Syllabus English for political science

Internet and Politics

Sorbonne Panthéon 2024-2025

The goal of this semester is to understand what are the impact of internet and social network sites on politics. We will explore the scientific mainly Anglo-Saxon literature on this topic.

Assessment:

Three grades:

Oral evaluation: Evaluation based on oral exercises. Each week you will have to read a short text in English on the topic of Internet and Politics on which you will have to answer questions by groups. Each group will receive a grade. Your final grade will be your overall average marks during the semester.

Presentation: One group of 3 to 4 people will present each week during 20 minutes an article on the topic. You will be able to choose the article from a list I will send you. You will have a methodological support regarding the expectations of the exercise.

Final Exam: Table-top assignment on week 11. The final exam will follow the line of the oral evaluation you will have each week.

**Questions**

What are the main ideas?

What do you think of the style?

Useful or provoking in this text?

What is the intention of the author in this text?

What are the references you could refer to analyse and talk about this text or dig further?

**Week 1: presentation, what is politics? What is internet?**

Extracts from:

Jonathan Grix, *Sport politics an introduction*, Chapter 1, “Of ‘Politics’ and ‘Sport’”, “What is ‘politics’?” pages 3 – 4, London, New York, Palgrave MacMillan, 2015

Markham Annette N., “Ethnography in the Digital Internet Era From fields to flows, descriptions to interventions” in Denzin Norman K and Lincoln Yvonna S., *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research*, 5th edition, SAGE, 2018.

**Week 2: Creation of internet and ideology**

Fred Turner, *From counterculture to cyberculture,* University Press of Chicago, 2006.

Lincoln Dahlberg, “Cyberlibertarianism”, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication*, 2017.

John Perry Barlow, *A Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace,* Davos, 1996, <https://www.eff.org/fr/cyberspace-independence>.

TedXGeneva, Richard Stallman, *Free software, free society: Richard Stallman at TEDxGeneva* 2014, Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ag1AKIl_2GM>

**Week 3: Alternatives to the dominant narrative of the creation of the Internet**

Bory Paolo, *The Internet Myth: From the Internet Imaginary to Network Ideologies*, University of Westminster Press, 2020.

Morozov Evgeny, *The Santiago Boys,* Chora Media, 2023.

Russell Andrew L., Schafer Valérie, “In the Shadow of ARPANET and Internet: Louis Pouzin and the Cyclades Network in the 1970s”, *Technology and culture*, vol. 4, n° 55, 2014.

Balbi Gabriele, *The Digital Revolution, A Short History of an Ideology*, Oxford University Press, 2023.

**Week 4 : The emergence of Web 2.0 and cultural participation, Social Network Sites and public sphere.**

Jenkins Henry, Ito Mizuko, danah boyd, *Participatory Culture in a Networked Era: A Conversation on Youth, Learning, Commerce, and Politics,* Polity Press, 2015.

Castells Manuel, *The Internet Galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, Business, and Society,* Oxford University Press, 2001.

boyd danah, “Social Network Sites as Networked Publics: Affordances, Dynamics, and Implications” in Papacharissi Zizi, *A Networked Self*, Routledge, 2010.

Blank Grant, Reisdorf Bianca, “The Participatory Web”, *Information Communication and Society,* 5:4, 537-554, 2012.

**Week 5:  The power of algorithms**

Pasquale Frank, *Black Box Society: The Secret Algorithms That Control Money and Information,* Harvard University Press, 2015

O’Neil Cathy, *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy,* Crown Publishing Group, 2016.

Umoja Noble Safiya, *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism,* New York University Press, 2018.

Benjamin Ruha, *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code, ‎* Polity Press, 2019.

**Week 6: Datafication and platform society**

Zuboff Shoshana, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power,* Profile Books Ltd,2019.

Snowden Edward, *Permanent Record: A Memoir of a Reluctant Whistleblower,* Macmillan, 2019.

Wang Jackie, *Carceral Capitalism,* Semiotext(e), 2018.

Van Dijck José, Poell Thomas, De Waal Martijn, *The Platform Society: Public Values in a Connective World,* Oxford University Press Inc, 2018.

**Week 7: Filter Bubble and echo chambers and misinformation.**

Wylie Christopher, *Mindf\*ck: Inside Cambridge Analytica’s Plot to Break the World,* Profile Books, 2019.

Pariser Eli, *The Filter Bubble: What The Internet Is Hiding From You*, Penguin, 2012.

Bruns Axel, *Are Filter Bubbles Real?,* Polity Press, 2019.

Lecheler, S., & Egelhofer, J. L., « Disinformation, misinformation, and fake news: Understanding the supply side”. In J. Strömbäck, Å. Wikforss, K. Glüer, T. Lindholm, & H. Oscarsson (Eds.), *Knowledge resistance in high-choice information environments* (pp. 69–87), 2022. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003111474-4

**Week 8: Digital Activism**.

Tufekci Zeynep, *Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest*, Yale University Press, 2017.

Schradie Jen, *The Revolution That Wasn’t: How Digital Activism Favors Conservatives*, Harvard University Press, 2019.

Castells Manuel, *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age,* Polity Press, 2015.

Gerbaudo Paolo, *Tweets and the Streets: Social Media and Contemporary Activism,* Pluto Press, 2012.

**Week 9 : Digital parties**, **and populism.**

Gerbaudo Paolo, *The Digital Party: Political Organisation and Online Democracy*, Pluto Press, 2018.

Chadwick Andrew, Jenniferr Stromer-Galley, “Digital Media, Power, and Democracy in Parties and Election Campaigns: Party Decline or Party Renewal?”, *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, Vol. 21(3) 283–293, 2016

Lalancette Mireille, Raynauld Vincent, “The Power of Political Image: Justin Trudeau, Instagram, and Celebrity Politics”, *American Behavioral Scientist*, 1 –37, 2017.

Sven Engesser, Nicole Ernst, Frank Esser & Florin Büchel, “Populism and social media: how politicians spread a fragmented ideology”, *Information, Communication & Society*, 2016 DOI: 10.1080/1369118X.2016.1207697

**Week 10 : Digital feminisms and online misogyny**,

Mendes Kaitlynn, Ringrose Jessica, Keller Jessalyn, *Digital Feminist Activism: Girls and Women Fight Back Against Rape Culture,* Oxford University Press Inc, 2019.

Clark-Parsons Rosemary, *Networked Feminism: How Digital Media Makers Transformed Gender Justice Movements,* University of California Press, 2022.

Banet-Weiser Sarah, Maddocks Sophie, “Networked misogyny on TikTok A critical conjuncture” in Boyle Karen, Berridge Susan, T*he Routledge Companion to Gender, Media and Violence,* 2023

Knight Steele Catherine, *Digital Black Feminism,* New York University, 2021.

**Week 11 : Table-top assignment.** .

**Week 12 : Correction of the table-top assignment. Conclusion.**