



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2021-2022

COURSE TITLE

Technology and Politics

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

MARTIN MORAN Álvaro

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

YORK Jillian

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

COURSE TYPE

Compulsory Core Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

4

SEMESTER

TEACHING HOURS

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

LANGUAGE(S)

1

20

80

1

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To gain an understanding of the complex systems of governance that govern the internet—particularly the platforms on which most online speech occurs today—as well as the anticipated and unanticipated consequences of new technologies on politics.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge: A broadened understanding of complex systems of governance; a broadened working understanding of the influence of technology and the internet on global and EU politics; a basic understanding of how human rights and other legal frameworks interplay with internet governance; an awareness of the varying actors that guide and influence internet policy in the EU.

Skills: A broadened ability to analyse policies and laws both verbally and in writing; a basic ability to craft policy based on analysis of competing interests.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Students would benefit from familiarizing themselves with topics of internet governance and politics, such as the current debates, for instance, over the EU Copyright Directive, the Digital Services Act, or the EU Terrorism Directive. Recommended websites to read include:

<https://www.eubusiness.com/topics/internet>

<https://netzpolitik.org/> (some articles available in English)

<https://www.eff.org/issues/eu-policy>

Furthermore, students can familiarize themselves with internet governance by reading Milton Mueller's book *Networks and States: The Global Politics of Internet Governance* (MIT Press, 2010) or by reviewing articles on the Internet Governance Project's website: <https://www.internetgovernance.org/articles/>

Students will also benefit from reading my recently-published book, *Silicon Values: The Future of Free Speech Under Surveillance Capitalism* (Verso, 2021).

Finally, students may benefit from selecting articles for reading from the Social Media Collective's recommended reading lists: <https://socialmediacollective.org/reading-lists/>

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will largely be taught live, but course material may include pre-recorded videos; readings (of articles, book chapters, and/or policy papers) and participation in a class forum.

Students will be expected to submit no fewer than four written assignments (essays, analysis, and creative assignments) during the duration of the course.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Students will be assessed first and foremost on the basis of a take-home (virtual) written examination of no more than three pages, based on a topic selected from several options provided to them (40%).

In addition, students will be assessed on their class participation (20%), participation in online fora (10%), and a written assignment, to choose between essay, literature reviews, and policy analysis (cumulative: 30%).

COURSE CONTENTS

- Introduction to internet governance
- The EU as regulator of the internet
- Social media: Policies, politics, and practice
- Crafting online policies
- Understanding the influence of new technology on global and EU politics

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Students will be presented live lectures and will be expected to read both assigned readings and articles that they locate and identify on their own, based on criteria given in the class. Students will also participate through submissions to a class forum. Finally, students will be provided with videos (such as TED talks) and podcasts to watch or listen to during the course period.