UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP54_DIP_FIL

Visiting Professor Program
Academic year 2019/2020

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATION SCIENCE
TEACHING COMMITMENT: 36 hours

COURSE TITLE

Visual Semiotics

TEACHING PERIOD
2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA
Semiotics

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH
English and Italian

COURSE SUMMARY
The course will introduce participant students to the most advanced research trends in the semiotic analysis of digital visual artifacts, with particular reference to the study of visual big data and digital image archives. Platforms for the storage, classification, articulation, visualization, and analysis of visual data are acquiring a capital importance in many areas of social and cultural life, from the strictly academic field to the management and enhancement of historical and artistic heritage. The course will familiarize students with the most updated theories and the most efficacious tools for the analysis of these archives.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Students will learn the main contents of semiotic theories concerning the analysis of images and visual cultures. They will master the most recent and advanced tools for the automatic, semi-automatic, and 'manual' analysis of digital visual artifacts, with particular reference to new instruments for the analysis and visualization of big data. The approach of the course will be interdisciplinary and participative: case studies will be proposed as models so as to develop the students' own analytic skills and heuristics.

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

Selected students will have the opportunity to write their final dissertation under the supervision of the professor, in partnership with the local chair of semiotics.

LAB ACTIVITIES

Students will be exposed to tools and instruments for the automatic and semi-automatic analysis of visual big data, to the new field of 'crowd analysis', and data visualization. The course will also entail the presentation of a plenary lecture for the academic community of the University of Turin and the participation in the annual seminar in advanced semiotics "Meetings on Meaning" run by CIRCE, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Research on Communication at the University of Turin. Both lectures will address PhD students, Post-Doc, and research and teaching staff about the most urgent issues of present-day digital visual communication.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

The course will also be of interest to research activities at CIRCE, the Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Communication at the University of Turin, Italy; it will benefit the double-degree master's program in "Comunicazione e Culture dei Media" ["Communication and Media Cultures"] (University of Turin / University of Potsdam); the doctoral program in humanities, specialization in semiotics; and the School of Advanced Studies "Ferdinando Rossi". The course, moreover, will be in line with the research and didactic development program of the "excellence department" (Philosophy and Education Sciences) and the University research platform "LIFE", which precisely concerns the experimental cultural analysis of digital imageries. Furthermore, it will available to students of the English master's degree in philosophy at the University of Turin (PIC).

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

Vast international experience in the field of visual studies, visual rhetoric, visual semiotics; prestigious publications in the domain of semiotics and text analysis; ability to fluently teach in English (knowledge of Italian is a plus); involvement with the international semiotic community.

CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT

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