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

8.00

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

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

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
Humanities

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Media, Cognition and Communication

Course Last Reviewed

Print