DOCTORAL STUDIES COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Name of subject	Field of science, code	Faculty / Center	Institute / Department
Digital Society and Digitalisation: a Sociological Perspective	**S 005**	**Faculty of Philosophy**	**Institute of Sociology and Social Work**

Student's workload	Credits	Student's workload	Credits
Lectures		Consultations	1
Independent study	6	Seminars	

Course annotation
The aim of the course is to study the concept of the digital society as a contemporary form of society facilitated by digital technologies; to provide a sociological interpretation of its constituent elements and processes of digitalisation, as well as critical analysis of the theoretical and methodological approaches associated with the field of digital sociology. The course focuses on the comparison of theoretical approaches, the critical analysis of academic literature and the development of independent sociological research questions. It includes the following topics: Digital society: content of the concept and characteristics of its conceptualisation. Information society, networked society, digital society. Development of digital technologies and their characteristics: user-generated and automatically generated content. Techno-optimistic, techno-pessimistic and techno-sceptical perspectives in technology studies. Elements of the digital society and processes of digitalisation: platformisation, digital commons, algorithmic biases, algorithmic governance, datafication, digital surveillance, privacy and resistance to algorithmic governance and digital surveillance, digital democracy, (dis)trust in data-driven technologies, digital sovereignty, connectivity, filter bubbles, biases and transparency in artificial intelligence, digital divide and digital inequality. Sociological analysis of digitalisation and reassessment of established sociological theories in the context of digitalisation. Construction of identity and presentation of self facilitated by digital technologies. Social interactions as objects. Materialisation of social networks and social capital. Algorithmic governance and power. Digital capitalism, changing concepts of work and labour relations. Examination reading list is tailored individually to each student, with additional reading suggested. Assessment consists of: 1. An essay/chapter for PhD thesis/draft of an academic article demonstrating the connection between the course topics and the subject of the candidate's PhD thesis (60% of the final assessment). 2. A written examination on two concepts relating to the digital society and the processes of digitalisation covered in the course material (40% of the final assessment).

Reading list
Adolf, M. (2015). New Media and the Category of Work: Between "Labour of Love and Exploitation". *Zeppelin University Discussion Paper Series zu|schnitte* 25.
Anastasiadis, M., Peters, Y. and Thimm, C. (2026). *The Digital Society*. Wiesbaden: Springer.
Berg, S., and Hofmann, J. (2021). Digital democracy. *Internet Policy Review*, 10(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2021.4.1612
Bruns, A. (2019). Filter bubble. *Internet Policy Review*, 8(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2019.4.1426
Castells, M. (2005). *Informacijos amžius: ekonomika, visuomenė ir kultūra*. Kaunas: Poligrafija ir informatika.

Corchia, L., & Borghini, A. (2025). Infrastructure as a sociological category: Concept, applications, and paradigmatic turns? *Journal of Classical Sociology*, *25*(2), 123-151. https://doi.org/10.1177/1468795X251327051
Couldry, N. and Hepp, A. (2016). *The Mediated Construction of Reality*. Cambridge, Malden: Polity Press.
Dahlin, E. (2023). And say the AI responded? Dancing around 'autonomy' in AI/human encounters. *Social Studies of Science*, 54, 59–77. https://doi.org/10.1177/03063127231193947
Duenas-Cid, D., and Calzati, S. (2023). Dis/Trust and data-driven technologies. *Internet Policy Review*, 12(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2023.4.1727
Dulong de Rosnay, M., and Stalder, F. (2020). Digital commons. *Internet Policy Review*, 9(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2020.4.1530
Halford, S., and Savage, M. (2010). Reconceptualizing Digital Social Inequality. *Information, Communication and Society*, 13, 937–955. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2010.499956
Katzenbach, C., and Ulbricht, L. (2019). Algorithmic governance. *Internet Policy Review*, 8(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2019.4.1424
Larsson, S., and Heintz, F. (2020). Transparency in artificial intelligence. *Internet Policy Review*, 9(2). https://doi.org/10.14763/2020.2.1469
Lyon, D. (2022). Surveillance. *Internet Policy Review*, 11(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2022.4.1673
Martineau, R. et al. (2026). Chatgpt a colonialist agent of lifeworlds: A habermassian analysis of conversations. *Big Data & Society*, 13 (1), 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517261421473
Matzner, T., & Ochs, C. (2019). Privacy. *Internet Policy Review*, 8(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2019.4.1427
Mejias, U.A., and Couldry, N. (2019). Datafication. *Internet Policy Review*, 8(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2019.4.1428
Milan, S. (2024). Resistance in the data-driven society. *Internet Policy Review*, 13(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2024.4.1811
Miskolci, R. (Ed.) (2026). *Digital Sociology and its Interfaces*. Rio de Janeiro: BVPS Coleção.
Morozov, E. (2014). *To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly Of Technological Solutionism*. New York: Public Affairs.
Poell, T., Nieborg, D., & van Dijck, J. (2019). Platformisation. *Internet Policy Review*, 8(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2019.4.1425
Pohle, J., and Thiel, T. (2020). Digital sovereignty. *Internet Policy Review*, 9(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2020.4.1532
Schwarz, O. (2021). *Sociological Theory for Digital Society*. Cambridge, Medford: Polity Press.
Simon, J., Wong, P.-H., and Rieder, G. (2020). Algorithmic bias and the Value Sensitive Design approach. *Internet Policy Review*, 9(4). https://doi.org/10.14763/2020.4.1534
Webster, F. (2006). *Informacinės visuomenės teorijos*. Kaunas: Poligrafija ir informatika.

The names of consulting teachers	Science degree	Main scientific works published in a scientific field in last 5 year period
Rima Žilinskaitė	PhD (Social Sciences)	Žilinskaitė, R. (2025). Digitalization, Participation, and Science: Citizen Science as Type(s) of Prosumption. In Markus S. Schulz and Isabel da Costa (Eds.). *Digital Futures between Domination and Participation*. Studies in Media and Communications, (28, Special Issue). Leeds: Emerald Publishing, 75–91. https://doi.org/10.1108/S2050-206020250000028006
		Žilinskaitė R. (2025) How do we prosume? A formal typology of prosumption. *Acta*

		Sociologica, 68(3), 344-356. https://doi.org/10.1177/00016993251317952
		Žilinskaitė R. (2022) Kūryba ir bendradarbiavimas Web 2.0: nauja prosumpcijos tipologija. *Sociologija. Mintis ir veiksmas*, 1(48), p. 26–50. https://doi.org/10.15388/SocMintVei.2021.1.30

Certified during Doctoral Committee session on 2026-11-18. Protocol No. 5.2.2 E-15600-KT-4268

Committee Chairman Prof. Dr. Zenonas Norkus