



Detailed Course Syllabus

Academic Year		2025./2026.	Semester		Summer
Study Program	Graduate university	Specialization/ Major in	Communication Sciences	Year of Study	1-2

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name	Religion, Media and Digital culture		
Abbreviation	IZBD274	Code	279770
Status	Elective	ECTS	4
Prerequisites	None		
Total Course Workload			
Teaching Mode	Total Hours	Teaching Mode	Total Hours
Lectures	30	Seminars	15
Class Time and Place	CUC according to published timetable		

II. TEACHING STAFF

Course Holder

Name and Surname	Suzana Peran				
Academic Degree	PhD	Professional Title	Assistant professor		
Contact E-mail	suzana.peran@unicath.hr	Telephone	/		
Office Hours	According to published timetable	Office	216		

Course Collaborator

Name and Surname	Hana Kilijan				
Academic Degree	mag. comm.	Professional Title	Teaching assistant		
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Office Hours	According to published timetable	Office	211B		

III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

Teaching Language	English				
Course Description	This course analyses the relationship of religion and media in contemporary society. It explores how religious practices and attitudes are portrayed in different media forms. Special emphasis is on the presence of religious communities on social media, which is seen as a new meeting place for different religions and cultures. The course also				

	investigates the role of media in shaping religious public identity and discourse. During the course, students will attend field classes.				
Expected Educational Outcomes	On completion of this course, the student will be able to:				
	1. Summarise, compare and critically discuss relationship of religion and media.				
	2. Critically analyse using appropriate concepts the representation of religion in different media forms.				
	3. Examine the influence of digital media on public discourse on religion.				
	4. Develop skills in presentation and discussion in a group context topics on relationship of religion and media.				
Textbooks and Materials					
Required	Cohen, Y. & Soukup, A. (2023). <i>The Handbook on Religion and Communication</i> . Wiley & Sons.				
	Connoly, D. & Mason, D. (2018). <i>Reporting on Religion</i> . Religion news association.				
	Hoover, S. M., (2025). <i>Religion in the Media Age</i> . Routledge.				
Supplementary	Cohen, Y., & Hetsroni, A. (2019). Monotheism and television: a comparative content analysis of religion in prime-time programming in the USA, Israel, and Turkey. <i>Atlantic Journal of Communication</i> , 28(2), 103–114.				
	Demarest,L., Godefroidt, A., Langer, A. (2020). Understanding News Coverage of Religious-based Violence: Empirical and Theoretical Insights from Media Representations of Boko Haram in Nigeria, <i>Journal of Communication</i> , 70 (4), 548–573.				
	Evolvi, G. (2021, February 23). Religion, New Media, and Digital Culture. <i>Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion</i> .				
	Febrian, H. (2024). Visualizing Authority: Rise of the Religious Influencers on the Instagram. <i>Social Media +Society</i> , 10(4).				
	https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051241286850				
	Laferrara, V., Fernández, M. C., & Israel Turim, V. (2024). Confession and Confusion: Misinformation about Religion in the Journalistic Sphere. <i>Societies</i> , 14(6), 84. https://doi.org/10.3390/soc14060084				
	Myers, S., Syrdal, H. A., Mahto, R., Sen, S. (2023). Social religion: A cross-platform examination of the impact of religious influencer message cues on engagement – The Christian context. <i>Technological Forecasting and Social Change</i> .				
	Smith, B. G., Hallows, D., Vail, M., Burnett, A., & Porter, C. (2021). Social media conversion: lessons from faith-based social media influencers for public relations. <i>Journal of Public Relations Research</i> , 33(4), 231–249.				
	Examination and Grading				
	To Be Passed	Yes	Exclusively Continuous Assessment	No	Included in Average Grade
Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam		Regular class attendance (attendance at least 70% of classes) Obtaining a minimum of 35% points (out of a total of 100 points) during classes (mid-term exam, seminar presentation)			
Examination Manner		Two mid-term exams; final exam			

Grading Manner**Teaching activities (70% of the grade)**

- Mid-term exam 1 – 25%
- Mid-term exam 2 – 25%
- seminar work - 20%

Final exam – 30% of the grade

**Detailed
Overview of
Grading within
ECTS**

ACTIVITY TYPE	ECTS Student Workload Coefficient	GRADE PERCENTAGE (%)
Class Attendance	1,2	0
Seminar Presentation	0,56	20
Midterm Exam	0,7	25
Midterm Exam	0,7	25
Total in Class	3.16	70
Final Exam	0.84	30
TOTAL ECTS (Classes + Final Exam)	4	100

**Midterm Exam
Dates**

7th and 14th week of classes

**Final Exam
Dates**

According to published timetable

IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE
Lectures

Week	Topic
1.	Introduction to Religion and Media.
2.	Key concepts in religion and media studies.
3.	Representation of religion in media.
4.	Covering religion in news media.
5.	The role of radio and television in shaping religious expression.
6.	Media and shaping public perception of religion.
7.	Mid-term exam.
8.	The impact of globalization on media representation of religion.
9.	Religion and digital media.
10.	Social media and religion.

11.	Social media and religion – religious influencers, bloggers and vloggers.
12.	Ethical Issues.
13.	Media, Religion and Conflict.
14.	Mid-term exam.
15.	Artificial Intelligence and Media Representation of Religion: Opportunities and Challenges.

Seminars

Week	Topic
1.	Introduction.
2.	Seminars and student presentations.
3.	Seminars and student presentations.
4.	Seminars and student presentations.
5.	Seminars and student presentations.
6.	Seminars and student presentations.
7.	Mid-term exam.
8.	Seminars and student presentations.
9.	Seminars and student presentations.
10.	Seminars and student presentations.
11.	Seminars and student presentations.
12.	Seminars and student presentations.
13.	Seminars and student presentations.
14.	Mid-term exam.
15.	Seminars and student presentations.