

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number : POLS 377	Course Title : Internet and Politics
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites : -
Catalog Description: Politics and political science in the age of the Internet. The impact of the internet on political parties, political participation, representation, identity and citizenship. Internet as a source of information, medium of communication and public sphere. The role of the internet in provision of public services. Internet as a site for censorship, monitoring and control.	Textbook / Required Material : Chadwick A. and Howard, P. (2009) Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics, London
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS	
Extended Description : This course is designed to introduce students to the changes in political institutions, behaviour and policy in the age of information and communication technologies. The impact of the internet on political parties, political participation, representation, identity and citizenship will be explored. The role of the Internet as a source of information, medium of communication and public sphere will be analyzed. Emerging issues such as digital divide, online provision of public services, new practices of censorship, monitoring and control will be studied.	
Design content : None	Computer usage: Necessary
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to apply fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science to current developments in the age of the internet. • Understand the mechanisms of political change as a result of the changes in technological environment. • Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that emerge with the proliferation of ICTs. • Improve their analytical and critical thinking skills through class discussions and written assignments. 	
Teaching methods: Lectures, class discussion, web search, online applications	
Course Outline	
Week	Topics
1	Introducing the Course
2	Introduction to Politics and Technology
3	The Emergence, Development and the Nature of the Internet

4	The Internet in Political Science
5	Internet and Political Participation
6	Internet and Political Participation (cont.)
7	Review and Midterm
8	Political Parties and Online Campaigning
9	E-Government
10	Control of the Internet
11	Control of the Internet (cont.)
12	Internet and Democratic Citizenship
13	Digital Divide
14	Concluding the Course

Assessment methods:

Class participation (includes discussions, short written assignments, and quizzes): 20%

Midterm exam: 30%

Research paper: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
IR1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events					
IR2	Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions					
IR3	Be able to follow the world political conjuncture					
IR4	Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations					
IR5	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
IR6	Understand the international legal framework					
IR7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international relations					

PS1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to historical and current events					X
PS2	Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions					
PS3	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					X
PS4	Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)					
PS5	Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)					X
PS6	Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought					X
PS7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics				X	
8	Think independently, creatively, and critically					X
9	Be an entrepreneur and take initiative					
10	Have self-confidence					X
11	Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences					
12	Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups					
13	Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms					
14	Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly					
15	Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public					X
16	Understand, read, and write in English					X
17	Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report					
18	Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research					
19	Understand and interpret statistical data					
20	Be prone to team work				X	
21	Possess computer and technological literacy					

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Reading	70 hrs
Lectures	35 hrs
Class participation	5 hrs
Research paper	36 hrs
Examinations (Midterm and final)	4 hrs
TOTAL	150 hrs (25X6) 6 ECTS

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