Argentine Congress.

Brian holds a Master in Public Administration from Columbia University, for which he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship, and a Political Science degree from the University of Buenos Aires.

### Office Hours

Office hours will be on request. Please contact at:

bberezovsky@faculty.ie.edu

## SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

The “Fourth Industrial Revolution” (4IR), built on the data-centric foundations of the Third Industrial Revolution’s digital technologies, refers to the emergence of new technologies that span the digital, physical, and biological worlds, and revolutionize markets, information flows, employment trends, environmental outcomes, and the balance of global power.

We will analyze major social transformations of the digital society and explore what experts are discussing about their main challenges and opportunities. The course will bring real world current case studies from around the globe to debate the tradeoffs and nuances of technological development with a multidisciplinary approach.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Course objectives:

- Introduce the latest technological developments in several industries of the digital society.
- Analyze how technological progress is both driven by and impacts philosophy, politics, law and economics.
- Integrate the multidisciplinary knowledge obtained in other courses.
- Understand current philosophical debates surrounding technology through the use of case studies, including issues like the future of work, social media, ethical data, and fintech.

Skills to be developed by students:

- Multidisciplinary analysis of current phenomenons.
- Critical thinking of how technologies that are used on a daily basis can have philosophical, political, economic and regulatory implications at a national and international level.
- Identifying the interests and stakeholders behind current discussions around technology to be able to design solutions from a public or private perspective.
- Oral and written expression of ideas and arguments.

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The methodology will have a strong practical approach, where the professor will introduce the topics and relevant case studies to open class discussions from a philosophical, political, economic and legal perspective. Students are expected to read the material assigned for each week in order to actively participate in class with thoughtful insights and they will be graded accordingly. Some sessions will include a brief quiz on the corresponding reading material.

The midterm exam will consist of an asynchronous group project that will analyze a case with the framework covered in the course. The final exam will be an in-person evaluation of short essay questions.

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor's main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

| **Learning Activity** | **Weighting** | **Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in** |
|---|---|---|
| Lectures | 20.0 % | 15.0 hours |
| Discussions | 20.0 % | 15.0 hours |
| Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work | 20.0 % | 15.0 hours |
| Group work | 20.0 % | 15.0 hours |
| Individual studying | 20.0 % | 15.0 hours |
| TOTAL | 100.0 % | 75.0 hours |

## PROGRAM

## SESSION 1 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Social Challenge

**INTRODUCTION TO 4IR AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

In these sessions we will introduce the concept of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and discuss how it is impacting society, politics and economics.

*Reading material:*

*Article: The Fourth Industrial Revolution: what it means, how to respond (World Economic Forum)*

## SESSION 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Social Challenge

What is artificial intelligence? Is it autonomous? How is it influencing society?

*Reading material:*

*Book Chapters: "Introduction", in Atlas of AI: power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021 (See Bibliography)*

## SESSION 3 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Environment

**DIGITAL FOOTPRINT**

What is digital made of? How ethereal is the cloud? What resources are needed to power 4IR? How are they obtained and how does that impact society?

ICTs are believed to present enormous opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through dematerialization and improvements in the efficiency of manufacturing and utility management. However, increased access to ICT networks and increased usage of electronic devices make the IT sector one of the fastest growing contributors to climate change. Furthermore, the disposal of ICT sector waste also poses significant and growing environmental challenges. How can these challenges be addressed?

*Reading material:*

*Book Chapters: "Chapter 1. Earth", in Atlas of AI : power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021 (See Bibliography)*

*Other / Complementary Documentation: "Executive Summary", in The Global E-waste Monitor 2020: Quantities, flows and the circular economy potential (UNITAR)*

## SESSION 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Social Challenge
- Economic Development

**THE FUTURE OF WORK**

In these sessions we will look at how the labor market is expected to evolve in the digital society, which new jobs will be created and which ones will cease to exist. We will also analyze how human resources are used and supervised in the age of automation and AI.

*Reading material:*

*Working Paper: Employment Outlook 2023: Artificial Intelligence and the Labour Market (3. Artificial intelligence and jobs: No signs of slowing labour demand (yet) (OECD)*
*Working Paper: Future of Jobs Report 2023 (Expected impact of technology adoption on jobs, pages 24-27) (World Economic Forum)*

## SESSION 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Social Challenge
- Economic Development

*Reading material:*

*Book Chapters: "Chapter 2. Labor", in Atlas of AI: power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021 (See Bibliography)*

## SESSION 6 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Governance
- Social Challenge

**BIG DATA, MACHINE LEARNING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

How does machine learning work? How objective are algorithms? How is data obtained to feed them? Who owns data? How is data labeled? What are the politics of classification and how does this affect the impact of AI? Can AI recognize human emotion? Can this help fight terrorism and crime?

*Reading material:*

*Book Chapters: "Chapters 3 and 4. Data and Classification", in Atlas of AI: power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021 (See Bibliography)*

## SESSION 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Governance
- Social Challenge

*Reading material:*

*Book Chapters: "Chapter FIVE. Affect", in Atlas of AI: power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021 (See Bibliography)*

## SESSION 8 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

**MIDTERM EXAM**

## SESSION 9 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Governance
- Social Challenge

**AI AND GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL IMPACT AND GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS OF THE DIGITAL SOCIETY**

- How has the government boosted the development of AI?
- What role has the military played?
- How is AI employed by the government and what does that imply for civil rights?
- How did new technologies transform politics?
- Do online algorithms create filter bubbles and do they polarize politics?
- How did the use of social media in politics evolve over time?
- How are new technologies impacting international relations?
- What are the geopolitics behind technology production and commerce?

