

Master's Programme on Digital Communication Media and Interactive Environments
 course "Participatory Digital Communication and Governance"
 acad. year 2012-2013, Spring semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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| course title | Participatory Digital Communication and Governance mandatory course |
| teaching hours and ECTS credit units | 3 teaching hours per week 5 ECTS credit units |
| course webpage | http://eclass.uoa.gr/courses/MEDIA168 (registration credentials available by the course instructors) |
| instructors | Dimitris Gouscos, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, University of Athens |
| contact data | email : gouscos@media.uoa.gr webpage : http://www.media.uoa.gr/~gouscos office : Stadiou 5 building, room 707 student hours : upon prior contact by email |
| teaching support | teaching of this course is supported by the Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Mass Media (NTLab, http://www.media.uoa.gr/ntlab) of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, University of Athens |
| subject and objectives of the course | <p>the subject of this course is to present theoretical background, methodology principles and technical tools for applying digital media to governance, public participation and public deliberation processes, both at the levels of high and low politics, with emphasis on the use of the internet, Web 2.0 tools, social media, mobile and location-based applications, on the potential of open and interoperable public data as platforms for participation and deliberation, as well as on human rights, trust, user literacy, user acceptance and security and privacy issues</p> <p>the objectives of the course are to provide students with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) knowledge background for concepts and theory (b) practical skills for development and evaluation (c) practical skills for reporting desk- and field-level research work |

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| | with respect to the exploitation of digital media for participation |
| instructional activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lectures on theory topics - study of suggested readings - presentations of ongoing research work for digital media-based participation - type A assignments (study of literature) - type B assignments (case studies) |
| suggested readings | <p>instead of standard textbooks the following indicative readings, which correspond to the subjects of interest for this course, are recommended :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Personal Connections in the Digital Age Nancy Baym Polity, 2010 – Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing Without Organizations Clay Shirky Penguin Press, 2008 – Implementing and Managing eGovernment: An International Text Richard Heeks Sage Publications, 2005 – Wiki Government: How Technology Can Make Government Better, Democracy Stronger, and Citizens More Powerful Beth Simone Noveck Brookings Institution Press, 2009 – WikiLeaks - News in the Networked Era Charlie Beckett Polity Press, 2012 – A Private Sphere - Democracy in a Digital Age Zizi Papacharissi Polity Press, 2010 |
| meeting hours and room | <p>Monday, 3.30-6.30 pm</p> <p>Kalamiotou 2 building, 6th floor</p> |
| time schedule of meetings | <p>students arrive by, course begins at : 4.00 pm</p> <p>1st part : 4.00 – 5.15 pm, 15' break, 2nd part : 5.30 – 6.30 pm</p> |
| calendar of meetings | <p>M1, M2 (introductory lectures)</p> <p>M3, M4, M5, M6, M7, M8 (focused theory lectures)</p> <p>M9, M10 (invited lectures from external speakers)</p> <p>M11, M12, M13 (presentations of type A assignments)</p> <p>student examination meetings (presentations of type B assignments)</p> |
| mandatory attendance | <p>attendance of all course meetings is mandatory</p> <p>student absence can be excused only in cases of force majeure, subject to a limit of at most 3 non-attended meetings</p> |

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| <p>evaluation of student performance</p> | <p>evaluation of student performance is based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by 50% on the realization of type A assignments, and - by 50% on the realization of type B assignments |
| <p>type A assignments (study of literature)</p> | <p>type A projects are assigned to individual students and consist in studying, summarizing and critically discussing book chapters and papers from the course's suggested readings</p> <p>the results of a type A assignment are presented in the form of oral presentations during the semester (cf. the calendar of meetings), as well as an overall written report and accompanying files, to be delivered at the student examination dates (1st or 2nd period)</p> |
| <p>type B assignments (in-class interventions)</p> | <p>type B projects are assigned to individual students and consist in studying, summarizing and critically discussing selected case studies on digital media-based participation</p> <p>the results of a type B assignment are presented in the form of oral presentations during the semester (cf. the calendar of meetings), as well as an overall written report and accompanying files, to be delivered at the student examination dates (1st or 2nd period)</p> |
| <p>pre-requisite courses and background knowledge</p> | <p>technical skills pre-requisite to attendance of this course are limited to familiarity with personal computers, application software (e.g. word processing, presentations) and internet browsing</p> <p>reference examples and papers come for their biggest part from research and practice in a number of countries abroad</p> <p>suggested readings come from their biggest part from non-Greek literature</p> |