



ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2022-2023

COURSE TITLE

The EU and the Geopolitics of Disinformation and Digital Communication in the Neighbourhood and Russia

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

DODDS Klaus

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

MARTÍN MORÁN Álvaro

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

EUN

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course aims to develop students' understanding of the role of disinformation and misinformation in shaping the role and scope of EU diplomacy and the wider geopolitics of the EU Neighborhood. It promotes a critical appreciation of public communication by drawing upon relevant research in critical/popular geopolitics and political science/communication studies.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the students will acquire a critical understanding of the role and scope of misinformation and disinformation in the EU and beyond. It will demonstrate the potential for a critical geopolitical perspective allied with an interdisciplinary engagement with communication studies and political science.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Please try and access at least two of these recommended texts:

- Nicholas Cull, 2019, *Public Diplomacy* Cambridge: Polity
- Rainer Greifeneder editor, 2020, *The Psychology of Fake News* London: Routledge.
- Imke Henkel, 2021, *Destructive Storytelling* Berlin: Springer.
- Alister Miskimmon et al editors, 2018, *Forging the World: Strategic Narratives and International Relations* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Justin McBrayer, 2020, *Beyond Fake News: Finding the Truth in a World of Misinformation* London: Routledge
- Peter Pomerantsev, 2019, *This Is Not Propaganda: Adventures in the War Against Reality* London: Faber and Faber.

- Frances Saunders, 2002, *Who Paid the Piper? The CIA and the Cultural Cold War* London: Granta.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

In person lectures and in class discussion.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

- A 2-hour open-book digital in-class written exam. 80% of the final mark: 2 questions to be attempted from a choice of 6. Maximum 2 pages (700 words) per answer. Total 4 pages (1400 words).
- Class participation mark: 20% of the final mark. If the course has more than 20 students, 20% of the final mark will be attributed to a short presentation.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course provides a historical and conceptual overview of debates and experiences of disinformation and misinformation. It then proceeds through a series of case studies to investigate the way in which the EU has been caught up in policy/public challenges around fake news and #factsmatter as well as considering the experiences of others in the EU Neighborhood.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

The reading list provides suggestions for each topic. The EU has some useful web links that contain assessments of disinformation/fake news and their responses to it:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/online-disinformation>

as well as reports that reflect on the EU's initiatives:

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/07/15/eu-s-role-in-fighting-disinformation-taking-back-initiative-pub-82286>

Other potential resources include: <https://www.disinfo.eu/>