*Reading material:*

*Book Chapters: "Chapter SIX. State", in Atlas of AI: power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021 (See Bibliography)*

## SESSION 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Governance
- Social Challenge

*Reading material:*

*Article: Echo chambers, filter bubbles, and polarisation: a literature review (Reuters Institute)*

*Article: 2020 Global Inventory of Organized Social Media Manipulation (Oxford Internet Institute)*

*Article: Study: Breitbart-led right-wing media ecosystem altered broader media agenda (Columbia Journalism Review)*

## SESSION 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Governance

*Reading material:*

*Article: The geopolitics of AI and the rise of digital sovereignty (Brookings)*

## SESSION 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Governance
- Economic Development

**BIG TECH REGULATION: PRIVACY, COMPETITION AND LIMITING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER**

What is Big Tech? Why is their regulation growing? How is privacy being protected in the digital society? How did the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) advance citizen rights and what is still needed? How do the DSA and the DMA impact Europe? What is being done to regulate Artificial Intelligence?

*Reading material:*

*Working Paper: Surveillance Giants: How The Business Model of Google and Facebook Threatens Human Rights (Executive Summary) (Amnesty International)*

## SESSION 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Governance
- Economic Development

*Reading material:*

*Article: Two years of the GDPR: Questions and answers (European Commission)*

*Article: EU AI Act: first regulation on artificial intelligence (European Parliament)*

## SESSION 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**Sustainability Topics:**

- Governance
- Social Challenge

*Reading material:*

*Article: Questions and Answers: Digital Markets Act: Ensuring fair and open digital markets (European Commission)*

*Article: Questions and Answers: Digital Services Act (European Commission)*

## SESSION 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

**FINAL EXAM**

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course. Dates and location of the final exam will be posted in advance and will not be changed. Students must attend at least 80% of the sessions. Students who do not comply with the 80% attendance rule will receive a 0.0 on their first and second attempts and go directly to the third one (they will need to enroll in this course again the following academic year). Students who are in the third or fourth attempt should contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

| criteria | percentage | Learning Objectives | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Final Exam | 40 % | | Final Exam |
| Class Participation | 20 % | | Class Participation |
| Intermediate Tests | 10 % | | Reading Quizzes |
| Intermediate tests | 30 % | | Midterm Exam |

### RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the retake exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility).

Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

- The retakes will consist of a comprehensive exam.
- The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.

- The exam will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Recommended

- Kate Crawford. (2021). *Atlas of AI : power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence.* New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN 9780300252392 (Digital)

## BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct here. The Program Director may provide further indications.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy here. The Program Director may provide further indications.

Attendance is mandatory at IE University, as it is an essential factor of IE´s learning methodology. While we do closely monitor attendance in each course, we also consider our students responsible for their own agenda and commitments, as adult university students. With that in mind, each student may miss up to 20% of the sessions within a given course and still maintain the possibility of passing that given course. This 20% “buffer” is to be used for any absences, such as: illnesses, personal emergencies, commitments, official/governmental matters, business and/or medical appointments, family situations, etc. Students should manage their various needs, and situations that may arise, within that 30% buffer.

If a student is absent to more than the allowed 30% of the sessions (regardless of the reason), s/he will obtain a 0.0 grade for that course in both the ordinary and extraordinary calls of the current academic year, and s/he will have to retake the course during the following academic year.

Having established the rule, we strongly discourage to use this buffer as granted. We highly recommend to attend 100% of the classes as it will improve your learning outcomes, it will increase the class performance and it might improve your participation grade. Extreme cases involving emergencies such as: extended hospitalizations, accidents, serious illnesses and other contexts involving force majeure, are to be consulted with the Program Management team for assessment of the situation and corresponding documentation, so that Program Management can support and guide each student optimally.

## ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code here. The Program Director may provide further indications.

Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting another person’s ideas, texts or words as your own. This includes in order of seriousness of the offense:

- providing faulty sources;
- copy-pasting material from your own past assignments (self-plagiarism) without the instructor’s permission;
- copy-pasting material from external sources even while citing them;
- using verbatim translations from sources in other languages without citing them;
- copy-pasting material from external sources without citing them; •and buying or commissioning essays from other parties.

IEU students must contact the professor if they don’t know whether the use of a document constitutes plagiarism. The professor will advise the student on how to present said material. All written assignments have to be submitted through Turnitin, which produces a similarity report and detects cases of plagiarism. Professors are required to check each student's academic work in order to guarantee its originality. If the originality of the academic work is not clear, the professor will contact the student in order to clarify any doubts. In the event that the meeting with the student fails to clarify the originality of the academic work, the professor will inform the Director of the Bachelor Program about the case, who will then decide whether to bring the case forward to the Academic Ethics Committee. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Ethics Committee.

Plagiarism constitutes a very serious offense and may carry penalties ranging from getting a zero for the assignment to expulsion from the university depending on the severity of the case and the number of times the student has committed plagiarism in the past.