

Syllabus
ECO 5024e Economics and the Law of Digital Ecosystems
Prof. Dr. Steffen Kroschwald and Prof. Dr. Martin Leroch
Winter Semester 2023/2024

Level	Master	
Credits	3	
Student Contact Hours	28 x 2 contact hours (each 45 minutes)	
Workload	90 hours, 28 hours within class and 62 hours for self-study	
Prerequisites	Proof of level B2 in English	
Time	Wednesday, 15:30-18:45	
Room	W1.3.05	
Start Date	October 11, 2023	
Lecturers	Names	Prof. Dr. Steffen Kroschwald Prof. Dr. Martin Leroch
	Office	Kroschwald: W1.1.28 Leroch: W4.01.04
	Virtual Office	Internet Office Steffen Kroschwald Internet Office Martin Leroch
	Office Hours	Kroschwald: Wednesday, 13.45-15:15 Leroch: Wednesday, 13:00-14:30
	Phone	Kroschwald: +49 7231 286207 Leroch: +49 7231 286324
	Email	steffen.kroschwald@hs-pforzheim.de martin.leroch@hs-pforzheim.de

Summary

Digital ecosystems raise new legal as well as economic questions. For example, digital platforms can gain market power to a previously unknown extent and determine access to and handling of data, information, content and services, which are of relevance across different markets. Motivated by current legislative developments and legal cases, *Economics and the Law of Digital Ecosystems* introduces students to the competition economics in the digital economy in relation to the respective legislation. Economic mechanisms are explained in reference to legislative foundations and legal cases such as the proceedings against the so-called GAFA companies, and general legislative developments such as the regulation of the platform economy or the Digital Markets Act, DMA. Theory and cases are placed in an interdisciplinary context and comprehensively discussed with the students.

Successful students will understand the economic logic of different markets constituting the digital economy. They will also know which (economic) benefits companies in the digital economy may bring or which (economic) harm they may cause. Consequently, successful students will understand the particularities, backgrounds and the necessity of a legal regulation of the digital economy.

Outline of the Course (subject to change)

- Competition
- Economic principles of the digital economy
- Antitrust in the digital economy
- Mergers and acquisitions in the digital economy
- Market power and its abuse in the digital economy
- Regulation of the digital economy

Course Intended Learning Outcomes and their Contribution to Program Intended Learning Outcomes / Program Goals

Program Intended Learning Outcomes	Course Intended Learning Outcomes	Assessment Method
After completion of the program the students will be able...	After completion of the course the students will be able...	Written Exam
		100%
		Individual
1 Responsible Leadership in Organizational Contexts		
1.1 ... to know and explain important leadership principles.	...to understand in which ways the digitalization affects business activities and to understand the economic principles underlying the competitive (and anti-competitive) effects of the digital economy.	x
1.2 ... to apply leadership concepts to an organizational context or a specific case.	n/a	
1.3 ... to critically reflect on leadership concepts in a certain organizational context or in a specific case.	n/a	
1.4 ... to act responsibly from a scientific self-understanding and to act professionally.	n/a	
2 Creative Problem Solving Skills in a Complex Business Environment		
2.1 ... to identify & classify problems.	... to reflect on and evaluate the potential and limits of digital markets as well as the effects, problems and necessity of government intervention and legislative action in such markets.	x
2.2 ... to analyze problems.	... to analyze how the national economies of the European Union, lead and secured by a fundamental legal constitution, have merged and still merge to a single market in important domains.	x
2.3 ... to creatively solve problems.	n/a	
2.4 ... to explain problems and their solutions in a comprehensive manner.	... to discuss business and legal cases in English.	x
3 Applied research skills		
3.1 ... to know the research and analysis methods important in his/her field of study.	... to apply economic tools to analyze various economic effects. Thereby they will be able to apply mathematical and graphical methods.	x
3.2 ... to appropriately apply the research and analysis methods.	n/a	
3.3 ... to obtain innovative results using relevant research methods.	n/a	
4 Innovation management and management of digital transformation		
4.1 ... to have fundamental knowledge of operational innovation processes and of processes of digital transformation.	n/a	
4.2 ... to assess a company's innovation potential and its needs/opportunities with respect to digital transformation.	n/a	
4.3 ... to develop complex technological strategies and strategies for managing digital transformation.	n/a	
5 Management of the challenges of global sustainability and awareness for social and corporate responsibilities		
5.1 ... to have a sound basic knowledge of sustainability issues.	n/a	
5.2 ... to identify and analyze sustainability issues and their causes.	...to explain and discuss different policy positions and legislative concepts on the topics of the digital economy, including the public safeguard for data and infrastructural access, data protection and privacy.	x
5.3 ... to develop sustainability strategies.	n/a	

Teaching and Learning Approach

The course is organized as a lecture, but throughout the course special emphasis is put on discussion and interaction with the students. Based upon profound knowledge of theory and its implications we will critically discuss current policy and legislative topics in international digital economics.

Literature and Course Materials

- For a brief introduction and quick approach to the principles of European and international Competition and Antitrust Law: Ezrachi, Competition and Antitrust Law: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2021
- Relevant Law Texts (e.g. [The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union \(TFEU\)](#), [Act against Restraints of Competition \(GWB\)](#)) will be announced in the class. They can be read online and downloaded/printed as uncommented versions for the exam

Further relevant literature will be announced in class wherever appropriate.

Assessment

Exam

Code of Conduct for online Teaching

[Link to the Code of Conduct for online Teaching](#)