# Information Literacy and Web Languages

Prof. Massimiliano Montulli; Prof. Simona Ferrari; Prof. Maria José Brites

The two semesters of the course, worth 5 ECTS credits each, also include an integration of 2 ECTS credits for lectures held by a visiting professor. The three lecturers share the didactic structure and the assessment criteria, and propose an integrated exam.

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

First semester*: Prof. Massimiliano Montulli*

The general aim of the course is to offer students the basic notions of ICT and some of its main applications in order to understand the evolution of the media system and the influence that these languages have in contemporary society.

Specifically, the course learning objectives in its first semester are:

– understand the evolutionary paths of information technologies and the dynamics of communication in the knowledge society;

– know and understand the potential applications of these technologies and services in the field of human sciences and communication;

– build and manage a *blog* content plan from a free *self-publishing* platform;

– build and manage a public profile on a *social network*;

– know and understand the potential risks and related legal implications regarding the improper use of *online* communication technologies.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

– design, create, distribute media products or communication experiences of an *educational* or *edutainment* nature;

– use the digital technologies of *online* platforms and the related production processes to integrate traditional teaching strategies with multimedia, interactive, and collaborative remote ones.

## Second semester: *Prof. Simona Ferrari*

The second part of the course (second semester) aims to make students understand the impact of digital media on the process of building and disseminating information.

In particular, the course aims to provide students with the elements to contextualise the concept of Information Literacy by identifying the constitutive elements useful for its structuring in formal, informal, and non-formal education paths starting precisely from the problematisation of the information process in the current post-truth society.

At the end of the course, the intended learning outcomes regarding Knowledge and Understanding will be:

* remember the information literacy specifics;
* understand the language of information, its characteristics, the life cycle and the key issues;
* analyse techniques and tools for research on the net.

The intended learning outcomes regarding the Practical Application of Knowledge and Understanding will be:

* analyse training needs and design educational activities that support Information Literacy;
* apply the theoretical frameworks to build the competency rubric and analysis tools;
* evaluate the impact that digital media have on the information process and suggest strategies for dealing with emerging issues.

The visiting professor Prof. Maria José Brites of the Universidade Lusófona do Porto, Escola de Comunicação, Artes e Tecnologias de Informação will give an insight into the concept of Information Literacy, including the European projects and the Portuguese reality.

***COURSE CONTENT***

First semester*: Prof. Massimiliano Montulli*

The first semester is divided into four modules:

1. Information systems and new digital languages.

2. The languages of the web 2.0: *wiki*, search engines, *blogs*.

3. The languages of web 2.0: *video storytelling* and Youtube.

4. The languages of web 2.0: Facebook, Instagram, and *digital advertising*.

Within this framework, the course will also explore some legal issues related to the topics covered in the course, such as *cybersecurity* and various criminal offenses concerning the inappropriate use of social platforms.

## Second semester: *Prof. Simona Ferrari and Prof. Maria José Brites*

The second semester is divided into four modules:

1. the importance of Information Literacy: genesis and intervention scenarios;

2. the language of information and the mediation process;

3. post-truth and educational paths;

4. techniques and tools to support information research.

The fifth module corresponds to the work carried out by the visiting professor. All information and material related to this module will be made available on Blackboard.

***READING LIST***

First semester: Prof. Massimiliano Montulli

Fiormonte Domenico, Numerico Teresa, Tomasi Francesca, L'umanista digitale, Il Mulino, 2010 (except chapter 3)

The articles, the lesson materials - made available in the online course on Blackboard - and the activities carried out during the course are an integral part of the exam programme.

Second semester: Prof. Simona Ferrari

D. Buckingham, *Un manifesto per la media education*. Mondadori Università, Florence, 2020.

G.Maddalena- G.Gili, *Chi ha paura della post-verità? Effetti collaterali di una parabola culturale*, Marietti 1820, Bologna, 2018.

A textbook to chose from:

I. Maffeis-P.C. Rivoltella (eds.), *Fake news e giornalismo di pace*, Scholé, Brescia, 2018.

D. Palano, *Bubble Democracy. La fine del pubblico e la nuova polarizzazione*, Scholé, Brescia, 2020.

In addition, the articles and lecture materials made available in the online course on Blackboard. The activities carried out during the course are an integral part of the exam programme.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes the alternation of classroom lessons and activities to be carried out online following an active teaching methodology, which in the second semester is based on gamification and within which the student will be a critical protagonist.

The face-to-face lessons will be conducted with group work, debate, problem solving and case studies. The webinars will instead be conducted through the analysis of case studies used both as an active teaching technique and as a support for self-assessment and problem solving. In presence students are required to discuss the main concepts proposed and to work on multimedia projects; remotely students are required to consult the video-lessons and the in-depth material, analyse the case studies used both as an active teaching technique (with discussion in class and in the practical webinars) and as support for self-assessment (with webinars feedback).

Remotely, students are required to study the topics presented in the video lessons (before classroom lessons) and the further study material. Lessons are provided via webinars and participation is important for learning purposes.

The Blackboard platform will include the teaching materials (slides, videos, articles, website design ...) and can be configured as a favourable space for discussion on the topics covered during the course and for carrying out the interim tests.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The course assessment is based on an integrated system that includes the activities developed by the student, presented in the course syllabus and archived in Blackboard, and a final oral exam aimed at reflecting on the path and investigating its contents.

The overall course assessment will be obtained by weighing the results of the various assessment stages: 40% for ongoing activities; 60% for the final oral exam.

The student's preparation for the oral exam on the official exam date is assessed on the basis of the following criteria: knowledge of the contents; re-elaboration and presentation of contents; mastery of specific language.

The assessment of the activities will take into account the following criteria indicated in the specific assessment sections included in the Blackboard.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is held in blended mode, 50% in class and 50% online, and involves alternating classroom lessons, video lessons and online activities. Any further study readings and materials made available on Blackboard and useful for the implementation of the activities, are an integral part of the exam programme, as described in more detail in the course Syllabus published online where the required prerequisites are specified.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

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.