Digital Journalism and Digital Media in Italy

PROF. STEFANIA GARASSINI / ELEONORA FORNASARI

Area of study:	Media and Communications
Area Code:	CM/SO320
Method of Instruction:	In-person

Description

The course intends to give students an overview on digital media with in-depth analysis on best practices and a specifical focus on the Italian situation. Students will be asked to analyse and comment on texts concerning multimedia convergence and the evolution of languages and formats from web 1.0 to web 2.0. Best practices in the field of digital journalism and digital media will be analysed and students will be asked to comment on examples of digital media products and to use some of the emerging tools for content curation. A part of the course will be focused mainly on the Italian scenario.

Course contents

Digital journalism: historical evolution. Online Journalism from web 1.0 to web 2.0; new trends and techniques; The Italian way to digital journalism: case histories, guest speakers and best practices. Practical works: writing posts for online platforms, blogging.

Digital Media: mapping digital in Italy; ethical issues in the Digital Era (hate speech online, Manifesto for a non-hostile communication, etc.), power and ideology of storytelling; convergence culture and transmedia storytelling; transmedia group project.

Prerequisites

None

Method of instruction

Lab, seminar, group activities (class discussion and group works), individual assignments, professional speakers. Field trip. Class readings and screenings of videos.

Course requirements

In order to get their credits, students will be required to:

• Attend class regularly.
• Keep up with the assigned readings
• Check the online materials and work on the assigned tasks
• Participate in class discussions
• Participate in group projects

Credits

6 ECTS

Grading

Attendance and participation 10%
Individual assignments 10%
Midterm Exam 40%
Final exam 40%

Course readings and materials

All the readings and the lecturer's slides will be available on Blackboard.

Instructor bio

Prof. Stefania Garassini is a professional journalist and teacher. She was the founder and editor in chief of the first Italian magazine about digital culture, Virtual (1993-1998). She's the author of *Dizionario dei new media* (Raffaello Cortina, Milano, 1999), co-author (with Gianfranco Bettetini, Barbara Gasparini and Nicoletta Vittadini) of *I nuovi strumenti del comunicare* (Bompiani, Milano, 2001), with Giuseppe Romano, of *Digital Kids* (Raffaello Cortina, Milano, 2001) and of *Smartphone. Dieci ragioni per non regalarlo alla prima Comunione (e magari neanche alla Cresima)* Ares (2019). She edited the collective volume *Clicco, quindi educo* (ETS 2018). She curated the Italian edition of *Smart Mobs*, by Howard Rheingold (Raffaello Cortina, 2003), *The search*, by John Battelle (Raffaello Cortina, 2006), *The shallows*, by Nicholas Carr (Raffaello Cortina, 2011), *NetSmart*, by Howard Rheingold, (Raffaello Cortina, 2013), *The glass cage*, by Nicholas Carr (Raffaello Cortina 2015) and *How we read now*, by Naomi Baron (Raffaello Cortina 2022). She has been teaching in various courses concerning multimedia technologies in Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan and Brescia, Istituto Europeo di Design, Accademia di comunicazione and Accademia di Belle Arti Santa Giulia, in Brescia. She is a freelance writer for Domus magazine and website, Avvenire and Puntofamiglia. She is editor in chief of the website www.orientaserie.it which published tv serial reviews analyzed from an educational perspective.

Prof. Eleonora Fornasari holds an MA in International Screenwriting and Production and a Ph.D. from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan, Italy. She works as a scriptwriter both for animated TV series (Igam Ogam, Julio Bunny, YoYo, Topo Gigio, The Game Catchers), and live-action shows with RAI, the Italian national broadcaster (Social King 2.0, La TV Ribelle, La Posta di Yoyo, Piccolo Mostro). Furthermore, she is a children's writer and she has published books and novels for different age targets. She is adjunct professor of "Literature, cinema and tv series for kids and young audiences", within the course of Writing Production for animation (LM Language Sciences and Foreign Literature) and assistant professor of "History and Industry of International Cinema", "Italian Contemporary Literature" and "Italian Grammar". She teaches as well "The Female Character in Italian Contemporary Literature and Culture" within the UCSC International Curriculum.

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