Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: Journalism

Course Unit Title: Communication Studies 1

Course Unit Code: 15ZUZU018

Name of Lecturer(s): Associate Professor Jelena Kleut, PhD

Type and Level of Studies: BA

Course Status (compulsory/elective): compulsory

Semester (winter/summer): W

Language of instruction: English

Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): face-to-face

Number of ECTS Allocated: 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Aims:

Introducing students to socio-historical conditions of emergence and development of communication studies as an interdisciplinary science of communication, gaining general access to basic communication concepts: sign, symbol, code, semiosis, information and message as content of communication, message types and problems of their interpretation.

Learning Outcomes:

The acquisition of theoretical knowledge necessary for understanding the process of communication, understanding the most important theories preceding the establishment of communication studies and established theories of communication, mastering the conceptual and categorical apparatus of communication studies.

Syllabus:

Theory

- 1. Communication studies: socio-historical conditions of their emergence and development; interdisciplinary research subject and relationship with other sciences.
- 2. Pre-communication studies theories and theories of communication.
- 3. Semiotic basis of communication: sign, code, process of semiosis, symbol, symbolic systems.
- 4. Information Theory: cybernetic and socio-anthropological research framework.
- 5. Information and messages: the structure of the message; pragmatic and aesthetic messages; truthfulness, objectivity and intentionality messages.

Practice

Group and individual analysis of selected communication phenomena, different kinds of symbols and symbolic systems, as well as different types of messages

Required Reading:

Eco, Umberto, A Theory of Semiotics, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1979. (selected chapters)

Chandler, Daniel, Semiotics: The Basics, London: Routledge, 2002.

Fiske, John, Introduction to communication studies, London; New York: Routledge, 1990.

Weekly Contact Hours: Lectures: 2 Practical work: 2

Teaching Methods:

Lectures

Practice classes: Group and individual analysis of selected communication phenomena, different kinds of symbols and symbolic systems, as well as different types of messages

Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):

Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points
Active class participation	5	written exam	
Practical work	10	oral exam	35
Preliminary exam(s)	50		
Seminar(s)			

The methods of knowledge assessment may differ; the table presents only some of the options: written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminars, etc.