**Course descriptor**

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| Title of the course | **The Internet in Non-Competitive Politics** |
| Title of the Academic Programme  | Comparative Politics in Eurasia |
| Type of the course | Elective |
| Prerequisites | No |
| ECTS workload | 4 |
| Total indicative study hours | Directed Study | Self-directed study  | Total |
| 32 | 120 | 152 |
| Course Overview |  The Internet and politics have a complex interrelationship. The former changes social communication, empowers or reinforces political actors, while political regime and power relations frequently shape the dynamics of the cyberspace. It is especially clear in case of modern non-competitive regimes, as many of them try to utilize Internet to gain legitimacy, competitiveness, and eventually, regime consolidation. The means of the Internet control in non-democracies now go far beyond its blocking and censorship.The course intends to familiarize students with the ways the Internet contributes to authoritarian consolidation and economic development, as well as with the potential of the new media to provoke democratization. The course is arranged to provide a wide comparative perspective of the Internet politics and give students hints to explore this area in their research. |
| Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) | OPLO-7: Able to work out proposals and recommendations for applied research and consulting; PLO-1: Able to use topical research results in political science and adjacent disciplines, apply political science for applied tasks in professional activities. |
| Indicative Course Content | 1. Non-Competitive Regimes: An Overview
2. The Internet and Democratization
3. The Internet Censorship in Non-Democracies
4. Propaganda and Trolling on the Internet
5. Surveillance in Autocracies and Beyond
6. Consultative Authoritarianism Online
7. Regulation: Internet Policy of Authoritarian Regimes
8. Global Internet Governance: Non-Democracies’ Stance
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| Teaching and Learning Methods | The course consists of 8 interactive lectures and 8 seminars, the latter include discussion groups, presentations in small groups and individual assignments. The following teaching methods are involved: * Interactive lectures followed by multimedia presentations;

Debates and open discussions based on mandatory readings. |
| Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy | The final grade (**Qfinal**) for the discipline consists of the formative (**Qform**) and the examination (**Qexam**) marks by the formula: **Qfinal = 0,6\*Qform + 0,4\*Qexam**The formula for the formative mark is: **0,35**\***Qclass + 0,65\*Qessay****In-class participation** (**Qclass**): the lecturer assesses contribution of students to discussions during seminars, her / his knowledge of the subject and level of literature comprehension. The average mark of all seminars is calculated and constitutes 35 percent of the formative mark.**Essay (Qessay)**: each student is to prepare an individual essay, related to one of the discipline’s topics. The mark for the essay constitutes 65 per cent of the formative mark. The evaluation criteria, requirements and recommendations are available in Annex 2 and 3. **Exam (Qexam)**: the examination is organized in the written form, when students are to write mini-essays on 2 questions from the question card. (2 academic hours). |
| Readings / Indicative Learning Resources | **Readings (mandatory):** 1. Gerschewski, J. (2013). The three pillars of stability: legitimation, repression, and co-optation in autocratic regimes. Democratization, 20(1), 13-38. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2170/doi/abs/10.1080/13510347.2013.738860>)
2. Gerschewski, J., & Dukalskis, A. (2018). How the Internet Can Reinforce Authoritarian Regimes: The Case of North Korea. Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, 19, 12-19. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2190/docview/2164974330?accountid=45451> )
3. Ruijgrok, K. (2017). From the web to the streets: internet and protests under authoritarian regimes. Democratization, 24(3), 498-520. (https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2170/doi/abs/10.1080/13510347.2016.1223630)
4. Diamond, L. (2010). Liberation technology. Journal of Democracy, 21(3), 69-83. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2190/docview/634968582?accountid=45451>)
5. Warf, B. (2011). Geographies of Global Internet Censorship. GeoJournal, 76(1), 1-23. ([https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2176/article/10.1007%2Fs10708-010-9393-3](https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2176/article/10.1007/s10708-010-9393-3))
6. Weiss, M. L. (2017). Going to the ground (or AstroTurf): a grassroots view of regime resilience. Democratization, 24(2), 265-282. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2170/doi/abs/10.1080/13510347.2016.1160059>)
7. He, B., & Warren, M. E. (2011). Authoritarian deliberation: The deliberative turn in Chinese political development. Perspectives on politics, 9(2), 269-289. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2057/stable/41479652?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents>)
8. Åström, J., Karlsson, M., Linde, J., & Pirannejad, A. (2012). Understanding the rise of e-participation in non-democracies: Domestic and international factors. Government Information Quarterly, 29(2), 142-150. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2054/science/article/pii/S0740624X12000093?via%3Dihub>)

**Readings (optional):** 1. Dukalskis, A., & Gerschewski, J. (2017). What autocracies say (and what citizens hear): proposing four mechanisms of autocratic legitimation. Contemporary Politics, 23(3), 251-268. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2170/doi/abs/10.1080/13569775.2017.1304320>)
2. Rød, E. G., & Weidmann, N. B. (2015). Empowering activists or autocrats? The Internet in authoritarian regimes. Journal of Peace Research, 52(3), 338-351. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2145/doi/pdf/10.1177/0022343314555782>)
3. Hellmeier, S. (2016). The Dictator's Digital Toolkit: Explaining Variation in Internet Filtering in Authoritarian Regimes. Politics & Policy, 44(6), 1158-1191. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2122/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=5&sid=e54d28fb-7782-4fed-870b-22995c9d0590%40sdc-v-sessmgr02>)
4. Linde, J., & Karlsson, M. (2013). The Dictator's New Clothes: The Relationship Between E-Participation and Quality of Government in Non-Democratic Regimes. International Journal of Public Administration, 36(4), 269-281. (<https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2170/doi/abs/10.1080/01900692.2012.757619>)

**Web-Resources**: 1. OpenNet Initiative. URL: <https://opennet.net/>
2. Freedom on the Net. URL: <https://freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-net>
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