

# Digital Economy and Society 37010

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## *About the course*

Welcome!

On this course, we will study digital economy through the lens of commercial law. The actual use of legal tools and practices can tell you much about the context and society in general.

We will first set the scene and study the nature of digital economy as well as its characteristic business models.

After that, we will focus on big and concrete topics such as: e-commerce in the broad sense, the regulation of big tech, the Internet of Things, AI and robots, fintech services, blockchain and cryptoassets, and also how to defend our democracy. We will cover a lot of ground.



## *How does it work?*

All materials will be in Moodle.

I will upload about three lectures per week. My goal is to have roughly 10 big written lectures about the biggest things.

My text is complemented by links to a wide range of other materials to illustrate the context.

There are neither physical nor digital lectures in the traditional sense. Just a lot of text. Since this is a really complex area, it would be impossible to understand it in any meaningful way without actually reading text and studying the context. My written text and links are intended to improve your learning.



The lectures are intended to form a whole. When you study one topic, other lectures may also be relevant.

This reflects the complex nature of the area. Economy and society in general are not organised hierarchically with narrow well-defined silos or boxes. Economy and society are really difficult to understand. Digitalisation just increases their inherent complexity. To understand this area, you generally need a holistic research approach with a narrow question as a starting point. This is roughly reflected in the choice of the lecture topics.



In each lecture, you will find links to legal and other materials. You don't really need to read the linked materials ... but feel free to have a look at the ones you find interesting!

In each lecture, you will also find some simple questions. The simple questions are just a test for yourself to improve learning. Feel free to discuss them yourself or with your fellow students.

You learn by reading my introduction, by having a look at the linked materials you find interesting, and by trying to answer the simple questions on the basis of the materials. And most importantly, there will also be a term paper.



## *Term paper*

When all lectures are in place, you will write a term paper. I will assign the topics based on your student number. It is my intention to ensure that you will have a couple of weeks to write the term paper. Since there will be enough time and you will have a chance to write the term paper in any place you like, you will not need to worry about whether you will be in Vaasa, Helsinki or somewhere else.

The term paper will be the one and only method of assessment.

I will tell you more about the term paper in Moodle when all lectures are in place!



*Think!*

This course is not a mechanical exercise. What I would like you to do is think about these very complex issues after you have seen the different kinds contexts and materials, and hopefully better understand these very complex phenomena and how they affect your business and society as a whole.