# ICT and the information society [4 ECTS credits]

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

The course aims to teach the basics of ICT and some of its main applications in order to understand how they are changing in contemporary society and how to be aware, responsible users.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify the main components of an IT System, the social implications of IT tools, and the risk and security aspects involved in the use of digital tools and the Internet.

Furthermore, they will be able to use, at a basic level, the most important individual IT tools: text editors, spreadsheets, and presentations.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two parts:

*Theory*

Rudiments of information technology and their application to social science. Students may attend a course of lectures held by the lecturer.

*Practice*

This part aims to teach information technology skills. It consists of self-study material students may access on the Blackboard platform.

The theory syllabus reflects the content of the course textbook that will be indicated by the lecturer in class.

*Theory (contents)*

– Historical introduction of IT.

– IT infrastructures.

– Digital convergence and the information society.

– The digitalisation of society.

– Ethics and information technology.

– Big data, algorithms and artificial intelligence.

– Cybersecurity.

*Practice (contents)*

– Word processors (Word).

– Spreadsheets and multimedia word processors (Excel and PowerPoint).

***READING LIST***

Reference text for the theoretical part:

Frigerio-Maccaferri-Rajola, *ICT e società dell’informazione*, McGraw-Hill, 2023, 2nd edition.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The teaching material used by the lecturer for the *theory* may be downloaded from Blackboard. However, studying the material is no substitute for attendance and studying the course book indicated in the reading list.

The material for the *practice* is available on Blackboard for self-study.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

A computer test with multiple choice questions and simulations that have to be performed.

The examination entitles students to a proficiency grade.

It may be repeated on consecutive examination dates if necessary. Examination enrolment (compulsory) follows the ordinary session calendar and must take place via web through the *iCatt* student’s personal webpage. The result is recorded at the end of the examination itself.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

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.