



Course program and reading list

Semester 2 Year 2023

School: Harry Radzyner Law School LL.M.

Law and Technology through the lens of Black Mirror

Lecturer:

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
3849	Lecture	2	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	232384900	English



Course Description

Dystopian fiction serves as both a warning of things to come, as well as a useful tool in planning for such eventualities. This forecasting is valuable in plotting the ethical, social, and legal ramifications of said eventualities and determining optimal regulatory oversight.

More so than other types of stories, dystopian film and television provide highly visual and memorable touchstones for society to discuss complex technological ideas. Consider the recently popular television anthology series *Black Mirror*, which first aired in 2011. Many of the show's most disturbing episodes feature seemingly futuristic technologies such as devices that wire directly into the human brain and present the potential consequences thereof. Surprisingly, such revolutionary technologies are not so far off. A great example of this convergence is Elon Musk's Neuralink Corp. which recently announced a similar device to the one in *Black Mirror*, the pending ability of Neuralink's implanted brain chip to allow people to "listen to music directly from our chips [...or] control hormone levels and use them to our advantage."

Given the warp speed at which fiction and non-fiction appear to be colliding, there are clear teaching opportunities in employing dystopian film and television programs in the areas of pedagogy focused on the intersection between law and technology.

This course will look to Hollywood's view of dystopia as a jumping off point to analyze the intersection between law and emerging technologies. The course will focus mostly on the Black Mirror series, but will also look to other shows and film as well.



Course Goals

Learn about law and technology through watching Black Mirror



Grading

TENTATIVE/SUBJECT TO CHANGE GIVEN CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

A participation component worth 20%

A final paper component worth 80%



Reading List

Black Mirror Episodes and perhaps a couple of other films