

Digital Rights and Principles in Europe (POS4931/EUS4930)

Instructor Information

Instructor

Glen M. Billesbach II,
PhD Candidate

Email

gbillesbach@ufl.edu;
Canvas Messenger

Office location & hours

Anderson Hall, 010, 2PM-4PM,
Tuesday/Thursday/By Appt.

Course Information

Semester

Spring 2024

Meeting Times

M, W, F (8:30 AM -9:20 AM)

Classroom

Anderson Hall 19 ([AND0019](#))

General information

Description

This course examines the *European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade* and its underlying political values. It does so through six modules, which correspond to the major sections of the Declaration: (1) putting people at the centre of the digital transformation, (2) solidarity and inclusion, (3) freedom of choice, (4) participation in the digital public space, (5) security and empowerment, and (6) sustainability. Using each chapter's theme as a starting point, we will examine key theories and concepts at stake in the context of digital technology. In addition to a close reading of the *European Declaration*, each module will incorporate scholarship that addresses the concerns and opportunities described in each of the document's sections.

Goals

Studying the *European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade* and its underlying values will provide an opportunity for students to think critically about the politics of technology. Upon completing this course, students will be knowledgeable about prominent attempts to come to grips with the digital decade from scholars and practitioners. More deeply, students will come to cultivate their own judgements about self-interpretation and politics in the context of digital technology.

Required materials

Required materials and excerpts of texts provided on Canvas.

Recommended materials

1. Zuboff, Shoshana. *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future* (2019).
2. Benjamin, Ruha. *Race after technology: Abolitionist tools for the New Jim Code*. (2021).
3. Coeckelbergh, Mark. *Navigating Freedom in the Age of AI* (2021).
4. Pasquale, Frank. *Black Box Society: The Secret Algorithms That Control Money & Information* (2016).
5. Amore, Louise. *Cloud Ethics: Algorithms and the Attributes of Ourselves and Others* (2022).
6. Crawford, Kate. *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, & the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence* (2022)

Course schedule

<u>Jan. 10- W</u>	Introduction to the Course
<u>Jan. 12- F</u>	Discussion
<u>Jan.15 – M</u>	No Class- MLK Day
<u>Jan. 17 - W</u>	Close reading of European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles
<u>Jan. 19 – F</u>	Discussion of European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles

Module I: What does it mean to put people at the centre of the digital transformation?

<u>Jan. 22 - M</u>	Shoshana Zuboff Excerpts
<u>Jan. 24 - W</u>	Shoshana Zuboff Excerpts
<u>Jan. 26 – F</u>	Discussion
<u>Jan. 29 - M</u>	Shoshana Zuboff Excerpts
<u>Jan. 31 - W</u>	Shoshana Zuboff Excerpts
<u>Feb. 2 – F</u>	Discussion

Module II: What does solidarity and inclusion mean in the context of digital transformation?

<u>Feb. 5 - M</u>	Ruja Benjamin Excerpts
<u>Feb. 7 - W</u>	Ruja Benjamin Excerpts
<u>Feb. 9 – F</u>	Discussion
<u>Feb. 12 - M</u>	Ruja Benjamin Excerpts
<u>Feb. 14 - W</u>	Ruja Benjamin Excerpts
<u>Feb. 16 – F</u>	Discussion

Module III: What does freedom mean in the context of the digital transformation?

<u>Feb. 19 - M</u>	Mark Coeckelbergh Excerpts
<u>Feb. 21 - W</u>	Mark Coeckelbergh Excerpts
<u>Feb. 23 – F</u>	Discussion
<u>Feb. 26 - M</u>	Mark Coeckelbergh Excerpts
<u>Feb. 28 - W</u>	Mark Coeckelbergh Excerpts
<u>Mar. 1 – F</u>	Discussion

Module IV: What does participation mean in the context of digital public space?

Mar. 4 - M Lisa Herzog Excerpts

Mar. 6 - W Lisa Herzog Excerpts

Mar. 8 - F Discussion

Mar. 11 – Mar. 15 **No Class- Spring Break**

Mar. 18 - M Jennifer Forestal Excerpts

Mar. 20 - W Jennifer Forestal Excerpts

Mar. 22- F Discussion

Module V: What do safety, security and empowerment mean in the context of digital public space?

Mar. 25 - M Frank Pasquale Excerpts

Mar. 27 - W Frank Pasquale Excerpts

Mar. 29 – F Discussion

Apr. 1 - M Frank Pasquale Excerpts

Apr. 3 - W Frank Pasquale Excerpts

Apr. 5 – F Discussion

Module VI: What does sustainability mean in the context of AI?

Apr. 8 - M Kate Crawford Excerpts

Apr. 10 - W Kate Crawford Excerpts

Apr. 12 – F Discussion

Apr. 15 - M Kate Crawford Excerpts

Apr. 17 - W Kate Crawford Excerpts

Apr. 19 – F Discussion

Conclusion

Apr. 22 – M Conclusion to the Course

Apr. 24 – W **Discussion/Review (optional)**

April 29 – M In Person Final Exam (10 AM- 12 PM)

Assignments

Due Date	Subject	Details
M, W, F	Attendance	10%- Graded on attendance percentage
Thursdays	14 Worksheets	25%- Instructions and details on Canvas
March 17	Minor Project	10%- Instructions and details on Canvas
April 29	Final Exam	25%- Rubric and instructions on Canvas
May 3	Final Project	30%- Rubric and instructions on Canvas

Information and Resources

Resources

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress visit [U Matter, We Care website](#).
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#).
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information or [visit the website](#).
- *Writing Studio*: Excellent resource. Visit the website: <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio>.
- *Academic Honesty*: Don't plagiarize. Check out the UF honor code [website](#).
- Additional resources can be found on our course Canvas page.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester; you will be notified when they are open.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, you will receive an accommodation letter to share with me. If you need accommodation, please follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Policy on Late Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized. However, I understand that sometimes there are reasons why an assignment cannot be handed in on time. If you see such a situation emerging, please contact me prior to the deadline of the assignment.

In-Class Recording

While students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures, the ways these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only purposes allowed are for personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the university, or as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Students may not publish recorded lectures without the instructor's written consent.