Content Strategies and Media

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Office Hours: by appointment only

Objective

The course aims to provide applied and theoretical tools for understanding the impact of technological and cultural changes on the content, news, media, marketing and advertising industries. The course will teach theoretical frameworks alongside current tools and recent case studies from Israel and the world. Course Objective: To provide graduates with an understanding which would enable preparation for crisis situations; knowledge of in-depth processes affecting institutionalized media; and working together with speakers, communications consultants, and policy makers.

Description

YouTube, Twitter, Netflix, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, along with older media outlets - from multi-channel and commercial television to the print press - are all present in the public arena and set a governing, public and diplomatic agenda. The various media channels are constantly trying to find and reinvent themselves in a frenzied and ever-changing world that includes content and subgenres on social networks, internet and mobile platforms. The need to develop financially viable models for production, and distribution as well as revenue model of various content on the several platforms largely dictates the conduct of the industry and its future.

In this course, we will discuss changes and developments in these markets from two main aspects:

Traditional media and digital media journalism: Knowing today’s world agenda and magazine content on digital channels; understanding the impact of the platform and emerging economic models on content; unique opportunities to create new content that has not been possible on previous platforms (including Data Journalism); distribution and traffic strategies as well as driving traffic to content; editorial and ethical consideration alongside considerations designed to promote the "maintenance" of digital journalistic personas. We will get acquainted with the basic journalist toolbox; get familiar with the public and regulatory arena; work of the news desk; research and investigative work; collecting background and perspective; building an interview; interviewing strategy; video editing considerations; text writing and narration.

Content and Distribution Strategy: Strategies from global marketing in general and digital marketing in particular. Content development and accessibility of information in the various media (print, radio, television, online, blog, podcast, video, social networks and microblogging); differences in language, visuals, style and tone; variances arising from the inventory versus those from the platform, and adjusting content and coverage tone to target audiences. Getting to know advertising modes and campaign management on social networks, search engines and websites.

Structure

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| Lesson  | Date | Part A | Part B |
| 1 | 26/2/20 | Communication in the age of acceleration: from stone to the touch screen - the economic forces that led to the formation of the journalism and its effects  | The Israeli Media Map: Trends and changes in local and global media consumption habits, regulatory bodies and relevant legislation. |
| 2 | 4/3/20 | The Media Arena: News Desk – getting to know that considerations leading journalists, producers and editors in framing the media picture | Understanding the digital marketing worlds: paid content promotion models, organic promotion, development strategies, and content distribution in a multi-channel environment. |
| 3 | 11/3/20 | News Desk 2: investigators and journalists; editing messages for television; analysis case studies | Content Strategy: Mapping target audiences; developing brand identity and target audience persona; adapting messages to the various channels. |
| 4 | 18/3/20 | Pulling Threads: Promoting appropriate framing, spins and interests in news reporting, crisis management strategy  | Risk and contingency media: Models of risk and state of emergency communications |
| 5 | 25/3/20 | Public and social marketing - strategies for changing attitudes and/ or behavior of the public | Guest speaker - TBA |
| 6 | 1/4/20 | So now what? Latest trends and developments in the media arena  | Presentations – preparing for media strategy.  |

Writing Assignments and Grading:

Assignment #1: Team Assignment (40%): Classroom presentation of a media and content strategy for a given scenario. Presentations to be held during the last lesson of the course, April 1st, 2020 in groups of 4 students.

Assignment #2: Team Assignment (60%): To be submitted on Sunday, April 19th, 2020; written paper based on the presentation implementing notes given as well as material learned.

Reading Material - TBA