

# School of Law

## LW383

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAW

### Course Outline 2022–23

<b>Objective</b>	The objective of this course is to examine how computers and information and communications technology impact on the law and its administration, and how the law itself has developed new rules to deal with issues raised by these technologies.												
<b>Lecturer</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Name</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Office</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Ext</th> <th style="text-align: left;">E-mail</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rónán Kennedy</td> <td>Cairnes 217</td> <td>5626</td> <td>ronan.m.kennedy@nuigalway.ie</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Office	Ext	E-mail	Rónán Kennedy	Cairnes 217	5626	ronan.m.kennedy@nuigalway.ie				
Name	Office	Ext	E-mail										
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<b>Times</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: left;">Day</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Time</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Venue</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lectures</td> <td>Thursday</td> <td>2 – 4 pm</td> <td>AC215</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Hours</td> <td>Friday</td> <td>9 – 11 am</td> <td>CA217</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Day	Time	Venue	Lectures	Thursday	2 – 4 pm	AC215	Office Hours	Friday	9 – 11 am	CA217
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<b>Overall Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of this course you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciate and understand the general impact information technology (IT) has had on the practice of law, and how this technology has given rise to new national and international legal issues and problems;</li> <li>• Describe, explain and analyse the IT-related legal issues covered by this course, and to critically evaluate legal approaches to the resolution of such issues;</li> <li>• Appreciate and critically discuss the broader social, cultural and economic context in which IT and its legal regulation functions;</li> <li>• Apply the rules and principles of law to hypothetical situations and scenarios involving IT-related legal issues.</li> </ul>												
<b>Format</b>	For each week of semester two, the course comprises one lecture of two hours per week. You are further required to study independently for 4-6 hours each week for this subject.												
<b>Programmes</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> / Final Year of the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B); 3 <sup>rd</sup> / Final Year of the Bachelor of Civil Law (B.C.L.); 3 <sup>rd</sup> / Final Year of the Bachelor of Corporate Law (B. Corp. Law) Erasmus and occasional students.												
<b>Course Material</b>	A course web and reading list is available at <a href="http://blackboard.nuigalway.ie">http://blackboard.nuigalway.ie</a> Additional resources will be made available in class, through media services, or Blackboard.												
<b>Core Text</b>	Kennedy, Rónán and Murphy, Maria Helen, <i>Information and Communications Technology Law in Ireland</i> , Clarus Press, 2017.												

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<b>Supplementary Texts</b>	<p>Clark, Robert and others, <i>Intellectual Property Law in Ireland</i> (third edition) Bloomsbury, 2010.                  Kelleher, Denis, <i>Privacy and Data Protection Law in Ireland</i> (third edition), Bloomsbury, 2019.                  Lambert, Paul, <i>Data Protection Law in Ireland: Sources and Issues</i> (second edition), Clarus Press, 2016.                  Lloyd, Ian, <i>Information Technology Law</i> (ninth edition), Oxford University Press, 2020.                  Murray, Andrew, <i>Information Technology Law</i> (fourth edition), Oxford University Press, 2019.</p>
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>End of Year Examination                      90%                  Weekly MCQ exercises                      8%                  During weeks 2 to 10, students must complete a short multiple-choice exercise (3 to 5 questions), which will be posted after class on Friday and will be due by Sunday evening.                  SCL membership                                      2%                  Students must prove that they have obtained a free membership of the Society for Computers and Law, <a href="http://www.scl.org">http://www.scl.org</a>.</p>
<b>Workload hours</b>	<p>Lecture hours:                                      24 hours                  Independent study:                              66 hours                  MCQ exercise:                                      6 hours                  Associated hours:                                2 hours                  Examination:                                      2 hours                  Total Student Effort:                            100 hours (c 6 hours per week)</p>

Topics (indicative and subject to change):

- 1. Introduction to Information Technology Law**
- 2. Data Protection Law**
- 3. Privacy, Surveillance and Data Retention**
- 4. Regulation of ‘Artificial Intelligence’ (Dr Kris Shrishak)**
- 5. Platform Liability**
- 6. Freedom of Speech and the Internet**
- 7. Computer Crime Law (Ian Whitehurst)**
- 8. Copyright in Computer Software**
- 9. Peer-to-Peer Filesharing**
- 10. Other Intellectual Property Issues: Trademarked Goods Online, Software Patents, Database Rights**
- 11. Contracting Online**
- 12. Review and Module Conclusions**

A full reading list is available within the Blackboard module for this course.