University of Gdańsk

Subject card

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| Subject name and code | Technologies and Information Society, PG_00150572 | | |
| Field of study | Diplomacy | | |
| Date of commencement of studies | October 2025 | Academic year of realisation of subject | 2025/2026 |
| Education level | Bachelor's studies | Subject group | Obligatory subject group in the field of study |
| Mode of study | full-time studies | Mode of delivery | at the university |
| Year of study | 1 | Language of instruction | Polish |
| Semester of study | 1 | ECTS credits | 2.0 |
| Learning profile | academic | Assessment form | credit |
| Conducting unit | Rada Uczelni | | |
| Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers) | Subject supervisor | dr Konrad Ćwikliński | |
| | Teachers | dr Konrad Ćwikliński | |

| Lesson types | Lesson type | Lecture | Tutorial | Laboratory | Project | Seminar | SUM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of study hours | 0.0 | 30.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 30 |
| | E-learning hours included: 0.0 | | | | | | |

| Learning activity and number of study hours | Learning activity | Participation in didactic classes included in study plan | Participation in consultation hours | Self-study | SUM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of study hours | 30 | 0.0 | 30.0 | 60 |

**Subject objectives**

Course objectives English version

The aim of the course Technology and the Information Society is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to understand the relationship between modern information and communication technologies (ICT) and social, political, cultural, and economic transformations in the information society. The course focuses on developing analytical and critical thinking skills in relation to digital phenomena, as well as fostering the competencies needed to function responsibly in the digital era.

Specifically, the course aims to:

- Introduce students to the fundamental concepts of the information society and digital transformation;
- Analyze the impact of technological development (including the Internet, artificial intelligence, big data, the Internet of Things, blockchain) on social life, work, education, media, and culture;
- Develop competencies related to ethical, legal, and social challenges associated with digital technologies;
- Improve skills in case study analysis, debating, and interpreting data on digital issues;
- Promote critical and responsible use of digital tools, including social media and algorithmic systems.

| Learning outcomes | Course outcome | Subject outcome | Method of verification |
|---|---|---|---|
| | [DYPL3_U08] Is aware of the relationships between politics, diplomacy and historical, economic, social and cultural phenomena and processes, and has the ability to assess them. | | |
| | [DYPL3_W06] Knows the methods, techniques and tools for obtaining data specific to political science, which allow for the description of the entities and social relations studied. | | |
| | [DYPL3_W13] Has advanced knowledge of democracy, civil society and the essence of public discourse in historical and contemporary diplomacy. | | |
| | [DYPL3_W14] Has advanced knowledge of mass media and communication tools and their role in society, also in the context of their use in diplomacy. | | |
| | [DYPL3_K08] Uses acquired knowledge and skills to act in an entrepreneurial manner. | | |
| | [DYPL3_W05] Has advanced knowledge of the historical, economic, social, legal, ethical and cultural conditions of political life that construct social structures and institutions operating in diplomacy. | | |
| | [DYPL3_U07] Can use research methods and techniques to describe and analyse phenomena occurring in the sphere of diplomacy. | | |
| | [DYPL3_K03] Is able to cooperate and properly indicate priorities for the implementation of a specific task. | | |

## Subject contents

Course outline English version:

1. Introduction to the course. Information society concepts and contexts
   Overview of the syllabus, grading rules, key definitions.
2. The digital revolution and the transformation of societies
   Civilizational shifts driven by ICT, global and local impacts.
3. Digital media and new forms of social communication
   Social media, platformization, networked communication.
4. The role of information and data in the information society
   Big Data, personal data, the attention economy.
5. Artificial intelligence and algorithms new actors of influence?
   The impact of AI on media, politics, and everyday life.
6. Digital democracy and civic e-participation
   Citizens engagement in public life using digital tools.
7. Disinformation, fake news, and information warfare
   Analysis of manipulation and influence operations.
8. Digital privacy, surveillance, and the culture of control
   Monitoring, scoring systems, biometric technologies.
9. Internet culture memes, online language, digital identity
   Cultural and social practices in the digital space.
10. Digital inequality and information exclusion
    Generational, regional, and class-based divides in tech access.
11. Work and education in the digital age
    Evolving professional roles, remote learning, future skills.
12. Internet of Things and smart environments (smart cities)
    Automation of everyday life and its social implications.
13. Technology ethics and user responsibility
    Moral dilemmas related to technology use.
14. Student presentations case studies and debates
    Group projects, presentations, and classroom discussions.
15. Final reflection and course evaluation
    Wrap-up, key insights, course credit.

**Prerequisites and co-requisites**

English version Prerequisites:

Before starting the course, students should have:

basic knowledge of society and political institutions,

general understanding of media, social communication, and new technologies,

the ability to work with academic texts and information sources,

basic digital skills enabling the use of online tools, multimedia, and e-learning platforms.

Recommended (but not required) prior courses include:

Introduction to Social Sciences

Foundations of State and Politics

Introduction to Social Communication

Students who lack these competencies may independently supplement them during the course.

**Assessment methods and criteria**

| Subject passing criteria | Passing threshold | Percentage of the final grade |
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| Systematic preparation and engagement with course materials (short assignment | 50.0% | 35.0% |
| Participation and activity during classes (discussions, teamwork | 50.0% | 65.0% |

**Recommended reading**

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| Basic literature | Literatura podstawowa publikacje anglojęzycfznea<br><br>1. Castells M., The Rise of the Network Society, Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, 2010.<br>2. Webster F., Theories of the Information Society, Routledge, London, 2014.<br>3. Zuboff S., The Age of Surveillance Capitalism, PublicAffairs, New York, 2019.<br>4. Lyon D., Surveillance Society: Monitoring Everyday Life, Open University Press, Buckingham, 2001.<br>5. van Dijk J., The Network Society: Social Aspects of New Media, Sage, London, 2020.<br>6. Morozov E., The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom, PublicAffairs, New York, 2011. |
| Supplementary literature | 1. Andrejevic M., Automated Media, Routledge, London, 2020<br>2. Green B., The Smart Enough City: Putting Technology in Its Place to Reclaim Our Urban Future, MIT Press, Cambridge (MA), 2019. |
| eResources addresses | |

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| Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed | Sample topics (in English):<br><br>1. The concept of the information society selected theories and perspectives.<br>2. The role of data and information in contemporary social and political systems.<br>3. Algorithms and artificial intelligence as actors of influence in the public sphere.<br>4. Social media and the polarization of public opinion.<br>5. Disinformation and fake news mechanisms and examples.<br>6. The impact of digital technologies on lifestyle, education, and work.<br>7. Ethical issues related to the use of digital tools and personal data.<br>8. The Internet of Things and smart cities social benefits and risks.<br><br>Sample questions and assignments (in English):<br><br>1. Explain the difference between data, information, and knowledge.<br>2. Provide examples of both positive and negative impacts of social media on public discourse.<br>3. Prepare a short case study analysis of disinformation in the media.<br>4. Identify one example of AI use in public space and assess its social implications.<br>5. Prepare a short presentation on a selected digital technology and its impact on social relations. |
| Work placement | Not applicable |

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