EUROPEAN MASTER
IN LAW & ECONOMICS

EMLE 2025-2026	
Advanced Topics in Law and Economics of Innovation	**Term/location: 3/Barcelona**
	Credits: 2,5
	Language: English

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course presents the most topical issues in the interaction between innovation and law from the perspective of economic analysis.

To give students a current view of the subject, the course is organized into three thematic blocks, each of which will be taught by a professor specializing in the field.

The three blocks include: (I) DLT and Smart Contracts (II) Product Liability, Artificial Intelligence and Online Platforms (III) Sustainability and Circular Economy.

The course has an instrumental character. Its content is designed to provide students with analytical tools for the elaboration of their master's theses.

The supervisor of the course is Prof. Carlos Gómez (carlos.gomez@upf.edu)

METHODOLOGY

1) **Learning methods**: course materials mostly include legal scholarship, and some hypothetical cases to illustrate different analytical issues. Social sciences tools will be used to analyze the effects of legal rules and doctrines on parties' behavior. Students are required to read the week course materials in advance with the goal of discussing them in class.

2) **Capacities and skills:** after successfully completing the course, students shall be: (a) equipped with an advanced knowledge and understanding of core aspects of the impact of the new technologies in the core areas of private law; (b) able to discuss public policy interests at stake and to develop their capacity to devise and sustain legal arguments and solve legal problems in the fields dealt with during the lectures; and (c) encouraged to think pragmatically about the law.

3) **Attendance policy:** at least 80% of class attendance is required to pass the course.

TOPICS

I. DLT and Smarts Contracts

1. Blockchain and other DLTs
2. Smart Contracts and the economic goals of Contract Law

II. Liability and Innovation. Artificial Intelligence, Product Liability and Online Platforms

1. Liability for damages caused by Artificial Intelligence (Prof. Roger Barat)
2. Liability for defective products
3. Liability of online platforms

III. Sustainability. Circular Economy (Prof. Lela Mélon)

4. On Sustainability: the basics and application
5. Circularity as the tool, regeneration as the goal
6. Corporate Sustainability in the EU

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

The final grade for the course will be based on several factors:

a) **Final examination (80 %):** A final exam based on the assigned readings and the contents of the class lectures will be programmed. The exam will test students' comprehension and familiarity with the different concepts, institutions and approaches discussed during the lectures. The exam will be closed book.

b) **Participation in class (20%):** students are encouraged to actively participate in class and bring quality questions and comments during the discussions.

If the regular course is failed, students will have the possibility of preparing a writing assignment on a specific topic in order to pass the course, if the work carried by the student through the course shows sufficient commitment to that end.

LITERATURE

The professors of each thematic block will suggest specific readings. References will be posted on the course intranet.