## **Theory and Technique of Information**

## Prof. Marina Villa

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the requisite knowledge for understanding and studying the news and information system, and in terms of theory (from a sociological perspective), and journalistic techniques.

By the end of the course, students will know the main theories of information and will be able to understand the systems for producing/disseminating news and information using the various media. Students will also have developed techniques for analysing informative texts and will be able to critically evaluate the products of journalistic communication, with a particular focus on the ethics of information.

They will have acquired skills in selecting and processing information: evaluating sources; setting up a data search in a journalistic context; awareness and careful use of language in informative texts. Finally, they will have experience of writing the news in various formats

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two parts:

The first part, of a general and foundational nature, illustrates the main theories on information; in particular, the relationship between information and democracy is studied, with examples from journalism in the United States, in some European countries and in the global South.

The second part provides the tools for analysing texts and journalistic formats, addressing several cases of *non-mainstream* information: *slow news*, constructive journalism, good news, social journalism... The information technique is also explored more deeply with tutorials and listening to journalists.

***READING LIST***

The reading list will be communicated at the start of lectures and published on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures in class, incorporating multimedia technology, guided practical tasks, the analysis of case studies.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Evaluation is through a written test on the first part of the course and an oral on the second part. Students must demonstrate: the basic skills acquired, accurate conceptual understanding of content, the ability to present information clearly and specific linguistic skills. Regarding the first part of the course, students must demonstrate they know the key theories and concepts of the discipline. For the second part of the course, will assess students on their ability to navigate the topics and authors studied, but also their skill in critically analysing news texts.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The module has no prerequisites in terms of content.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.