
Time: Thursdays—11:45 to 13:15  
Language: English  
Place: D-D 301  
Start: April 27, 2017  
Office Hours: By appointment

Description: Changes in media technology have historically impacted political processes, structures, and patterns of political communication. Currently, we are living through one of these transitions in form of the digitalization. This makes it paramount to understand its likely impact on politics. During the course, students will be introduced to central approaches in conceptualizing and measuring the effects of technological change on politics. In the first part of the course, we will focus on conceptualizing the relationship between technology, communication, and politics. Following this, we will focus on specific technologies and their relationship with politics. In the last section of the course, we will discuss the use of digital technology in specific areas of politics.

Level: Create—Students are expected to develop theory-driven research questions and develop appropriate operationalization. In selected cases they can also perform data analyses focusing on their research questions.

Veranstaltung-Nr. & ECTS-Punkte:  
POL-20970-20171—Proseminar—6 ECTS

Requirements:  
1. Regular and active participation.

2. Presentation  
   • You will be asked to present a research papers assigned to you during the first session of the course.  
   • For this, please present the research question, concepts in use, case, analytical approach, and findings of the paper assigned to you.  
   • This presentation will take approximately 10-15 minutes and will be followed by a quick round of feedback from the other participants.  
   • In preparing your presentation follow the guidelines discussed during the first session.

3. Response Paper  
   • You will be asked to prepare a short response paper during the course on one of the topics discussed in the paper.
Aim of the response paper is the preparation of research expose including a research questions, justification, and short sketch of a proposed study including a preliminary overview of relevant literature.

**Cover page:** University, department, course title, paper title, name, Matriknr., semester count, study program, and e-mail-address.

**Paper:** Font—Times New Roman, 12pt; Line-separation—1.5; Page borders—2.5 cm left and right, 2cm above and below; Page set—Block; The first line of each paragraph is indented.

**Citation Style:** Please follow the citation convention of the American Political Science Review (APSR) as given here [http://www.apsanet.org/APSR-Submission-Guidelines-August-2016](http://www.apsanet.org/APSR-Submission-Guidelines-August-2016).

**Length:** ca. 500 words +/-10% (excluding reference section)

**Deadline:** 22. June

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4. **Paper**

- Following the course, you will be asked to write a short paper on a topic discussed in the course.
- The aim of this paper is for you to independently develop and present the current state of research (i.e. a systematic literature review with a focus on current debates) on one of the topics discussed during the course.
- **Cover page:** University, department, course title, paper title, name, Matriknr., semester count, study program, and e-mail-address.
- **Paper:** Font—Times New Roman, 12pt; Line-separation—1.5; Page borders—2.5 cm left and right, 2cm above and below; Page set—Block; The first line of each paragraph is indented.
- **Citation Style:** Please follow the citation convention of the American Political Science Review (APSR) as given here [http://www.apsanet.org/APSR-Submission-Guidelines-August-2016](http://www.apsanet.org/APSR-Submission-Guidelines-August-2016).
- **Length:** ca. 3000 words +/-10% (excluding reference section)
- **Deadline:** Please return the paper on the date specified by the department (BA: 15. September; MA: 15. September) electronically at andreas.jungherr@gmail.com and by hardcopy. The date is mandatory and can only be extended in case of officially certified illness.
Syllabus

Background Readings:
Social Science:

Political Communication:

Media & Technology

Quantitative Methods:

Presenting:

Writing:
Session Plan

Session 1: Introduction
Scientific Practice: Speaking and Presenting
April 27, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

FOUNDATIONS

Session 2: Actor Network Theory
May 4, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

Session 3: Affordances
May 11, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

Session 4: Media and Information Regimes
May 18, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

Session 5: Bibliotheksführung (J - J 213)
May 21, 2017 Monday—17:00 to 18:30

Session 6: Structuration
Scientific Practice: Working with Academic Literature/Reference Management
June 1, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

TECHNOLOGIES

Session 7: Television
Scientific Practice: Writing, Citing, and Plagiarism
June 8, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

Session 8: Digital Technology
Deadline: Submission Response Paper
June 22, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

POLITICAL USES OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Session 9: News and Political Information
June 29, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

Session 10: The Political Information Cycle
July 6, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

Session 11: Collective Action
July 20, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15

Session 12: Measurement
(Discussion of Open Questions and Paper)
July 27, 2017 Thursday—11:45 to 13:15
Detailed Session Plan and Readings

Session 1: Introduction

**Scientific Practice: Speaking and Presenting**


Session 2: Actor Network Theory

**Required Readings:**


**Background Readings:**


Session 3: Affordances

**Required Readings:**


**Presentations:**


Session 4: Media and Information Regimes

**Required Readings:**


**Background Readings:**

Presentations:

Session 5: Bibliotheksführung (May 21, 2017 Monday —17:00 to 18:30 J - J 213)

Session 6: Structuration

Required Readings:

Background Readings:

Presentations:

Scientific Practice:
• Reference Management (http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=250610&p=1671259)

Session 7: Television

Required Readings:

Background Readings:

Presentations:

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Session 8: Digital Technology

Required Readings:

Background Readings:

Presentations:

Session 9: News and Political Information

Required Readings:

Background Readings:

Presentations:

Session 10: The Political Information Cycle

Required Readings:

Background Readings:

Presentations:
• Wells, C., Shah, D. V., Pevehouse, J. C., Yang, J. H., Pelled, A., Boehm, F., Lukito, J., Gosh, S.

Session 11: Collective Action

Required Readings:
  new taxonomy. European Political Science Review. doi:10.1017/S1755773916000230

Background Readings:
• Bennett, W. L. und Segerberg, A. (2013). The Logic of Connective Action: Digital Media and the
  Personalization of Contentious Politics. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Presentations:
• Bennett, W. L. und Segerberg, A. (2012). The Logic of Connective Action: Digital media and the
  doi:10.1080/1369118X.2012.670661
  Association in Twitter Messages Commenting on Stuttgart 21. Social Science Computer Review,
  32(1), 74-89. doi:10.1177/0894439313500022

Session 12: Measurement

Required Readings:
• Hersh, E. D. (2015). Hacking the Electorate: How Campaigns Perceive Voters (pp. 1-44). New
  York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Background Readings:
  Have Failed. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Presentations:
• Livingston, S. (2016). Digital Affordances and Human Rights Advocacy. SFB-Governance
  Working Paper Series No. 69. Berlin, DE.