

A COURSE SYLLABUS – DOCTORAL SCHOOL
REGARDING THE QUALIFICATION CYCLE FROM 2024/2025 TO 2028/2029

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE				
Course title	<i>DOCTORAL SEMINAR</i>			
Name of the unit running the course	Doctoral School at University of Rzeszów			
Type of course (<i>obligatory, optional</i>)	obligatory subject			
Year and semester of studies	year I -IV, semester: I - VII			
Discipline	Political science			
Language of Course	Polish/English language			
Name of Course coordinator	dr hab. Anna Siewierska, prof. UR			
Name of Course lecturer	dr hab. Anna Siewierska, prof. UR			
Prerequisites	Academic education at the graduate level.			
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COURSE (100-200 words)				
<p>The goal of the doctoral seminar is to present the threats to democracy in the post-truth era, both at the international, national and local government levels. The class will focus on an in-depth analysis of such issues as cognitive warfare, disinformation, misinformation, malinformation, propaganda, fake news, deep fake, etc. It will also be important to accurately identify the threats of social media (especially FB, X, Tik Tok) i.e. algorithms and related network mechanisms like information bubble, reverberation chamber, etc. Already recognized cases of interference in the results of elections at various levels, through deliberately planned and carried out disinformation-propaganda actions (e.g. Brexit, US presidential elections, presidential elections in Romania) will be analyzed. The seminarists, under the supervision of the promoter, will seek answers to questions such as: how democratic states can defend themselves against disinformation, what changes at the legal and institutional level should be implemented to protect democratic institutions, whether the European Union and member states should increase control over Internet giants.</p>				
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND METHODS OF EVALUATING LEARNING OUTCOMES				
Learning outcome	The description of the learning outcome defined for the course	Relation to the degree programme outcomes (symbol)	Learning Format (Lectures, classes,...)	Method of assessment of learning outcomes (e.g. test, oral exam, written exam, project,...)
Knowledge (no.)	knows and understands, has knowledge			
P8S_WG1	Has a broad theoretical knowledge and knows the current scientific achievements including the world ones in the field of the studied field and discipline of science, as well as general issues in the field of related disciplines, has knowledge of its place in the system of science allowing to determine its importance in confrontation with with other fields.		seminar	oral statement, discussion,
P8S_WG2	He knows the directions of scientific research development		seminar	oral statement,

	and the latest discoveries, including of global scope in the practiced scientific discipline.			discussion,
P8S_WG3	Knows, understands and can apply professional terms used in the discipline in native and foreign language.		seminar	oral statement, discussion,
Skills (no.)	can			
P8S_UW1	Based on his/her knowledge of various scientific disciplines, he/she is able to identify and solve the problem of scientific research, define the purpose, formulate the hypothesis and the object of scientific research, improve research techniques, methods and tools, and make conclusions based on the results of scientific research.		seminar	oral statement, discussion, written works,
P8S_UW2	He has the ability to select and use scientific literature to diagnose and solve research problems and innovative activities in his research work, and to apply the appropriate workshop to create new elements of scientific output.		seminar	oral statement, discussion, written works
P8S_UW3	He is able to use his knowledge to analyze and evaluate the results of scientific research, forming an opinion on this basis, including critical judgments.		seminar	oral statement, discussion, written works,
P8S_UK6	Is able to speak in public to present the results of scientific research and participate in the discussion of scientific and professional issues in an international environment, using a foreign language at the B2 level of the European Language Education System.		seminar	oral statement, discussion, written works
Social competence (no.)	is ready to			
P8S_KK1	He is prepared to conduct a critical evaluation of achievements within his chosen discipline and to critically assess the contribution of the results of his own research activities to the development of the discipline.		seminar	oral statement, discussion, written works
P8S_KK3	With his knowledge, he is prepared to solve cognitive and practical problems.		seminar	oral statement, discussion, written works

