Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) Policy and Ethics Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Defense and Security	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) represent one of the most advanced and controversial developments in modern defense technology, blending artificial intelligence, autonomous decision-making algorithms, targeting systems, and machine-driven combat capabilities. As global security environments evolve, nations, defense agencies, policy institutions, and humanitarian organizations increasingly grapple with complex ethical, legal, operational, and governance challenges associated with autonomous weapons. Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) Policy and Ethics Training Course provides a comprehensive understanding of LAWS, focusing on the interplay between international humanitarian law, emerging AI ethics, weapon autonomy standards, and risk mitigation frameworks. It equips participants with strong foundational knowledge for navigating the rapidly changing landscape of autonomous warfare and responsible AI deployment.

Through in-depth discussions, practical policy analysis, and scenario-based case studies, participants will evaluate global regulatory trends, accountability gaps, digital warfare risks, transparency obligations, and the geopolitical implications of autonomous weapons. The course emphasizes strategic policy design, ethical governance, compliance frameworks, and interdisciplinary decision-making approaches that enable institutions to develop responsible and forward-looking responses. By the end of the program, learners will be empowered with actionable tools to support policy formulation, risk assessments, ethical oversight, and cross-sector collaboration in addressing the future of autonomous warfare.

Programme Curriculum

Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) Policy and Ethics Training Course

Introduction

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Course Objectives

1. Understand the fundamental concepts, components, and operational capabilities of lethal autonomous weapons systems.
2. Analyze emerging global trends, treaties, debates, and regulatory efforts shaping the future of LAWS.
3. Apply international humanitarian law and human rights frameworks to autonomous weapons governance.
4. Evaluate ethical dilemmas involving autonomy, accountability, transparency, and decision-making algorithms.
5. Examine risks related to AI bias, target identification errors, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and system failures.
6. Assess geopolitical dynamics, strategic competition, and global security implications associated with LAWS.
7. Identify gaps in global governance, compliance standards, and international enforcement mechanisms.
8. Strengthen institutional capacity for drafting national LAWS policies and operational guidance.
9. Conduct structured risk and impact assessments for deploying autonomous weapons.
10. Develop ethical oversight and human-machine interaction governance models.
11. Analyze role of emerging technologies such as computer vision, sensor fusion, and adaptive AI in modern warfare.
12. Build cross-agency collaboration frameworks for responsible AI governance in defense contexts.
13. Formulate actionable strategies for policy implementation, monitoring, and ethical risk mitigation.

Organizational Benefits

- Improved strategic capacity to navigate evolving autonomous weapons regulations
- Strengthened institutional compliance with international humanitarian law
- Enhanced understanding of responsible AI governance in defense operations
- Reduced operational, ethical, and geopolitical risks
- Increased interdisciplinary coordination across defense and policy agencies
- Strengthened capability to evaluate AI-driven battlefield technologies
- Better preparedness for emerging defense innovation trends

- Clearer frameworks for accountability and transparency in autonomous systems
- Expanded ability to guide national policy debates and regulatory proposals
- Improved public trust and institutional reputation through ethical governance

Target Audiences

- Defense policy analysts and military strategists
- Legal advisors and compliance officers in defense institutions
- AI ethics practitioners and AI safety researchers
- Government security and technology regulators
- International affairs and diplomacy professionals
- Humanitarian, NGO, and civil society representatives
- Military operations planners and technology integrators
- Academic researchers in security studies and emerging technologies

Course Duration: 10 days

Course Modules

Module 1: Introduction to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

- Define LAWS and core technological components
- Explore categories of autonomy and automated targeting
- Assess military motivations for adopting autonomous systems
- Examine key risks involving human-machine decision loops
- Evaluate global concerns related to autonomous warfare
- Case Study: Global debates on fully autonomous weapons

Module 2: International Humanitarian Law and Legal Frameworks

- Interpret legal obligations under IHL and human rights law
- Analyze proportionality, distinction, and accountability standards
- Explore state responsibilities for autonomous systems
- Examine gaps in existing international treaties
- Assess compliance challenges in algorithmic warfare
- Case Study: Legal review of autonomous targeting systems

Module 3: Global Governance and Regulatory Trends

- Review global UN initiatives and multilateral negotiations
- Map regional approaches to regulating LAWS
- Examine national policy developments and defense doctrines
- Evaluate positions of key geopolitical actors
- Explore challenges to global consensus
- Case Study: UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) discussions

