Term:

Fall 2019

Course conveners:

Prof. Leo Van Audenhove
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Office hours: Tuesday, 10.00-12.00

Prof. Trisha Meyer
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Office hours: Friday, 13:00-15:00

Course description:

In 1996 John Barlow wrote his famous Declaration of Independence of Cyberspace. The Internet would not be governed by governments or the industry, it would be governed by the Internet community itself. That ideal seems far off now. Critical internet resources are managed by ICANN, but its legitimacy is still challenged. Governments regulate and control the Internet in different fields. More authoritarian countries actively censor the Internet. This course introduces students to Internet Governance. It gives an overview of (select) international institutions governing the Internet and focuses on current international debates on Internet Governance. It discusses central themes, such as censorship and freedom of expression, surveillance and privacy, disinformation, election integrity and hate speech, copyright and creativity, cyber-diplomacy and cyber-security.

After taking this course students should

- Understand internet governance and its main multifaceted aspects
- Understand current policy debates in this field
- Have an overview of the institutions involved in Internet governance
Course time:
Wednesday, 15:00-17:00

Course location:
E.0.06 (please always check online in advance – might change)

Course schedule:

**1. Introduction // History of the Internet: technical and governance principles (25.09)**

**Compulsory:**

**Recommended:**

**2. Theorizing Internet governance (02.10)**

**Compulsory:**

**Recommended:**

3. Intergovernmental // multistakeholder institutions: ITU and IGF (09.10)

Compulsory:


Recommended:


4. Multistakeholder // technical institutions: ICANN and other technical bodies (16.10)

Compulsory:

- ICANN (2013) *What Does ICANN Do?* Available at: https://youtu.be/IJY5xJKPhjA
- LACNIC and ICANN (2014) *What You Need to Know About IANA*. Available at: https://youtu.be/Lk5j25nmZKY

Recommended:

5. European perspectives on Internet governance (23.10)

Compulsory:


Recommended:


6. New institutional developments (30.10)

Compulsory:


Recommended:
- West, S. (2018) Searching for the Public in Internet Governance: Examining Infrastructures of Participation at NETmundial. Policy & Internet 10 (1) 22–42. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.143

7. Censorship and freedom of expression (06.11)

Compulsory:

Recommended:
- Black Mirror, British Science Fiction Television Series (2011—).

8. Disinformation and election integrity (13.11)

Compulsory:
Chapter 3. Mapping and Evaluating the Existing Solutions. (pp. 21-49)


Recommended:

9. NO CLASS — VUB Sint-Verhaegen Day (20.11)

10. Surveillance and privacy (27.11)

Compulsory:


Recommended:


11. Creativity and copyright (04.12)

Compulsory:


Recommended:

12. **Cyber-diplomacy and cyber-security (11.12)**

Compulsory:

Recommended:

13. **Conclusion (18.12)**

No readings

Course assessment:

The final grade will be based on a combination of an individual oral exam (75%), and a group presentation and paper in class (25%). For the oral exams, students need to process both slides and literature. Students will get two initial exam questions and a preparation time of 15 minutes before the exam starts. The group assignment related to government practices of controlling and regulating the internet will be communicated at the beginning of the course.