COURSE DETAIL

DIGITAL SOCIETY: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, INEQUALITY AND CULTURE

Country

United Kingdom - Scotland

Host Institution

University of Glasgow

Program(s)

University of Glasgow

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Sociology

UCEAP Course Number

106

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title

DIGITAL SOCIETY: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, INEQUALITY AND CULTURE

UCEAP Transcript Title

DIGITAL SOCIETY

UCEAP Quarter Units

8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

The course examines social dynamics of digital technologies, platforms, and services in society. In order to understand how digital technology features in social life, students study the history of the internet and are introduced to the three main approaches in the social study of technology. It then examines key areas in the structuring of society through human-technology interactions and the array of social practices that surround and give meaning to the use of digital technology. This includes the way in which the digital shapes notions of community and identity, how digital technologies are adapted and used in the context of both the domestic environment and working life, as well as the ways in which the digital has permeated educational policies and discourses about literacy and citizenship. The course also addresses the interweaving of digital technologies with broader questions of social justice and inequality by analyzing the concept and evidence of the digital divide and by critically assessing the opportunities but also challenges posed by AI, algorithms, and broader processes of datafication. The understanding gained about the various social contexts of digital technology forms the basis for students to assess whether digital technology is part of (but not determining) broader social change and transformation. Students are encouraged to critically engage in this debate by drawing on the knowledge about data sources that they have developed during the course as well as course literature, and are introduced to various open data sources that they can draw on such as the PEW internet survey, the Oxford Internet Institute survey, and open government data.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

SOCIO4121

Host Institution Course Title

DIGITAL SOCIETY: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, INEQUALITY AND CULTURE

Host Institution Campus

University of Glasgow

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

School of Social and Political Sciences

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