Module 4: AI Ethics and Autonomous Weapons

- Analyze core AI ethics principles in warfare
- Evaluate algorithmic fairness, bias, and transparency issues
- Address moral responsibility at the human-machine interface
- Explore ethical oversight mechanisms

- Distinguish between human-in-the-loop and human-on-the-loop models
- Case Study: Ethical failures in autonomous decision-making

Module 5: Technical Foundations of Autonomy

- Understand sensing, perception, and machine learning components
- Examine real-time targeting and navigation algorithms
- Evaluate data requirements and training datasets
- Assess model reliability and explainability challenges
- Explore hardware-software integration in combat environments
- Case Study: AI misclassification incident in weapons testing

Module 6: Risk Assessments for LAWS Deployment

- Identify operational and ethical risks of autonomous systems
- Apply structured evaluation tools for risk categorization
- Assess vulnerability to system failures and unpredictable behavior
- Evaluate risks from adversarial attacks and cyber threats
- Develop mitigation strategies for risk reduction
- Case Study: Failed risk assessment in contested operations

Module 7: Cybersecurity and Resilience in Autonomous Weapons

- Explore cyber risks affecting autonomous weapons
- Assess system hardening and defense-in-depth strategies
- Examine communication vulnerabilities in networked warfare
- Evaluate counter-AI tactics and adversarial attacks
- Strengthen resilience through redundancy and failsafes
- Case Study: Cyber intrusion affecting autonomous targeting

Module 8: Human-Machine Teaming and Decision Dynamics

- Evaluate collaboration models between humans and autonomous systems
- Examine cognitive workload and decision thresholds
- Assess reliability of machine-generated battlefield recommendations
- Identify risks of automation bias in combat
- Explore ethical boundaries of delegation to machines
- Case Study: Human-machine coordination failure

Module 9: Accountability, Responsibility, and Transparency

- Define accountability mechanisms for autonomous weapons use
- Evaluate responsibility gaps in AI-driven decisions
- Explore institutional documentation and transparency obligations
- Interpret command responsibility in AI-enabled warfare
- Examine operational oversight models
- Case Study: Accountability dispute in autonomous strike

Module 10: Geopolitical and Strategic Implications

- Assess global military competition around autonomous weapons
- Examine deterrence dynamics and security dilemma risks

- Analyze power balance shifts among state actors
- Explore proliferation pathways to non-state groups
- Evaluate long-term strategic consequences
- Case Study: Autonomous weapons in regional competition

Module 11: Operational Integration and Deployment Models

- Evaluate integration of LAWS into military missions
- Examine command structures for autonomy-enabled operations
- Assess data, software, and hardware readiness
- Strengthen interoperability with existing systems
- Examine field-testing boundaries and safety requirements
- Case Study: Deployment failures in semi-autonomous systems

Module 12: Artificial Intelligence Testing and Validation

- Assess testing standards for reliability and performance
- Examine simulation environments for AI evaluation
- Conduct stress testing of autonomous algorithms
- Validate predictability and reproducibility in outcomes
- Develop documentation for system certification
- Case Study: Testing protocol gaps in AI weapon trials

Module 13: National Policy Formulation for LAWS

- Develop frameworks for national LAWS policy development
- Align policy objectives with ethical and legal standards
- Integrate multi-stakeholder perspectives
- Identify policy enforcement mechanisms
- Apply risk-informed policy-making practices
- Case Study: National policy blueprint on autonomous warfare

Module 14: Ethics Committees, Oversight Bodies, and Governance Models

- Establish institutional ethics panels for AI oversight
- Implement review and monitoring procedures
- Define governance roles and responsibilities
- Evaluate transparency and reporting structures
- Strengthen long-term ethical governance strategies
- Case Study: Ethics committee intervention in weapons program

Module 15: Future Trends and Emerging Technologies

- Explore future AI developments affecting autonomous weapons
- Assess emerging dual-use technologies and innovation risks
- Examine potential for arms races in autonomous systems
- Identify transformative battlefield technologies
- Develop foresight scenarios for long-term planning
- Case Study: Forecasting the next generation of autonomous systems

Training Methodology

- Interactive instructor-led presentations
- Group activities and policy analysis exercises
- Case study reviews with real-world scenarios
- Structured debates on ethics and legal frameworks
- Practical tools for risk and policy assessment
- Action-planning sessions for institutional implementation

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
02 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	Online	$2,000
02 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
02 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
02 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
02 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	Physical	$12,000

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
02 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	Physical	$9,000
02 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	Physical	$12,000
02 Nov 2026	13 Nov 2026	Physical	$12,000

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