The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Who Controls the Internet? - 50056

Last update 27-10-2019

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Communication & Journalism

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Dmitry Epstein

Coordinator Email: dima.e@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Dimitry Epstein

<u>*Course/Module description:*</u>
While the internet appears to be omnipresent, vast, autonomous, and uncontrollable, it is in fact governed through technological, economic, legal, and normative practices and arrangements. The course delves into the dynamic complexities of the governance of the internet. First we will read about and discuss the foundational ideas that involve the social significance of the net, its technical and policy aspects, and questions of power. Second, we will discuss a series of internet governance issues including the digital divide, privacy and security, freedom of expression and censorship, and the relationship between the rise of the platforms and human agency. Finally, to assist with the writing of the final paper, we will interrogate the intersection of social science research and its communication with public policy.

<u>*Course/Module aims:*</u>

<u>*Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:*</u>
The students should be able to understand how internet governance is shaped through technology design, regulation, and use. They should be able to identify instances where internet governance, in the broad sense of the term, occurs and to critically analyze the sources of influence and the way their impact the communication processes. The students should also develop skills of communicating and critiquing policy positions using scientific research.

<u>*Attendance requirements(%):*</u>

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

<u>*Course/Module Content:*</u>
Foundations:
- Information, communication, and society
- Technology from the internet governance perspective
- Policy
- Power

Issues (sample list, the exact portfolio will reflect developments in the field):

- Digital divide
- Privacy and Security
- Freedom of expression and censorship
- The rise of platforms and human agency

Practical aspects
- Research and public policy
- Writing workshop
- Class Presentations

<u>*Required Reading:*</u>
Will be updated on the course Moodle site

<u>*Additional Reading Material:*</u>

<u>*Course/Module evaluation:*</u>
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 35 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 55 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

<u>*Additional information:*</u>