LEARNING FORMAT – NUMBER OF HOURS						
Semester (no.)	Lectures	Seminars	Lab classes	Internships	others	ECTS
I - VII	-	-	-	-	7 x 15 hrs - 105 hrs.	14
METHODS OF INSTRUCTION						
- SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION, - STUDY OF SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE, - MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION, - PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE PURPOSE OF RESEARCH , RESEARCH METHODS, RESEARCH RESULTS, - COURSEWORK, - PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE DISSERTATION						
COURSE CONTENT						
Topics for the implementation of classes by semester: Semester I Topic 1: Democracy in the post-truth era. Topic 2: Truth and lies in politics. Topic 3: Social capital and its significance for the stability of liberal democracy. semester II Topic 1: History of political propaganda. Topic 2: Manipulation in politics - from history to the present. Topic 3: Techniques of propaganda and manipulation. semester III Topic 1: Emotions in politics - fear, loathing, anger. Manipulation of public emotions. Topic 2: Psychology of politics - political attitudes, behavior and actions. Topic 3: Psychology of communication - the power of narrative in politics. semester IV Topic 1: Media and politics. Topic 2: Internet and new media and their impact on political beliefs, attitudes and behavior. Topic 3: Politics in the network of algorithms. Opportunities and threats. semester V Topic 1: Politics as a battlefield in information, cognitive and hybrid warfare. Topic 2: Disinformation and its derivatives as a threat to state security and democracy. Topic 3: Fake news and deep fake in the context of information security and social stability. semester VI Topic 1: Internet - freedom of speech, anarchy, modern battlefield. The faces of politics online. Topic 2: How to secure the stability of the state and liberal democracy from the threats of the Internet, social media and technological giants. Past experiences of states and institutions. Topic 3: How to study phenomena at the intersection of politics and social media - on the necessity of interdisciplinarity. semester VII Topic 1: Poland in the web of disinformation. Topic 2: Legal and institutional solutions to control (dis)information and the Internet in Poland and around the world. Topic 3: Disinformation in Poland - conclusions and recommendations.						
COURSE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA						
The evaluation is based on the continuous work of the doctoral student in each semester and academic year in terms of: implementation of research, expansion of knowledge, study of literature, involvement and progress in the preparation of the dissertation. Possible semester grades are: 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0. Percentage requirements for the grading scale: In order to obtain a passing grade, the conversion factor for the corresponding percentage of points obtained is applied: - up to 50% - insufficient , (the doctoral student does not make progress in scientific research, does not expand his knowledge, does not study the readings, does not participate in substantive discussion, does not fulfill his						

scientific duties);

- **51% - 60% - sufficient**, (the doctoral student makes negligible progress in scientific research, expands knowledge, studies primary literature, the discussion held is limited to a narrow range of substantive knowledge, fulfills basic scientific duties);
- **61% - 70% - sufficient plus**, (the doctoral student makes progress in scientific research, expands knowledge, studies basic literature, substantively participates in discussion, fulfills scientific duties);
- **71% - 80% - good**, (the doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, expands knowledge, studies primary and secondary literature, substantively participates in discussion, fulfills all scientific duties);
- **81% - 90% - good plus**, (the doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, systematically expands knowledge, studies primary and supplementary literature, substantively participates in discussion, fulfills all scientific duties);
- **91% - 100% - very good** (the doctoral student makes significant progress in scientific research, systematically expands knowledge, studies basic, complementary and beyond the obligatory literature, substantively participates in discussion, fulfills all scientific duties).

**TOTAL PhD STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES
– NUMBER OF HOURS AND ECTS CREDITS**

Activity	Number of hours
Scheduled course contact hours	7 x 15 hrs - 105 hrs.
Other contact hours involving the teacher (consultation hours, examinations)	6
Non-contact hours – student’s own work (preparation for classes or examinations, project, etc.)	309
Total number of hours	420
Total number of ECTS credits	14

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Compulsory literature:	KAISER B., THE DICTATORSHIP OF DATA, WARSAW 2020 BRZEŃSKI R., DISINFORMATION, WARSAW 2011. EBNER J., EXTREMISTS ON THE WEB, WARSAW 2020. VAN DER LINDER S., FAKE NEWS, POZNAŃ 2023. CIALDINI R., INFLUENCING PEOPLE. THEORY AND PRACTICE, GDANSK 2013. KULA H. M., PROPAGANDA CONTEMPORARY. ESSENCE - PROPERTIES, TORUŃ 2005. PRATKANIS A., ARONSON E., THE AGE OF PROPAGANDA, WARSAW 2004. SIEWIERSKA-CHMAJ A., THE POLITICS OF FEAR. HOW FEAR KILLS DEMOCRACY, TORUŃ 2023. SZALKIEWICZ W. K., SOKOŁOWSKI M., SOCIAL ENGINEERS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF GAINING POWER. STUDIES ON MANIPULATION AND PROPAGANDA, TORUŃ 2017. THOMAS O., HISTORY OF PROPAGANDA, WARSAW 2001. SUMPTER D., SURROUNDED BY NUMBERS. ON THE ALGORITHMS THAT CONTROL OUR LIVES. FROM FACEBOOK AND GOOGLE TO FAKE NEWS AND FILTER BUBBLES. KRAKÓW 2019.
Complementary literature:	Bąkiewicz K., Introduction to the definition and classification of the fake news phenomenon, "Media Studies", 2019, vol. 20, no. 3 (78), pp.280-289 Łódzki B., "Fake news" - disinformation in online media and forms of combating it in the international space, "Politics and Society" No. 4 (15), pp.19-30 Kulas P., Narrative as an object of research and a theoretical category in the social sciences in: "Culture and Society" 4/2014. Wrzosek M., Disinformation as a component of information operations, Warsaw 2005.

	Szurmiński Ł., Propaganda in the world of new tribes. A media studies perspective, Warsaw 2023. Westen D., The political brain, Poznań 2014. Mierzyńska A., The destructive effect. How disinformation affects our lives, Warsaw 2022.
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*(1 ECTS CREDIT CORRESPONDS TO 25 - 30 HOURS OF THE TOTAL WORKLOAD OF A DOCTORAL STUDENT, NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE ESTABLISHED EFFECTS).

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Date and signature of the Course lecturer

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Approved by the Head of the Department or an authorised person