

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
Unit Specification

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Title	Communication in public sphere
Unit code	PS032
Credit rating	15
Level	MA in Political Science and International Relations
Contact hours	21
Other Scheduled teaching and learning activities*	tutorials; meetings with Academic Advisers
Pre-requisite units	PS021 Political Philosophy
Co-requisite units	
School responsible	MSSSES
Member of staff responsible	Tatiana Vaizer
ECTS**	
Notional hours of Learning***	

2. AIMS

The unit aims to:

Theoretical and analytical purposes:

- to explore public sphere through various models of communication elaborated in contemporary philosophy, sociology and politics;
- to embrace and to promote understanding of basic theories of communication in public sphere appeared in the XXth century;
- to differentiate between various functions of communication in public sphere; to analyze various structures of intersubjective interaction in communicative models;
- to understand under what conditions (social, political, epistemological etc.) communication becomes a public problem, what aims and tasks imply each communicative theory, what (methodological, expressive) instruments use, what kind of ethical values introduce;
- to examine how these conceptions (re)structure public space and (re)define the nature of the "social";

Critical purpose:

- to teach students how to see the boundaries, weak and strong aspects of each approach; how to evaluate critically the argumentative logic of each author;

Practical purpose:

- to provide students with theoretic instruments permitting to analyze various conceptions of public communication through the same categories of the formal communicative theory;

General purpose:

- to introduce students to the contemporary social-political context that conditions collaboration between social philosophy, moral politics and conflict resolution, all trying to find new ethical resources for democratic civility.

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

The course touches various fields of public sphere considered through communicative theory: constructing of the public space through media; bargaining and conflict resolution; public discussions and debates on various social and political issues, collective decision-making etc.

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The idea of communication turned out to be particularly important in the XXth century due to the very contradictory tendencies: appearance of new public spaces, emergence of various ethnic, religious and multicultural communities, flourishing of totalitarian regimes and weapons of mass destruction, spread of mass culture and development of new information technologies. As a consequence, communication became an object of different and even antagonistic worldviews and systems of values.

According to the conceptual refrain of the course we will explore how public sphere is being constituted, modified and conceptualized through communication; how communication affects its structure, its limits and possibilities; how it conditions ways of public interaction and means of inclusion or exclusion of the Other in and from public sphere. This core refrain of the publicity taken into account, communication will be analyzed in the tension between subjectivity and intersubjectivity, egocentrism and communicative openness.

Practical significance of the course resides in the ability to elaborate programs of communicative interaction for public sphere, to participate in activities of consulting centers, to contribute to the development of public communicative culture (such as culture of political bargaining and international relationships).

* To inform the “Key Information Set”. Defined as ‘any activity that a student has to attend or undertake at a fixed point and that has no flexibility for when it is undertaken, and where the student also has access to an available staff member’ (*“Provision of Information about Higher Education: Outcomes of consultation and next steps” June 2011/18*)

** ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System): There are 2 UK credits for every 1 ECT credit, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA). Therefore if a unit is worth 30 UK credits, this will equate to 15 ECT.

*** Notional hours of learning: The number of hours which it is expected that a learner (at a particular level) will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes at that level. It is expected that there will be 10 hours of notional study associated with every 1 credit achieved. Therefore if a unit is worth 30 credits, this will equate to 300 notional study hours, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA).

4. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	<i>Students should/will (please delete as appropriate) be able to:</i>
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to differentiate the manners and approaches in which communication in public sphere can be conceptualized; - to understand under which social and political conditions such phenomena as public communications appears and becomes a philosophical, ethical, sociological, epistemological problem; - to recognize traditions to which the regarded models of communication belong; - to follow the transformations of social and political structures produced by of communicative theories.
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to know how to articulate basic notions of formal communicative theory: communicative act(ion), communicative agent, communicative connection, communicative rupture etc. - to operate by the basic methodological categories of the present course (public sphere, public space, publicity, intersubjective structure of interaction, regimes of communication, communicative ethics) in their own reasoning; - to find differences and points of intersection in different models of communication in order to develop the capacity for comparative analysis.

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Practical skills	- oral and written academic communication; - writing of analytical texts; - supporting of argumentative discussion.
Transferable skills and personal qualities	- effective written and oral communication; - skilful use of e-library resources; - self-discipline and ability to work with minimal supervision - experience of presenting one's own paper at a conference.

5. LEARNING AND TEACHING PROCESSES (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

The course will combine lecture and discussion elements with an accent made on the latter in order to encourage students' reflection and discussion skills. Students will be expected to prepare for classes by completing all reading assignments (texts will be sent via emails or necessary references for library resources will be done). Students are introduced to a wide range of electronic and printed sources, including books, journals and internet-resources in philosophy, sociology and politics.

6. ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT, E-ASSESSMENT, and INFORMATION ABOUT FEEDBACK)

Assessment task	Length	How and when feedback is provided	Weighting within unit (if relevant)
Essay	3500 words	Written feedback in two weeks after deadline	80%
Exam	1000 words	Written feedback in two weeks after deadline	20%

7. INDICATIVE READING LIST

1. Benhabib S. Introduction: The Democratic Moment and the Problem of Difference, in *Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political* / Ed. by S. Benhabib. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996, pp. 3-19.
2. Benhabib S. The Generalized and the Concrete Other, in *Feminism as Critique: on the Politics of Gender* / Ed. by S. Benhabib and D. Cornell. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987, pp. 77-96.
3. Bohman J. The Transformation of the Public Sphere: Political Authority, Communicative Freedom, and Internet Public, in *Information Technology and Moral Philosophy*. Ed. J. Van Hoven, J. Weckert, Cambridge University Press, 2007, pp. 66-93.
4. Bohman J. Expanding Dialogue: The Public Sphere, the Internet, and Transnational Democracy, in *After Habermas: Perspectives on the Public Sphere*. Ed. J. Roberts, N. Crossley. London: Blackwell, pp. 131-155.
5. Bohman J. *Public Deliberation: Pluralism, Complexity, and Democracy*. Cambridge,

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Mass.: MIT Press, 1996 (Introduction: Deliberation and Democracy, pp. 1-23; What is Public Deliberation? A Dialogical Account, pp. 23-71; Public Deliberation and Cultural Pluralism, pp. 71-107).

6. Carreira da Silva F. Communicative Ethics and Deliberative Democracy, in *Mead and Modernity: Science, Selfhood, and Democratic Politics*. Lexington Books, 2008.

7. Cohen J. Procedure and Substance in Deliberative Democracy, in *Deliberative Democracy: Essays on Reason and Politics*. Ed. Bohman J., Rehg, W. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1997, pp. 439-441.

8. Cohen J. Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy, in *Deliberative Democracy: Essays on Reason and Politics*. Ed. Bohman J., Rehg, W. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1997, pp. 67-93.

9. Cristiano Th. The Significance of Public Deliberation, in *Deliberative Democracy: Essays on Reason and Politics*. Ed. Bohman J., Rehg, W. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1997, pp. 243-279.

10. Dryzek J. Green Reason: Communicative Ethics for the Biosphere, in *Postmodern Environmental Ethics*. Ed. M. Oelschlaeger. State University of New York Press, 1995, pp. 101-121.

11. Fleming M. Women and the "Public Use of Reason", in *Feminists Read Habermas. Gendering the Subject of Discourse* / Ed. Meehan J. NY, London, Routledge, 1995, pp. 117-139.

12. Habermas J. *Structural Transformation of Public Sphere*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1989.

13. Habermas J. Three Normative Models of Democracy, in *Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political* / Ed. by S. Benhabib. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996, pp. 21-31 or Habermas J. Three Normative Models of Democracy: Liberal, Republican, Procedural, in *Questioning ethics: contemporary debates in philosophy* / Ed. by R. Kearney and M. Dooley. Published London; New York: Routledge, 1999, pp. 135-145.

14. Habermas J. Popular Sovereignty as Procedure, in *Deliberative Democracy: Essays on Reason and Politics*. Ed. Bohman J., Rehg, W. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1997, pp. 35-67.

15. Habermas J. Truth and Society: The Discursive Redemption of Factual Validity Claims, in *On the Pragmatics of Social Interaction: Preliminary Studies in the Theory of Communicative Action*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2001, pp. 85-103.

16. Honneth A. Disrespect and Resistance: The Moral Logic of Social Conflicts, in *The Struggle for Recognition. The Moral Grammar of Social Conflict*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1995, pp. 160-171.

17. Landes J. L. The Public and the Private Sphere: A Feminist Reconsideration, in *Feminists Read Habermas. Gendering the Subject of Discourse* / Ed. Meehan J. NY, London, Routledge, 1995, pp. 91-117.

18. McCarthy T. Legitimacy and Diversity, in *Habermas on Law and Democracy: Critical Exchanges* / Ed. by M. Rosenfeld and A. Arato. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998, pp. 115-153.

19. Rawls J. The Idea of Public Reason, in *Deliberative Democracy: Essays on Reason and*

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Politics. Ed. Bohman J., Rehg, W. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1997, pp. 93-131.

20. Young I. M. Difference as a Resource for Democratic Communication, in *Deliberative Democracy: Essays on Reason and Politics*. Ed. Bohman J., Rehg, W. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1997, pp. 383-406.

21. Young I. M. Communication and the Other: Beyond Deliberative Democracy, in *Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political* / Ed. by S. Benhabib. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996, pp. 120-137.

22. Young I. M. *Inclusion and Democracy*. Published Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2000 (Inclusive Political Communication, pp. 52 -81; Social Difference as a Political Resource, pp. 81 -121; Representation and Social Perspective, pp. 121-154).

23. Young I. M. Justice, Inclusion, and Deliberative Democracy, in *Deliberative Politics: Essays on Democracy and Disagreement* / Ed. by S. Macedo. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999, pp. 151-159.

24. Meehan J. Communicative Ethics, in *A Companion to Feminist Philosophy*. Ed. A. Jaggar, I. M. Young. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publisher Inc, 1998, pp. 411-419.

Readers:

25. *Theorizing Communication: Readings across Traditions* / Ed. by R. T. Craig, H. L. Muller. Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2007.

26. *The Communication Theory Reader*. Ed. P. Copley. London, USA: Routledge, 1996.

27. *Perspectives on Philosophy of Communication*. Ed. P. Arneson. West Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Press, 2007.

28. *Exploring Communication Ethics: Interviews with Influential Scholars in the Field*. Ed. P. Arneson. New York : Peter Lang, 2007.

Internet-resources:

29. Russian Association of Communication Studies <http://www.russcomm.ru/index.shtml>

30. European Communication Research and Education Organization, ECREA <http://www.ecrea.eu/>

For Information and advice on Link2Lists reading list software, see:

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/academicssupport/informationandadviceonlink2listsreadinglistsoftware/>

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