E-GOVERNMENT: DEMOCRACY AND TECHNOLOGY

ACADEMIC YEAR:  
DEGREE COURSE YEAR:  
1º SEMESTER ☐  2º SEMESTER ☑  
CATEGORY: ☐ BASIC ☑ COMPULSORY ☐ OPTIONAL  
NO. OF CREDITS (ECTS): 6  
LANGUAGE: English  
TUTORIALS: Available, following IE University schedules and practices.  
FORMAT: Attending Classroom and practical seminars.  
PREREQUISITES: Journalism face, as current events show, technical and cultural dilemmas that make it necessary to be trained for the exercise of this job following digital technical standards. They will be essential to claim a way of doing journalism that is rigorous following current technological ways of developing mandatory skills in the Information Society.

1- SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

The aim of the course is the development of continuous learning on e-government, democracy and ICT (Information and communications technology). These topics will be basic for international relations, communications and politics.

The subjects will be structured in order to develop professional skills and specific expertise in technology, especially in a digital environment for the new media. It will include the necessary theory and also a practical approach.

The student is expected to participate in class and be creative in his papers.

2- OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

Develop critical thinking in relation to democracy, new technologies and globalization, especially those ideas that shape the structure, the institutions, and the citizens’ behavior and its effects on the public administration.

Understand and analyze the strategies developed by major role players (companies, journalists, citizens, administration) and their guiding principles.

Understand the institutions and social processes. Identify national and international actors. And get to know the basic theories of political culture.

Edited by the IE Publications Department.
3- CONTENT

Session 1
Presentation
What is eGovernment?

Session 2
The Network Society.
Communications and Power.
The old Alinski Method and the first Obama digital campaign.

Session 3
The World is Flat. Thomas Friedman.
While you were sleeping.
The perceptual shift required for countries, companies and individuals to remain competitive in a global market where historical and geographical divisions are becoming increasingly irrelevant.

Session 4
The forces that flattened the world.
The end of the Cold War.
The impact that Windows powered PCs had on society.
Internet for all people across the world.
Workflow software, Uploading, Outsourcing, Offshoring, Supply-chaining, Insourcing, Informing and File sharing.

Session 5
Points of convergence.
Convergence and globalization.
*Horizontalization*: companies and people collaborate with other departments or companies to add value, creation or innovation.
New players converged with the rest of the globalized marketplace.

Session 6
WikiJournalism.
New Journalism.
Old pals that helped to define literary journalism: Tom Wolf, Guy Talese and Truman Capote.

Session 7
The 20/200 Rule.
Criticism to critics of democratic systems.
Democratic societies: origin, fundamentals and development.
Political culture and political socialization.
Liberal Democratic State v. Totalitarian State.
Electoral systems in the world.

Session 8
International Relations
Europe in the flat world
Session 9
The Norway Case.
How the poorest country in Europe became a reference globally in standards of living.

Session 10
How ITC can speed improvements around the flat world.

Session 11
Political participation. Voters, Parties and Leaders.
The Social Fabric. Social structure and political divisions.
Electoral representation in Western societies. Political parties and trade unions.
Lobbies and think tanks. Social movements and cyberactivism.

Session 12
Page One, the film.
Inside the New York Times.

Session 13
Globalization.
Cultural flattening around the world.
From the world of countries to the network society 2.0.
From the analogical media to the digital present uncertainties.
Factors which influence social behavior.

Session 14

Session 15
Minorities. feetintwoworlds: journalists and immigrants in NYC.
Immigration in Canada: a happy story.

Session 16
Crisis in the middle class.
Crisis strikes with increasing force the middle classes. From liberal professions to merchants, the economic prospects are bleak. Most troubling is the relative impoverishment of the children of the middle class, the younger generation. The social contract is broken. The devastation of the middle class is being distressing throughout Europe.

Session 17
Activism

Session 18

Session 19
Soft Power and Power Control.
Power control and relations with the media in the Internet 2.0 times.

Session 20
Exam
Forum Chat 1
Innovation and Convergence.
Huffington Post v. NYT. The Learning Network.
Current cases in the international media.

Forum Chat 2
Media Literacy.

Forum Chat 3
Privacy and journalism. Intellectual property. Copyright and copyleft.

Forum Chat 4
Institutions in the XXI Century.
Challenges in a world that defies established organizations.
Problems generated by IT. Public Administration.

Forum Chat 5
Cybercitizens.
Dialog between government and citizens.
Renewal will not come from abolish political parties, but by connection to the permeable networks that drive current society.

Forum Chat 6
Digital Divide

Videoconference 1
Historical failure and media success: The Arab Spring.
Photocopies in Cairo. Infoxtication. Libya: a victory for old school journalism.

Videoconference 2
Historical success and Media failure: Anna Politkóvskaya and media in Russia and the Eastern and Central European countries.

Videoconference 3
Technological change in the European Union.
Finland, from a 20% unemployment rate to Nokia.

Videoconference 4
Data Journalism: from getting to the data to visualising it.
Data journalism represents the convergence of investigative research, statistics, design and programming. The idea of combining those skills to tell important stories is powerful —but also intimidating. Finding data, Interrogating data, Visualising data and Mashing data. The Data Store of The Guardian.

4- METHODOLOGY AND ECTS WEIGHTING

The subject of E-Government: Democracy and Technology will always be part of the future publications of the current students. The learning method will be based primarily on analysis of cases set for each of the themes and the subsequent discussions. Theoretical background will support the exercise of journalism. Students will not only be limited to study issues related, but will put into practice the knowledge acquired in other subjects to discuss with media managers, advocates of the reader journalists, etc. This material was developed
reports and pieces of audio or video. This will tap the resources of MediaLab and provide content for virtual platforms.

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5- EVALUATION SYSTEM

5.1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

While this subject usually has a heavy theoretical component, the sessions will follow a path of case analysis. Thus, participation in the reflections arising out of exposure of these will be assessed on an ongoing basis.

5.2. EVALUATION AND WEIGHTING CRITERIA

Class participation, discussion and reflections: 30%
Final Project: 35%
Final exam: 35%

The extraordinary evaluation:

- The evaluation system is specifically laid out for the make-up exam session for 1st year registration (2nd exam session).
- Each student can take 4 exams per subject in 2 consecutive courses.
- It is mandatory to attend 70% of the classes. Students who do not comply with this percentage of attendance lose the 1st and second exams and go directly to the 3rd one.
- Grading for the students on make-up exams will be subject to the following rules:
- Those students who failed the subject in the first round of exams, pass to the 2nd session, except those who do not comply with the percentage of attendance to class and go directly to the 3rd session.
- The maximum grade that a student may obtain in the 2nd exam session is 8.
- In the case a student receives a failing grade in the class, the student will be able to make-up for the failing grade during "convocatoria extraordinaria" in July. The make-up exam will need a mandatory essay, before the exam.