

Overview

This short course covers topics of hybrid warfare, the anatomy of modern-day propaganda, the threat of fake news in social media, media literacy and tools to counter misinformation.

The aims of the course are:

- Give students understanding of hybrid warfare
- Prepare students to understand and contextualize narratives behind fake news/propaganda
- Inform students on methods and techniques autocratic regimes deploy to spread misinformation as part of their political agenda
- Equip students with basic skills of verification

Help enrich discussion on countering propaganda

Learning Outcomes

The expected learning outcomes are:

- Increased knowledge on hybrid warfare in the age of information
- Better understanding of how propaganda works

Teaching Methods

The course will be taught as a combination of lectures, case studies, fact-checking exercises, discussions and the final presentation

Company Visits:

- Coda Story
- Media Development Foundation

Program Outline

Day 1

The emergence of post-fact world/Media literacy

- Improved skills to spot fake news/narratives behind it
- Improved media literacy regarding verification of content in social media
- Increased knowledge on propaganda in the post-Soviet countries

Day 2

Hybrid warfare and autocratic regimes

- Information operations as part of hybrid warfare
- Russian information warfare in post-Soviet countries (the case of Georgia)

Day 3

Case study

Introduction to final presentation topics (students will work in pairs)

Day 4

Verification fundamentals and tools

Emergency situations; User-generated content and verification/exercises

Day 5

Factchecking versus fake news

Discussion on myth busting and on other ways to counter disinformation – whether they work and what needs to be done further

Final presentation by groups

Wrapping up

