

Course title	Propaganda, Misinformation and Fake News				
Course code	JOUR103				
Course type	Theoretical				
Level	Diploma				
Year / Semester	1 <sup>st</sup> Year / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester				
Teacher's name	Marios Poullados				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	3	Laboratories / week	
Course purpose and objectives	The course aims to provide the students with a comprehensive understanding of the causes and effects of disinformation, propaganda and fake news, as well as the strategies and techniques for identifying and countering them. The course draws from a range of disciplines, including Psychology, Media Studies, Political Science, Ethics and New Technologies, and encourages critical thinking and engagement with contemporary issues.				
Learning outcomes	<p>Upon the completion of the course, the students are expected to:</p> <p><b>Knowledge</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Recognise</b> the basic concepts of propaganda, disinformation and fake news, their historical background and their evolution in the digital age</li> <li>2. <b>Explain</b> the role of new technologies, social media and search engines in the digital age.</li> <li>3. <b>Understand</b> the consequences of spreading fake news and the need to take a responsible attitude in verifying the accuracy of information before sharing it to the public.</li> </ol> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <b>Use</b> fake news detection techniques</li> <li>5. <b>Demonstrate</b> digital literacy skills, such as skills in navigating various media sources and platforms.</li> <li>6. <b>Apply</b> skills such as <b>analysing</b> logical fallacies and <b>evaluating</b> arguments about the sources of information they encounter.</li> </ol> <p><b>Competences</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. <b>Examine</b> news and debunk misinformation through fact checking</li> <li>8. <b>Examine</b> different types of media content.</li> </ol>				
Prerequisites		Required			

<p><b>Course content</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction to misinformation, Propaganda and Fake News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of misinformation, propaganda and fake news</li> <li>• Historical and current examples of misinformation, propaganda and fake news.</li> <li>• The impact of misinformation, propaganda and fake news on society</li> </ul> <p><b>Psychology of Misinformation and Propaganda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive biases and factors that contribute to believing untrue information and propaganda</li> <li>• Psychological tactics used in propaganda and fake news</li> <li>• Strategies for identifying and countering misinformation and propaganda</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Media and disinformation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of Social Media in spreading and countering misinformation and propaganda and the impact on the spread of false information</li> <li>• The exchange of information in the age of social media</li> </ul> <p><b>Political Propaganda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History and use of propaganda in political campaigns</li> <li>• Propaganda in authoritarian regimes and democratic societies</li> <li>• The role of social media in political propaganda</li> <li>• Case studies on disinformation</li> </ul> <p><b>Case studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examining real examples of misinformation and its effects</li> <li>• Investigate the role of media and technology in spreading or countering false information</li> <li>• Analysing the ethical and legal implications of misinformation and fake news</li> </ul> <p><b>The effects of Fake News and deepfake news</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects of fake news and deepfake news on democracy and elections.</li> <li>• The psychological effects of fake news on the individual and society.</li> <li>• The responsibility of journalists and media organisations in the fight against fake news</li> </ul> <p><b>Technology and misinformation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of technology on the spread of misinformation and fake news</li> <li>• Social media platforms and their role in spreading misinformation</li> <li>• Emerging technologies and their potential impact on misinformation and propaganda</li> </ul> <p><b>Combating Misinformation and Propaganda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies for identifying and countering misinformation and propaganda</li> <li>• Fact Checking and debunking misinformation and fake news. The challenges of fact-checking in the modern age</li> <li>• The role of education and media literacy in combating misinformation and propaganda.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Teaching methodology</b></p>	<p>Interactive lectures, classroom demonstrations of printed and digital media, individual or group exercises aimed at the continuous formative assessment of students. With the help of the above and the supporting materials (as seen below), the students will be called to demonstrate critical thinking skills as they relate to contemporary issues that influence or affect the field of journalism.</p>

**Bibliography**

**Greek Bibliography**

- Διακομανώλη, Κ. (2021). *Fake news: τι κάνει η Ευρώπη; : Στον απόηχο των Ευρωεκλογών*. Εκδόσεις Πανεπιστημίου Μακεδονίας. ISBN: 978- 618-5196-59-2
- McQuail, D. (2003). *Η θεωρία της μαζικής επικοινωνίας για τον 21ο αιώνα*. Εκδόσεις Καστανιώτη. ISBN: 960-03-3301-7
- Αγγελετόπουλος, Γ. (2020). *Πειθώ και προπαγάνδα*. Παπαδόπουλος. ISBN13 9789604846122

**English Bibliography**

- Wardle, C., & Derakhshan, H. (2017). *Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making*. Council of Europe. [Πηγή](#)
- Kracauer, S. (2022). *Selected writings on media, Propaganda, and Political Communication*. Columbia University Press. ISBN-13 : 978- 0231158978
- Demartino, A., Danilov, O. (2022). *False Mirrors: The Weaponization Of Social Media In Russia's Operation To Annex Crimea*. Ibidem Press. ISBN-13 : 978-3838215334

**Supporting materials<sup>7</sup>:**

- Mosseri, A. (2018). *Helping ensure news on Facebook is from trusted sources*. [Facebook](#).
- Nossel, S. (2017). *Faking News: Fraudulent News and the Fight for Truth* . PEN America. [Πηγή](#)
- Deb, A., Donohue, S. & Glaisyer, T. (2017). *Is Social Media A Threat To Democracy?* Omidyar Group. [Πηγή](#)
- Posetti, J., Ireton, C., Wardle, C., et al (2021). United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Μετάφραση Πολύκαρπος Θωμά, Κατερίνα Καραγεώργου, Λύδια- Γεωργία Κολλύρη, Βασιλική Πούλου, Παντελής Βατικιώτης, Δήμητρα Μηλιώνη, Λία (Πασχαλία) Σπυρίδου [Δημοσιογραφία, “Ψευδείς Ειδήσεις” & Παραπληροφόρηση Εγχειρίδιο Δημοσιογραφικής Εκπαίδευσης και Κατάρτισης]. Έτος 1ης έκδοσης 2018: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France. [Πηγή](#)
- European Commission (2017). *Next steps against fake news: Commission sets up High-Level Expert Group and launches public consultation*. [Πηγή](#)

<sup>7</sup> Translation tools: Please click on the following link to go to a guide that has been developed to help you get you informed about the process of automated translation. The guide is found at [Moodle > Student information > Οδηγός βιβλιοθήκης- Μετάφραση](#)



<b>Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendance and class participation 10%</li><li>• Assignments 40%</li><li>• Final Assignment 50%</li></ul>
<b>Language</b>	Greek