COURSE UNIT
DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
INFORMATION SECURITY: COUNTERING PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION	

Annotation
Understanding propaganda and disinformation is an important part of training an information security specialist in the technical field. The political and technical components of information security are intertwined, and to be as efficient as possible from a technical point of view, it is necessary to have a vision of information systems in terms of content they are being filled with. The present course is designed to give students who have not previously been exposed to the study of political communication the basic skills and understanding of how it works and lay the groundwork for further exploration.

Lecturer(s)	Department, Faculty
Dr. Dmytro Iarovyi	Faculty of Communication

Study cycle	Type of the course unit

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Hybrid – class work and lectures will be both offline and online	~~Fall~~	English

Formatuota: Įtrauka: Kairėje: 0 cm, Kraštinė: Viršuje: (Be kraštinių), Apačioje: (Be kraštinių), kairėje: (Be kraštinių), dešinėje: (Be kraštinių), Tarp : (Be kraštinių)

Requisites	
Prerequisites: None	Co-requisites (if relevant):

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
3	130	40	90

Purpose of the course unit: programme
Upon completing the course, the students will understand propaganda and disinformation as the important aspects of information security and understand the strategic importance thereof for the national security and global security.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Understand concepts related to certain political aspects of information security (propaganda and disinformation), with the ability to critically analyze them	Lectures, analysis and reading of assigned literature, practical assignments	Exam, assignments, seminars
Conduct independent practical study of the sources of information, identify propagandistic narratives, disinformation, misinformation and malinformation.		

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/ work placement	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
	Contact hours							**Individual work: time and assignments**	
Evaluate national and global challenges and threats related to propaganda and disinformation									
1. Propaganda, disinformation, fake news, hybrid war as the aspects of political communication. Theories and models of propaganda. Approaches to the study and understanding of disinformation.	4		4				**8**	**10**	3, 4
2. Propaganda methods and techniques. Propaganda and disinformation in the age of the Internet. Information security in social media aspects	2		2				**4**	**5**	2
3. Practical application of propaganda and disinformation. Historical overview (World Wars, Cold War, War on terror). Propaganda in the US, USSR, China, Axis powers. Propaganda in popular culture. Soft power and cultural diplomacy	6		6				**12**	**15**	5, 7
4. Countering information warfare. Resilience to propaganda and disinformation	4		4				**8**	**10**	1, 6
Assignments and final exam		8					**4**	**10**	
Total	16	8	16				**40**	**90**	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Mid-term	20%	Beginning of Week 5	Students will be offered a set of information operations/propaganda campaigns, will pick one (will be able to choose their own option, which should qualify with the assignment requirements), and develop an information operation/propaganda campaign utilizing the studied methods and techniques.

			• Design (max. 1 point): design of text material, including compliance with the text volume (900-1500 words), references to sources, etc. • Definition of the topic and context (max. 2 points): accurate definition of the topic, inclusion of the necessary contextual information • Campaign goals and their justification (max. 3 points): clear definition of campaign goals and motivation for their achievement • Target audience and description of expected impact on their beliefs or actions (max. 4 points) • Use of propaganda techniques and their compliance with the set goals (max. 4 points) • Examples of techniques (max. 4 points) • Selection of communication channels (max. 2 points) • Potential ethical implications of the campaign (if applicable): up to +2 points in addition, but the total score for the work may not exceed 20 points.
Seminars	40%	During the semester	The seminars cover reviewing the literature (or other piece of data) regarding each topic, whether it will be an article, report, book chapter, etc., and the material of the lecture. Students must be ready to answer the questions about the sources, briefly analyze them. They will involve thematic discussion in a specific setting, with participants sharing their views with each other. • 5 points for each of the literature review seminars (7*5=35) and 5 points for the seminar with the mid-term presentation (poster, presentation, video, other format)

Exam	40%	Exam session	The exam will not be proctored - it is a take-home exam with 48 hours deadline, which covers the whole theoretical and practical material: ● a theoretical question - approximately 300-600 words; ● a review of the source discussed during the seminars - approximately 300-600 words; ● a practical task to analyze the situation and provide possible solutions - approximately 300-600 words. **Theoretical question (up to 15 points)** ● Logic and clarity of the structure of the answer, correct citation of sources (if available) (0-3 points) ● Depth of analysis and completeness of presentation, understanding of theoretical material, integration of used sources into the answer (0-6 points) ● Argumentation and critical thinking, the ability to critically evaluate different views and theories, and express one's own position (0-6 points) **Review of the source (up to 10 points)** ● Logic and clarity of the answer structure (0-2 points) ● Evaluation of the main ideas, strengths and weaknesses of the research (0-4 points) ● Assessment of the relevance or irrelevance of the source for political communication (propaganda, disinformation), including in Ukraine, and justification of the position (0-4 points) **Practical task (up to 15 points)** ● Logic and clarity of the structure of the answer, correct citation of sources (if available) (0-3 points) ● Understanding and analysis of the target audience, determination of interests, needs, and methods of interaction with the audience (0-3 points) ● Application of theoretical knowledge about propaganda, disinformation, features of information perception, etc., integration of techniques/tools/methods of influence (0-4 points) ● Justification of the proposed solutions, their correspondence to theoretical knowledge, originality and creativity of the approach (0-5 points)

No.	Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
			Required reading		
1	Bjola, C.	2018	The ethics of countering digital propaganda	Ethics & International affairs, 32(3), 305-315.	
2	Bjola, C. & Papadakis, K.		Digital propaganda, counterpublics and the disruption of the public sphere: the Finnish approach to building digital resilience.	Cambridge Review of International Affairs, 33(5), 638-666.	
3	Curnalia, R. M.	2005	A retrospective on early studies of propaganda and suggestions for reviving the paradigm.	The Review of Communication, 5(4), 237-257.	
4	Morkūnas, M.	2022	Russian Disinformation in the Baltics: Does it Really Work?	Public Integrity, 1-15.	

5	Schulzke, M.	2013	The virtual War on Terror: Counterterrorism narratives in video games.	*New Political Science*, 35(4), 586-603.	
6	Teperik, D., Denisa-Liepniece, S., Bankauskaitė, D., & Kullamaa, K.	2022	Resilience Against Disinformation: A New Baltic Way to Follow?	*International Centre for Defense and Security, 20.*	
7	X ia, Y., Lukito, J., Zhang, Y., Wells, C., Kim, S. J., & Tong, C.	2021	Disinformation, performed: Self-presentation of a Russian IRA account on Twitter.	*In Disinformation and Data Lockdown on Social Platforms* (pp. 116-134). Routledge.	
			Recommended (optional) reading		
1	Cummings, C. L., & Kong, W. Y.	2019	Breaking down "fake news": Differences between misinformation, disinformation, rumors, and propaganda	Resilience and hybrid threats (pp. 188-204).	IOS Press.
2	Cull, N. J., Gatov, V., Pomerantsev, P., Applebaum, A., & Shawcross, A.	2017	Soviet subversion, disinformation and propaganda: How the West fought against it.	London: LSE Consulting, 68.	
3	Redmond, P.	2017	The Historical Roots of CIA-Hollywood Propaganda	American journal of economics and sociology, 76(2), 280-310.	
4	Keršanskas, V.	2020	Deterrence: Proposing a more strategic approach to countering hybrid threats.	Hybrid CoE Paper, 2, 6-7.	