

FACULTY OF SOCIETY AND SCIENCE

Course title:	ARGUMENTATION THEORY AND CRITICAL THINKING				
Course code (LAIS):	KomZ5015				
Study programme:	Media and Information Literacy				
Type of Study Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master program				
Type of Study course:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compulsory course (Part A)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional specialization courses (Part B, compulsory)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional specialization optional courses (Part B, optional)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elective courses (Part C)				
Course Workload:	Credits	ECTS	Academic hours	Contact hours	Independent work hours
	2	3	80	24	56
Course Author/ Tutor:	Liene Ločmele , liene.locmele@va.lv				
	Vineta Silkāne , vineta.silkane@va.lv				
	Jānis Buholcs , janis.buholcs@va.lv				
	Consultation: according to the schedule for each semester				
Course Form:	Full time studies				
Study year, semester:	1., 1.				
Language:	Latvian/ English				
Prerequisites for the Course:					
Course Summary:	The aim of the study course is to enable the choice, assessment, and preparation of the information by applying relevant notions from the field of argumentation, critical thinking and psychology.				
Course Methods, including description of the organization of students' individual work and tasks:	Study activities: lectures, seminars, exam, etc. Types of study work and methods: literature studies, case analysis, etc. Within the course students individually do one case analysis of 5-7 pages; develop one article 3-5 pages long; engages in a dialogue about the topic of a position article for about 2 hours, after which he/she writes a reflection on the experience of the dialogue, 5-7 pages in volume. These three written individual assignments together account for 100% of the total amount of regular work.				
Assessment:	Examination				
Requirements for Credits and Criteria for Assessing the Course Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All the independent assignments should be submitted in a timely fashion. - Assignments should be fulfilled in compliance to the methodological instructions and the course description. Students must adhere to the general principles of academic ethics as well as ViA Statement of Academic Ethics. If this is violated, the course cannot be completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Only after fulfilling all requirements, students are allowed to take the examination. - Students must adhere to the attendance requirements. - In order to pass the course students must receive the positive evaluation ("pass") for two home works, the exam as well as have to attend at least 75% of face-to-face course activities. -If more than 25% of the course activities are missed, students must substitute absence with individually assigned tasks. 				
Course Contents:	The course provides an overview about the main aspects of argumentation theory, practice, and quality; scientific thinking, scepticism, critical thinking, and inductive logics with a special focus on the issues associated with social media, propaganda, and fake news. It also investigates cognitive processes responsible for judgement and decision making and the role of dialogue in creating understanding among variety of opinions.				
Learning Outcomes; the evaluation methods and criteria	Learning Outcomes			The evaluation methods and criteria	
	Knowledge				
	The understanding of the main theoretical			Seminar discussions, home works,	

	tenets regarding an argumentation, and inductive logics, and a dialogue.	examination
	The understanding of scientific thinking, scepticism, and critical thinking	Seminar discussions, home works, examination
	The understanding of the content and quality of argumentation	Seminar discussions, home works, examination
Skills		
	Ability to apply the gained knowledge to the assessment and preparation of information on ambiguous issues as well as to participate in dialogue with people who hold variety of different opinions on them.	Seminar discussions, home works, examination
	Ability to independently organize personal and subordinates' further education on actualities regarding argumentation and critical thinking	Seminar discussions
	Ability to make theoretically informed decisions about the best communication practice in changing or ambiguous circumstances.	Home works, examination
Competency		
	Ability to independently find, select, and analyse the quality information about argumentation and critical thinking.	Seminar discussions, home works
	Ability to critically assess the quality of media and other types of information relevant to everyday and professional contexts.	Seminar discussions, home works
	Ability to participate in the development of professional areas that deal with information preparation and quality assessment.	Seminar discussions, home works
Course Compulsory literature:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Berghel, H. (2017). Lies, damn lies, and fake news. <i>Computer</i>, 50(2), 80–85. http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/ielx7/2/7842828/07842838.pdf?tp=&arnumber=7842838&isnumber=7842828 Cook, J., Lewandowsky, S. (2011), <i>The Debunking Handbook</i>. St. Lucia, Australia: University of Queensland. November 5. ISBN 978-0-646-56812-6. http://sks.to/debunk Ganesh, S., Zoller, H. (2012). Dialogue, activism, and democratic social schange. <i>Communication Theory</i>, Vol.22, pp. 66-91 Gergen, K. et.al. (2001). Toward a vocabulary of transformative dialogue. <i>International Journal of Public Administration</i>, Vol. 24, pp. 697-707 Gilovich, T., Griffin, D., & Kahneman, D. (Eds.) (2002). <i>Heuristics and Biases: the psychology of intuitive judgement</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press Kahneman, D., Slovic, P., & Tversky, A. (Eds.) (2017). <i>Judgment Under Uncertainty: heuristics and biases</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press Kahneman, D., & Tversky, A. (2000). <i>Choices, Values, and Frames</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press Schwarz, N. et.al. (2016). Making the Truth Stick and the Myths Fade: Lessons from Cognitive Psychology. <i>Behaviour Science and Policy</i>, in press Orgnization of American States & UNDP (2013). <i>Practical guide on democratic dialogue</i>. Guatemala: Sergrafica S.A. 	
Course additional literature:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apsalons, E. (2011). <i>Valodas lietojuma loģika</i>. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC Herman, E. S. & Chomsky, N. (1988). <i>Manufacturing consent: The political economy of the mass media</i>. New York: Pantheon Books. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Kānemans, D. (2012). <i>Domā ātri, domā lēnām</i>. Rīga: Jumava 4. Quinn, S. (2005). <i>Debating</i>. http://www.learndebating.com/book/ 5. Wineburg, S. & McGrew, S. (2017). Lateral reading: Reading less and learning more when evaluating digital information. <i>Stanford History Education Group Working Paper No. 2017-A1</i>. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3048994
Course confirmation date:	08.11.2017.
Date of course description update:	

Study Course Plan:

Theme	Academic hours		Study Form
	Contact hours	Independent work hours	
Main concepts of argumentation and critical thinking	4	1	Lecture
Theory, practice, and quality of argumentation	4	5	Lecture, seminar
Thinking. Problem solving. Decision making.	2	5	Lecture, seminar
Heuristics and cognitive bias	2	5	Lecture, seminar
Social media and information quality	2	5	Lecture, seminar
Propaganda and fake news	2	5	Lecture, seminar
Dialogue	2	5	Workshop
Homework I	2	5	Workshop
Homework II	2	15	Seminar
Examination	2	5	Written examination
	24	56	