

COURSE SYLLABUS

Technology and Society - Ethics, Law and Policy, 5 credits

Technology and Society - Ethics, Law and Policy, 5 högskolepoäng

Course Code:	J2TAST	Education Cycle:	Second-cycle level
Confirmed:	Mar 25, 2026	Disciplinary domain:	Social sciences
Valid From:	Aug 31, 2026	Subject group:	Business Administration
		Specialised in:	A1N Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
		Main field of study:	Business Administration

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course you will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

1.1 Demonstrate current, advanced, and specialised knowledge (concepts, theories, frameworks) in the course content, applying and integrating this expertise to solve complex problems.

Skills and Abilities

3.2 Deliver compelling oral presentations relating to complex problems and critically discuss and defend their findings in academic and professional settings.

3.3 Lead and collaborate within diverse teams, showing intercultural competence, networking skills, and professionalism.

Judgement and Approach

4.1 Integrate ethical and sustainability considerations into the critical evaluation of organisational, market, and/or policy issues.

4.2 Critically analyse how selected societal trends influence business practices and/or policy, and account for their ethical and sustainability implications.

Content

Digital systems shape how societies function, how organisations operate, and how individuals interact. Every digital system encodes decisions about power, value, and harm. Understanding the relationship between technology, governance, and society is essential for anyone working in digital business. In this course you will examine how technology and society co-evolve through regulatory, economic, and ethical dimensions. You will develop the ability to identify structural patterns in technological outcomes, evaluate accountability mechanisms, and assess how innovation narratives relate to actual effects.

We will discuss surveillance capitalism's business models, platform governance mechanisms, corporate social responsibility frameworks, and regulatory approaches (with emphasis on the European Union). You will explore how platforms evolve over time, the politics of data protection and AI governance, the gap between corporate responsibility claims and actual practice, why regulatory attempts to govern digital power succeed or fail, and how different stakeholders shape or resist technological systems. You will engage with industry perspectives, policy documents, and critical scholarship to build analytical frameworks for evaluating whose interests technological systems serve. You will trace how business models shape platform behaviour, analyse governance successes and failures, and examine cases where technological change produced unintended consequences.

After this course, you will be equipped to critically assess technological systems and their governance, articulate informed positions on digital policy challenges, and navigate ethical complexities in technology work. You will understand the broader implications of decisions made in digital business contexts and your responsibility when participating in them, with frameworks for systematic analysis of technology's societal impact.

Connection to Research

The course connects to JIBS research in platform governance, media policy and technology, and the renewal/digital transformation of industries.

Connection to Practice

The course will prepare you to be reflective practitioners who take into account ethical risks in strategic decisions concerning technology in firms. This includes knowledge of current regulations, policy trends, ethical risks within firms, and their consequences, as firms increasingly rely on data, global platforms, and automated organisational processes. The coursework includes real-world cases, which prepare you for facing real-world ethical dilemmas in strategic decision-making.

Connection to Ethics, Responsibility, Sustainability (ERS)

The course covers digital ethics, law, and compliance. It links company-level decisions about data and technology to worldwide policy trends. This includes ethical evaluations and an emphasis on the risks at the corporate level related to increasing automation and data-driven decision making. The course also teaches you to consider ethical dilemmas and their impacts, along with responsible management practices.

Type of Instruction

The course is taught on campus, through lectures and seminars. It is interactive and discussion-based and includes individual and group work. The course is essentially an interactive on-campus course. It is driven by active participation in in-class contributions to discussions about digital ethical dilemmas and their solutions. Active attendance is part of the evaluation.

Attendance is expected for scheduled on-campus sessions and may be compulsory for some sessions.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

The applicant must hold the minimum of a Bachelor's degree (i.e the equivalent of 180 ECTS credits at an accredited university). At least 30 ECTS must be in Business Administration. Proof of English proficiency is required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

Individual assignment (ILOs: 1.1, 4.1, 4.2), representing 2,5 credits.

You will be assessed through an in-class seminar assignment, active attendance at lectures, and peer assessment of individual contribution to the Oxford-style debate.

Group assignment (ILOs: 1.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2), representing 2,5 credits.

You will be assessed through in-class seminar discussions and an Oxford-style debate conducted in groups.

All parts of the compulsory examination in the course must receive a passing grade before a final grade can be set. Grades are set in accordance with JIBS grading policy.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual assignment ¹	2.5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Group assignment	2.5 credits	G/U

¹ Determines the final grade of the course, which is issued only when all course units have been passed.

Course Evaluation

The course evaluation is important for the continuous improvement of JIBS' courses and degree programmes. The examiner is responsible for ensuring that each course is evaluated, but as a student you are essential in this process. We rely on your input to understand how we can improve. At the outset of a course the student representatives are identified. In the middle of the course there should be an opportunity for the student representatives (or a larger group of students) to share reflections on how the course is progressing. At the end of the course, you will get a course evaluation survey to fill in. The examiner will then host a debrief meeting with the student representatives to discuss improvement opportunities, based on the course evaluation data and comments.

Other Information

As a JIBS student, you are expected to maintain strong academic integrity. You must act within the boundaries of academic rules and expectations relating to all types of teaching and examination.

Copying someone else's work is a particularly serious offence and can lead to disciplinary action. When you use someone else's work without proper citation or transparency about where it came from, you are committing plagiarism. Cutting and pasting without clearly acknowledging the original source is a textbook example of plagiarism.

You must also act responsibly when using Generative AI tools. Acting responsibly includes staying informed about the school's AI-policy, understanding what rules apply in each course, and properly declaring or disclaiming any use of generative AI. You are accountable for all content you submit, including AI-assisted material. Using AI without disclosure or beyond what is allowed in a course is a violation of academic integrity and will be subject to the same academic consequences as other forms of misconduct, which may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or further disciplinary action according to school policy.

The Jönköping University library offers online and in-person support for assisting you in identifying relevant sources, using and referencing literature, and creating texts that meet academic standards and integrity.

Other forms of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) adding your name to a project you did not contribute to (or allowing someone to add their name), cheating during an examination, helping other students to cheat or submitting other students' work as your own, and using non-allowed electronic equipment during an examination. All such actions may result in disciplinary measures.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

A list of articles will be provided at the course introduction and included in the study guide.