Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

New Media Studies (K001307)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size
(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 7.0
Study time 210 h
Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 1) English Gent guided self-study
lecture
15.0 h
30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

De Wolf, Ralf

PS01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Communication Science)</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Communication Science (main subject Communication Management)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Communication Science (main subject Film and Television Studies)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Communication Science (main subject Journalism)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Communication Science (main subject New Media and Society)</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences</td>
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Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Information society, new media theory, political economy of new media, social media, computer-mediated communication

Position of the course

This is one of the core courses of the Master in Communication Sciences, specialization: New Media and Society. The course builds further on ‘Media-economie en Mediastructuren’ (K001175), ‘Media, Technologie en Innovatie’ (K001176) en ‘Innovatie-onderzoek’ (K001191). ‘New Media studies’ particularly pays attention to the societal impact of the digital revolution. The course aims to make students acquainted with the rising social-scientific and critical theoretical frameworks and research traditions within the broad domain of new media and internet studies.

Contents

This course provides insights into the concepts and theoretical frameworks that are of importance when studying new media. Students are actively stimulated to develop a critical and solid opinion with regard to the societal impact of technology. By combining interactive lectures with contributions of (international) guest lecturers originating from the academic and professional field, different actual and relevant topics in relation to technology and society are being dealt with. Every class focuses on a specific topic, which will be elaborated. Typical examples are participation; networks and communities; identity; politics and democracy; digital economy and convergence culture; privacy and surveillance; big data and ethics.

Initial competences

Analytical skills
Reflective attitude

Final competences

(Approved)
1. Thorough and critical analysis of complex issues in relation to new media, ICT and society, including its societal impact.
2. Thorough understanding and critical analysis of new developments in the field, in practice and/or in a policy environment.
3. Critical reflection upon new developments in the field and/or policy related to new media and ICT.
4. Critical assessment and use of literature and academic sources in relation to the development of theory and research in the field of new media and ICT.
5. The application of theories, concepts, models and research data about new media and ICT in the context of the organization of research and policy supporting the development, introduction and management of new media and ICT, both from a corporate and societal perspective.
6. To form a sound, independent and critical opinion based on theories and models about complex issues in the field of new media and ICT.
7. To engage orally and/or in writing in a discussion/debate about important issues in the field of new media and ICT.
8. To position the relevant and impact of new media on society in the context of economic, social, cultural, political and technological developments.
9. To have a critical-ethical attitude, including attention for social responsibility in relation to new developments in the field of new media and ICT.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods
Guided self-study, lecture, project, online lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods
This course combines different teaching methods:
- Interactive lectures (online/offline) that include the analysis of important issues in relation to new media and ICT;
- Online guest lectures by (national and/or international) colleagues, including contributions in the context of the Media Innovation Week;
- Guided self-teaching during which the students are asked to follow-up upon new developments in the field of new media and ICT. This should allow them to form a sound and critical opinion on those topics. This also constitutes the basis for the active participation in the group work in which the students actively engage;

Learning materials and price
Free downloadable slides and reader will be available on the electronic platform Ufora.

References
Readers:

Scholarly journals:
- New Media & Society
- Information, Communication & Society
- Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication
- The Information Society
- Social Media + Society
- First Monday

Course content-related study coaching

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

(Approved)
Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods
The (online) oral exam covers both theoretical and critical reflection questions:
- The theoretical questions evaluate the knowledge and insight concerning complex and important issues in the field of new media and ICT;
- The critical reflection questions focus on the development of an own opinion, hereby supported by a critical and scientifically sound vision with regard to complex issues in the field of new media and ICT.
- The (online) oral examination consists of about 3 open questions.

Due to COVID19 and the measures to prevent further dissemination, modified evaluation forms can be rolled out if deemed necessary. Deviations will be communicated via Ufora

Calculation of the examination mark
Periodic evaluation (100 procent)

Facilities for Working Students
Working students need to get in touch with the responsible lecturer by the start of the semester. They have the possibility to have the exam on a different date.