COURSE DESCRIPTION (Group C)

Course code	Course group	Volume in ECTS credits	Course valid from	Course valid to
KOM5042	C	6	2020/2021	2022/2023

Course type (compulsory or optional)	Compulsory
Course level (study cycle)	Post-graduate
Semester the course is delivered	Autumn Semester
Face-to-face, distance or blended studies	Mixed mode (blended studies: lecture and workshop sessions combined with distance learning and self-study options)

Course title in Lithuanian

Demokratija ir medijų politika kintančios komunikacijos ekosistemoje

Course title in English

Democracy and Media Policy in a Changing Communications Ecosystem

Short course annotation in Lithuanian (up to 500 characters)

Šio kurso mokomosios sesijos yra skirtos pažvelgti į skirtingas žiniasklaidos ir komunikacijos ekosistemas Europoje ir ištirti, kokią įtaką politikos, technologijų ir gyvenimo būdo kaita daro žiniasklaidos ir žurnalistikos vaidmens ir funkcijų pokyčiams šiuolaikinėje visuomenėje. Norint pasiekti tokį tikslą, taikomas daugiadisciplininis požiūris, įvertinantis naujausias skaitmenizacijos/platformizacijos tendencijas ir orientuojantis į komunikacijos teises ir informacijos laisvę, o žiniasklaidos ir žurnalistikos analizė atliekama atsižvelgiant į idealiai tikėtinas (normatyvines) ir realiai fiksuojamas (politines, ekonomines, profesines bei kultūrines) charakteristikas.

Short course annotation in English (up to 500 characters)

In this course, learning sessions are designed to look at differing media and communication ecosystems in Europe, and to examine to what extent changes in politics, technologies and ways of everyday life (such as coping with crises, risks, uncertainties) affect changed roles and functions of media and journalism in contemporary Europe. To achieve such a broad aim, an interdisciplinary approach that specificaly focusses on a broad variety of socio-political and technological trends (digitalization, platformization/algoritmization) on the changed communications logic and evolving user habits/routines and their effects (hence on changed communication rights and freedom) is applied, and media and journalism development analysis is performed with ideal (normative) and actual (political, professional and socio-cultural) characteristics in mind.

Prerequisites for entering the course

Bachelor diploma, English language B2 level.

Course aim

By critically reviewing media development tendencies and journalism performance in newly emerging/hybrid communication ecosystems, this course aims at identifying trends in societal re-structuring and change, and, on the basis of the gained knowledge, it explores prospective issues in national and global media regulation/policy/governance formation.

Links among study program outcomes, course outcomes, content, study and assessment methods

Program outcomes	Course outcomes	Content (topics)	Study methods	Assessment methods
1. Conceptual and theoretical knowledge and competences: 1.1. To explore and analyze developmental trends identified within contemporary journalism and emerging media and communications ecosystems; to review those in a broader	Students gain knowledge and understanding of selected theoretical perspectives and conceptual definitions (digitalization/platf ormization, social change, liquidity, convergence,	**Thematic topics here are formulated as critical inquiries:** How democratic and inclusive is the 'new' information/communication environment – how its logic is being shaped/alterred through digitalization/platformization/ algoritmization and other technologically enhanced or	Lectures, interactive workshops, self-study sessions	Opinion statements, essay writing, critical reflections

transnational and political, economic, socio-cultural and historical perspective	hybridization, mediatization) critically significant in contemporary communications scholarship.	socio-political trends? What are 'communication rights' and how they are defined in contemporary democracies and in (hybrid) media and communications ecosystems? How 'old' media (PSM, print and broadcast companies)		
1.2. To evaluate transformations of contemporary media and communications ecosystems in the context of accelerated globalization, digitalization and mediatization, analyzing content, audiences, technologies, organizations and media policies.	Students gain critical awareness and understanding of concrete contextual (socio-political and socio-cultural) conditions and factors influencing media functions and journalism performance in contemporary societies.	respond to changed 'communications logic' and changed 'communication rights' of citizens? How profession of journalism reacts and changes in response to new 'communications logic' and evolving/changed 'communication rights' of citizens? What challenges to democratic governance and media policy are brought by these changes in media/communication environmnets and changed user habits/traditions? How policies/governance actions need to be shaped to address new digital threats/dangers: disinformation/harrasment/attacks on safety, etc.? Who are the core actors (GAFAM global players, governments, media groups/journalists, business, people, HR defenders and activists) defending 'communication rights'? How ordinary people – citizens and massess – react to these new rights and arising information production and communication possibilities? How these 'communication rights' are accomodated in media literacy policies and practical initiatives?		
1.3. To understand the functions of journalism, as a structural element of the future media and communications ecosystems, and it's changing role and functions in a democratic – inclusive knowledge – society.				
2. Analytical and research-based competences: 2.1. To identify significant research questions in the field of journalism, media and communications, to initiate and manage scientific and applied research.	Students generate relevant research questions and support analysis of those with appropriate research insights.		Lectures, interactive workshops, self-study sessions	Creative questioning, in-class discussions
2.3. To critically reflect on the research process and outcomes; to draw research-based conclusions and decisions.				
3. Professional competences and skills: 3.1. To demonstrate solid knowledge of systems of media regulation and self-regulation, cross-cultural differences and to pursue the principles of morality, social	Students gain experience in data collection, analysis and design of media products; they also learn how to generate graphically		Lectures, interactive workshops, self-study sessions	Essay writing, product design

