COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
ACADEMIC UNIT	DEPT OF CULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
LEVEL OF STUDIES	UNDERGRADUATE
COURSE CODE	**POL 212** **SEMESTER** (E') FALL
COURSE TITLE	Sociology of Internet

INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES *if credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole of the course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits*		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
	Lectures	3	6
Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (d).			

COURSE TYPE *general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development*	Elective, general background
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	None
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	Yes
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)	

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes *The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course are described.* *Consult Appendix A* • *Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area* • *Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B* • *Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes*
• Understand key sociological theories and concepts as they apply to the internet. • Analyze the impact of the internet on social interactions and institutions. • Examine issues of identity, privacy, and community in online contexts. • Explore the digital divide and its implications for social inequality. • Evaluate the role of social media in contemporary social movements and political processes.
General Competences *Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?*

Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology *Adapting to new situations* *Decision-making* *Working independently* *Team work*	*Project planning and management* *Respect for difference and multiculturalism* *Respect for the natural environment* *Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues* *Criticism and self-criticism*

Working in an international environment	Production of free, creative and inductive thinking
Working in an interdisciplinary environment	……
Production of new research ideas	Others…
	…….

- Search, analyze and synthesize data and information, using the necessary technologies
- problem solving
- Production of new research ideas
- Promoting free, creative and inductive thinking
- respect for difference and multiculturalism
- Working independently
- Team work
- Decision making
- Project planning and management
- showing social, professional and ethical responsibility

(3) SYLLABUS

This course examines the social implications of the internet and digital technologies. It explores how online environments influence individual behaviors, social relationships, cultural norms, and societal structures. Topics include online communities, identity, digital inequality, surveillance, and the impact of social media on politics and activism.

Week 1: Introduction to the Sociology of the Internet
- Course overview and objectives
- Key concepts in sociology of internet

Week 2: Theoretical Perspectives on the Internet
- Functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism in digital contexts
- Network society and information society theories
- Theories of virtual communities

Week 3: Online Communities and Social Networks
- Definition and characteristics of online communities
- Social capital in online networks
- Case studies of prominent online communities

Week 4: Identity and Self-Presentation Online
- The construction of online identities
- Anonymity and pseudonymity on the internet
- Social media and self-presentation strategies

Week 5: Digital Inequality and the Digital Divide
- Access to technology and the digital divide
- Socioeconomic, racial, and geographic disparities in internet use
- Strategies to bridge the digital divide

Week 6: Online Privacy and Surveillance
- Privacy issues in digital environments
- Government and corporate surveillance
- The implications of data mining and big data

Week 7: Internet and Social Institutions
- The impact of the internet on education, work, and family
- E-commerce and changes in consumer behavior
- The role of the internet in healthcare and telemedicine

Week 8: Cyberbullying and Online Harassment
- Definitions and types of cyberbullying
- Social and psychological impacts of online harassment
- Prevention and intervention strategies

Week 9: Social Media and Political Activism
- The role of social media in contemporary social movements

- Case studies: Arab Spring, Black Lives Matter, #MeToo
- Digital activism vs. traditional activism

Week 10: The Internet and Globalization
- The internet as a tool for globalization
- Cultural homogenization vs. cultural diversity
- Global digital cultures

Week 11: Ethical Issues in the Digital Age
- Ethical use of digital content and intellectual property
- The ethics of artificial intelligence and machine learning

Week 12: Future Trends and Developments
- Emerging technologies and their sociological implications
- Predicting the future of the internet and digital interactions
- Preparing for a digital future: skills and competencies

Week 13: Final presentation of students' project

(4) TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY *Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.*	Face-to-face
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY *Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students*	• Software for concept maps • Diagrams, tables, pictures, photos, videos, digital material, viewing & presentation software • Utilization of social media to support the learning process, as well as the research, the preparation, and presentation of team work for the semester project.

TEACHING METHODS		
The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail. *Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc.* *The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS*		

Activity	Semester workload
Lectures	26 hours
research training	26 hours
Team project	38 hours
Personal Study/ /Preparation	52 hours
Evaluation	14 hours
Total	156 hours

| **STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION** *Description of the evaluation procedure* *Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other* *Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.* | Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all lectures, complete and implement a final project. The most important criteria for grading are timeliness, completeness, and quality. It's important to complete all parts of the assignment, and to make every effort to present the thinking clearly at each stage. Summative Assessment methods: 1. Public Presentation (20%) 2. Final project report (40%) 3. Exams (40%) |

(5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Suggested bibliography:
- Fussey, P., & Roth, S. (2020). Digitizing sociology: Continuity and change in the internet era. Sociology, 54(4), 659-674.
- Serpa, S. (2021). Digital Society and Digital Sociology: One Thing Leads to the Other. Science Insights, 38(3), 314-316.
- Selwyn, N. (2019). What is digital sociology?. John Wiley & Sons.
- Lupton, D. (2014). Digital Sociology. Routledge
- Cavanagh, A. (2007). Sociology in the Age of the Internet. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).
- Christian Fuchs (2008) Internet and Society: Social Theory in the Information Age. Routlegde