

COURSE DETAIL

FAKE NEWS, FAKE WORLDS: MEDIA, POPULISM, AND AUTHORITARIANISM

Country

Denmark

Host Institution

University of Copenhagen

Program(s)

University of Copenhagen

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Film & Media Studies Communication

UCEAP Course Number

126

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

FAKE NEWS, FAKE WORLDS: MEDIA, POPULISM, AND AUTHORITARIANISM

UCEAP Transcript Title

FAKE NEWS

UCEAP Quarter Units

12.00

UCEAP Semester Units

Course Description

This course explores challenges and alternatives to democratic political communication in several contexts. This course is split into two main focuses: populist political communication in liberal democracies, and media politics in non-democratic regimes. When examining communication in liberal democracies, students discuss how populist political actors adapt to changing media and political environments, and use social and traditional media to communicate with their supporters. Additionally, students explore why fake news is prevalent in some media systems as opposed to others, and how fake news and populist communication may undermine and threaten the democratic performance of media. While examining media politics in non-democratic regimes, students analyze how authoritarian elites build pro-government media systems and fake worlds in the digital era. Students also learn how media control and public opinion management contribute to maintaining authoritarian systems. At the global media level, this course studies the soft power efforts of non-democratic actors in online media and satellite television. The course touches upon political journalism and news in social media as well as traditional media, political marketing and campaign strategies, the political economy of media markets and ownership, and censorship and propaganda. Some aspects of popular media culture (e.g., comedy talk shows) are also explored from a political perspective. Special attention is given to the phenomena of the “post-truth world”: fake news, strategic disinformation, alternative realities, and other recent challenges to democratic media in the twenty-first century. Finally, students consider potential strategies that may be formulated in defense of media freedom, media pluralism, and democratic communication.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

HFMK03314U

Host Institution Course Title

FAKE NEWS, FAKE WORLDS: MEDIA, POPULISM, AND AUTHORITARIANISM

Host Institution Campus

Humanities

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Media, Cognition and Communication

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