College of Europe / Collège d'Europe

Brugge — Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME	YEAR
European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)	2023-2024

COURSE TITLE	SEMESTER
Disinformation in Diplomacy	2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)	ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)
ANDRIUKAITIS Lukas	SZATTERS Konrad

COURSE TYPE	MAJOR(S)	ECTS CREDITS
Simulation Game	EUW	no ECTS

TEACHING HOURS	INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME	TUTORIAL(S)	COEFFICIENT	LANGUAGE(S)
8			not applicable	EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to provide the students with a comprehensive understanding of disinformation in diplomacy, including its definition, techniques, and impact on international relations. The course will equip the students with the necessary knowledge and skills to design and implement effective strategies to counter disinformation campaigns in the context of diplomatic relations. Through simulations and case studies, students will learn how to analyze and respond to disinformation campaigns in a dynamic and complex environment. At the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of the role of disinformation in diplomacy and its implications for the global community.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Define and explain disinformation in diplomacy, its history, and its impact on international relations.
2. Identify and analyze the different techniques and tools used in disinformation campaigns, including the role of social media.
3. Apply critical thinking skills to analyze and respond to disinformation campaigns in a dynamic and complex environment.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches to countering disinformation in diplomacy through simulations and case studies.
5. Understand the ethical and legal implications of disinformation campaigns in diplomacy.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

In order to successfully complete this course, students should have a basic understanding of international relations, diplomacy, and digital media. It is recommended that students have completed an introductory course in one or more of these areas prior to enrolling in this course.

However, this course is designed to be accessible to students with diverse academic backgrounds and therefore no prior experience is strictly required. Nevertheless, students are expected to have a strong work ethic, be willing to engage in critical thinking, and be open to learning about complex topics.

It is recommended that students limit their preparation to reviewing basic concepts in international relations and diplomacy, as well as familiarizing themselves with current events related to disinformation campaigns and digital media. Additional preparation beyond this is not necessary.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

This course will utilize a variety of teaching methods to facilitate student learning and engagement. These teaching methods include:

- Lectures: The instructor will provide lectures on key concepts and theories related to disinformation in diplomacy. These lectures will be supplemented with multimedia materials such as videos and slides.
- Case Studies: Students will analyze case studies of disinformation campaigns in diplomacy to understand the impact of disinformation on international relations.
- Table Games/Simulations: In addition, students will participate in table games/simulations where they will work in groups to solve practical exercises that will allow them to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained throughout the course.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

There is no formal assessment; however, you are expected to actively participate in the simulation game.

COURSE CONTENTS

Part 1: Introduction to Disinformation

Definition of disinformation

Impact of disinformation on international relations

Role of digital media in disinformation campaigns

Part 2: Techniques and Tools of Disinformation Campaigns

Propaganda and manipulation

Social media bots and trolls

Hacking and cyber attacks

Part 3: Designing Strategies to Counter Disinformation Campaigns

Identifying the target audience

Analyzing the disinformation campaign

Developing a counter-narrative

Building partnerships and alliances

Evaluating the effectiveness of the strategy

Part 4: Table games/Simulations and Case Studies

Table games/Simulations of disinformation campaigns in diplomatic relations

Case studies of disinformation campaigns and their impact on international relations

Analysis of current events related to disinformation campaigns in diplomacy.

Part 5: Discussions about Ethical and Legal Implications of Disinformation Campaigns in Diplomacy

International law and disinformation campaigns

Ethics of countering disinformation campaigns

Role of civil society and media in countering disinformation campaigns

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Please consult the course outline.