DEGREE: Innovative Technologies for Digital Communication (L-20)

COURSE: **Internet studies**

CFU: 6

YEAR: third

INSTRUCTOR: Lorenza Parisi

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LEARNING AND SKILLS OUTCOMES:

The course describes Internet Studies main theoretical approach. At the end of classes students will be familiar with main theories related to the Internet Studies field and they will be able to describe the influences that digital media are expressing in the cultural, social, economical and political spheres.
 Students will learn how to use methodological tools to analyze the use of digital media and the participatory culture in the digital age.

Students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

1.   With reference to knowledge and comprehension skills students will be able to understand the vocabulary of Internet studies.
2.   With reference to applied knowledge and understanding students will be able to critically analyze the impact of digital media on current society.
3. With reference critical skills students will be able to critically analyze main trends in digital media environment.
4.   With reference to communicational skills students will be able to apply specialized terminology within the project work.

MAIN TOPICS:

- Media and digital technologies (e.g. new and old media; languages and formats of new media)
- The information society (e.g. Network society; Networked sociability)
- Cultures and identities (e.g. digital media and identity, relationships and self-presentation; Virtual communities vs networked individualism)
- From collaboration to value (e.g. Intellectual property, copyright e creative commons; hacker ethic and open source)
- The public sphere and power (e.g. social movements, participation, democracy, etc.)
- Work and economy (e.g. digital capitalism, digital labor, inequalities).
- Digital media and place experience.

During the semester students will develop a qualitative group project aiming at analyzing the use of social network sites.

ASSESSMENT

- The examination will consist of an oral exam related to the two textbooks aimed at assessing the knowledge gained by the students.

Students may attend a facultative midterm exam related to the first part of the course (2 hours written exam). It consists in 10 closed-ended questions, 3 short questions and 2 open questions.

The exam is designed to assess: 1. learning of basic concepts; 2. ability to link and critique the topics studied.
The oral examination will also assess independent analysis and reflection skills and the ability to apply acquired knowledge to issues concerning digital media.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1. - With reference to knowledge and comprehension skills, the final exam will assess the student's acquisition of understanding of the specialized vocabulary of Internet studies field;
2. - With reference to the application of knowledge, the exam will assess the student's ability to use the vocabulary related to internet studies (class participation will be evaluated as well).
3. - With reference to autonomy of judgment, student's ability to independently make critical readings of major trends in the world of digital media will be assessed.
4. - With reference to communication skills, the exam will assess the adequacy of terminology and the ability to effectively expose the the project work .

FINAL GRADE

The final grade (expressed in thirtieths) will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- 18-21: acquisition of skills sufficient; application of knowledge sufficient; minimal autonomy in relating the various topics covered; property of language not completely adequate.
- 22-24: acquisition of skills good; application of knowledge good; need for support in relating the different topics covered; language property adequate.
- 25-27: acquisition of skills more than good; application of knowledge good; autonomy in relating the different topics covered; language property good.
- 28-30: acquisition of skills very good/excellent; application of knowledge very good/excellent; complete autonomy in relating the different topics covered; language property very good/excellent.

TEACHING MATERIAL

Text book: Delfanti, Arvidsson, *Introduction to digital media* , Wiley, ultima edizione.

Additional text: Frith J., *Smartphones as Locative Media*, Polity Press, 2015

Project work

Documentaries, videos and episodes of TV series viewed online and slides used during the course are an integral part of the examination program.

The slides will be made available among the course materials.