

GENERIC ELECTIVES (GE-10): Digital Social Sciences

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Digital Social Sciences GE-10	4	3	1	-	Passed Class XII	NIL

Learning Objectives

Digital technology in the discipline of Social Science cannot be viewed only as a tool for research but as something that transforms the nature of Social Science and the object of its study- the society- in course of researching about it. This very aspect of digital technology and its capacity for social transformation is the mainstay of the emerging field of Digital Social Sciences. The course aims to introduce students to this field of Digital Social Science by primarily focussing on two intertwined aspects of the field- first, impact of digital technologies on the society and two, the role of digital technologies in the study of Social Sciences or the study of society. The intertwined aspect of the twin focus can be alternately formulated as the attempt of the course to understand social change taking place under the impact of digital technology while digital technology providing with the tools to map out these changes. The course begins with a basic introduction to digital literacy and its contribution to pedagogic Social Science and proceeds by way of foundational introduction to prominent technologies and digital spaces through which the aspects of the social can be understood. The course throws light on how the digital turn has redefined the contours of debates surrounding personal identity and social identification through biometrical techniques having consequences both for social welfare and social surveillance; whether access to the digital spaces is impacting social cleavages, creating space for democracy or re-entrenching social inequality through the digital divide; is the digital economy offering new forms of employment or restructuring the vulnerability of the forms of labour; and how is algorithm driven digital space reformulating social choice and social classification. These are some of the illustrative questions through which the course intends to reflect upon the evolving relationship between digital technologies and social sciences.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, the students would demonstrate:

- An understanding of digital technology and the ways in which it shapes the society.
- An understanding into how digital tools are used as research and pedagogic devices to map out social changes
- Clarity on concepts of the digital world such as Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Algorithm, etc.
- Familiarity with digital techniques such as the biometrics and digital spaces such as the Social Media in the sphere of communication or the Gig Economy in the market sphere

SYLLABUS OF GE-10

UNIT – I (6 Hours)

Digital Literacy in Social Sciences

UNIT – II (7 Hours)
Digital Information and Science of Society

UNIT – III (6 Hours)
Biometrics and identification

UNIT – IV (7 Hours)
Access to Technology and the Internet

UNIT – V (7 Hours)
Social Media and Public Sphere

UNIT – VI (6 Hours)
Labour in Digital Economy

UNIT – VII (6 Hours)
Artificial Intelligence and Algorithm

Essential/recommended readings

1. Digital Literacy in Social Sciences

Polizzi, Gianfranco, 'Information literacy in the digital age: why critical digital literacy matters for democracy.' In: Goldstein, Stéphane (ed.) *Informed societies: why information literacy matters for citizenship, participation and democracy*. Facet Publishing, London, UK (2020), 1-23.

Robert Todd Perdue & Joshua Sbicca (2013) "Public Access: For Socially Relevant. Knowledge Production and a Democratic Cybersphere", *Fast Capitalism*, Volume 10, Issue 1, 2013

2. Digital Information, Data and Society

Buckland, Michael. *Information and Society*. United Kingdom: MIT Press, 2017. (Chapter 1 and 2)

Sandeep Mertia (edited), *Lives of Data: Essays on Computational Cultures from India*. Netherlands: Institute of Network Cultures, 2020. (Introduction), pp. 9-25.

Holmes, Dawn E.. *Big Data: A Very Short Introduction*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Sinha, Amber (2019). "The Politics of India's Data Protection Ecosystem," *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 54, Issue No. 49, 14 Dec, 2019.

3. Biometrics and identification

Fairhurst, Michael. *Biometrics: A Very Short Introduction*. United Kingdom: OUP Oxford, 2018.

Nayar, Pramod K., 'I Sing the Body Biometric': Surveillance and Biological Citizenship,' *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 47, No. 32 (August 11, 2012)

Singh, P. 'Aadhaar: Platform over Troubled Waters.' In: Athique, A., Parthasarathi, V. (eds) *Platform Capitalism in India. Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

4. Access to Technology and the Internet

Agrawal, Ravi. 2018. *India Connected: How the Smartphone is Transforming the World's Largest Democracy*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Jeffrey, Robin and AssaDoron. 2013. *Cell Phone Nation: How Mobile Phones Have Revolutionized Business, Politics and Ordinary Life in India*. Hachette India.

Narayanan Shalini and SunetraSen Narayan, *India Connected: Mapping the Impact of New Media*. India: SAGE Publications, 2016.

Venkatraman, Shriram. *Social Media in South India*. United Kingdom: UCL Press, 2017. (Chapter 6: *The Wider World: Social Media and Education in a Knowledge Economy*)

5. Social Mediaand Public Sphere

Sunstein, Cass R. *#Republic: Divided Democracy in the Age of Social Media*. United Kingdom: Princeton University Press, 2018.

Castells, Manuel. *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age*. Germany: Polity Press, 2015. (Chapter 1)

Sinha, Amber. *The Networked Public: How Social Media Changed Democracy*. New Delhi: Rupa, 2019.

Philipose, Pamela. *Media's Shifting Terrain: Five Years that Transformed the Way India Communicates*. India: Orient BlackSwan, 2019.

Biju. P. R., *Political Internet: State and Politics in the Age of Social Media*. Taylor & Francis, 2016.

Rodrigues, U. (2020). Political Communication on Social Media Platforms. In: Athique, A., Parthasarathi, V. (eds) *Platform Capitalism in India*. Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

6. Labour in Digital Economy

Chander, Anupam. *The Electronic Silk Road: How the Web Binds the World Together in Commerce*. United Kingdom: Yale University Press, 2013.

Dolber, Brian, ChenjeraiKumanyika, Michelle Rodino-Colocino, Todd Wolfson (edited), *The Gig Economy: Workers and Media in the Age of Convergence*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2021. (Chapter 1 and 3)

Verma, Ravinder Kumar, P. Vigneswarallavarasan, and Arpan Kumar Kar, 'Inequalities in Ride-Hailing Platforms.' In: Athique, A., Parthasarathi, V. (eds) *Platform Capitalism in India*. Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

7. Artificial Intelligence and Algorithms

Boden, Margaret A. *Artificial Intelligence: A Very Short Introduction*. London: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Frey, Carl Benedikt. *The Technology Trap: Capital, Labor, and Power in the Age of Automation*. United Kingdom: Princeton University Press, 2020. (Chapter 12: Artificial Intelligence)

Eubanks, Virginia. *Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police and Punish the Poor*. St Martin's Press. (2018) (Introduction: Red Flags)

Cheney-Lippold, J. *We Are Data: Algorithms and the Making of Our Digital Selves*. United States: NYU Press. (2017). (Introduction)

Pasquale, Frank. *The Black Box Society: The Secret Algorithms That Control Money and Information*. United States: Harvard University Press, 2015. (Introduction)

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.