responsibility and human rights perspectives in journalism practice. 3.2. To apply techniques and methods of gathering, selecting, evaluating, writing and editing news, producing media products, while using different types and sources of information, given the media users and different channels.	inventive and resourceful research designs: for such purposes they learn how to apply various techniques such as interactive storytelling and info-graphics.			
4. Social skills: 4.1. To apply effective communication skills in both, professional and personal areas. 4.2. To demonstrate social empathy, responsibility and professionalism in decision-making.	Students perform various roles – those of idea generators and discussion moderators, active listeners and learning scaffolders – and critically reflect on their own learning process and experience.		Lectures, interactive workshops, self-study sessions	Collaborative working, in-class discussions
5. Personal skills: 5.1. To demonstrate critical and analytical thinking skills, news and media literacy competences.	Students experience how to practically apply such conceptually inspired thinking in real-life situations and media policy making.		Lectures, interactive workshops, self-study sessions	Collaborative working, in-class discussions
5.2. To apply creative writing, storytelling, innovative thinking, project management, team-building and life-long learning skills.	Students present written (or designed/produced in other mediated forms) assignments for which various idea generation and presentation techniques will be necessary.		Interactive workshops, poster sessions, self-study sessions	

Criteria of learning achievement evaluation

Analytical thinking, idea and research questions generation, authentic solutions, creative product design, in-class participation

Distribution of workload for students (contact and individual work hours)

Study forms	Hours in face-to-face studies	Hours in online (remote) studies
Lectures	15	15
Seminars	15	0
Laboratory work	0	0
Practical assignments	0	15
Consultations	0	10
Individual student work	0	90
Total: 160		

Structure of cumulative score and value of its constituent parts

Final Grade (FG, 100%) = HW1 (opinion piece, 10%) + HW2 (essay, 15%) + MT (reflection, 15%) + HW3 (scenario, 10%) + E (product, 25% + reflection, 25%)

Recommended reference materials

No	Publication year	Authors and title of publication (e-source)	Number of copies in University libraries or link to e-source
Basic materials			
1.	2019	Waisbord, S. *Communication: A Post-Discipline.*	Journal articles and electronic books, publications are accessible through online data base services (Sage, Taylor & Francis, Cambridge online, etc.) subscribed by the Vytautas Magnus University libraries; books and book chapters or specified materials (research studies and project reports) identified in the readings list are available in VMU library and reading rooms, and in the Department's teachers offices.
2.	2017	Jeffrey Wimmer, Cornelia Wallner, Rainer Winter, and Karoline Oelsner. *(Mis)Understanding Political Participation: Digital Practices, New Forms of Participation, and the Renewal of Democracy.*	
3.	2019	Trappel, J. *Digital Inequalities: Policies against divides, distrust and discrimination.*	
4.	2018	D'Haens, L., Soussa, H., and Trappel, J. *Comparative Media, Policy, Regulation and Governance in Europe: Unpacking the policy cycle.*	
5.	2017	Trappel, J., Steemers, J., and Thomass, B. *European Media in Crisis: Values, Risks and Policies.*	
6.	2015	Castells, M. *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age.*	
7.	2015	Fuchs, Ch. *Culture and Economy in the Age of Social Media.*	
8.	2014	Chadwick, A. *The Hybrid Media System.*	
9.	2016	Simpson, S., Puppis, M. & Van den Bulck, H. *European Media Policy for the Twenty-First Century.* Abingdon: Routledge.	
10.	2012	Psychogiopoulou, E. (ed.) *Understanding Media Policies: A Eurpean Perspective.* Basingstoke: Palgrave.	
11.	2018	Lloyd, J. *The Power and the Story. The Global Battle for News and Information.*	
12.	2014	Padovani, C. & Calabrese, A. (eds.) *Communication Rights and Social Justice.* Baingstoke. Palgrave.	
Supplementary materials			
An extensive list of additional readings and independent study support materials is provided in the designated course area on Moodle platform.			

Course description designed by

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