科目ナンバリング	U-LAS70 10002 SE50						
授業科目名<英訳>	ILAS Seminar-E2 :Democracy in the Digital Age（デジタル時代の民主主義） ILAS Seminar-E2 :Democracy in the Digital Age			担当者所属職名・氏名	法学研究科　准教授　Kuan-Wei Chen		
群	少人数群	単位数	2単位	週コマ数	1コマ	授業形態	ゼミナール（対面授業科目）
開講年度・開講期	2026・後期	受講定員(1回生定員)	10 (10) 人	配当学年	主として1回生	対象学生	全学向
曜時限	火5	教室	1共24			使用言語	英語
キーワード	democracy / digitalization / disinformation / digital participation / digital surveillance						

[授業の概要・目的]

What does democracy look like in the digital age?
This seminar invites first-year students from all disciplines to explore how digital technologies are reshaping public life, political participation, and collective decision-making. Together, we will question how democracy can remain open, inclusive, and trustworthy in an era of information abundance and algorithmic control.

In the second semester of 2026, the course focuses on three key themes:

[1. Disinformation and Democracy: Who Defines the Truth?]
We examine how false or misleading information spreads online and how it affects trust, elections, and public debate. Students will discuss fact-checking, digital literacy, and the delicate balance between freedom of expression and the regulation of harmful speech.

[2. Surveillance and Freedom: Watching and Being Watched]
This theme explores how governments and private actors use data and surveillance technologies in the name of security or efficiency, and what that means for privacy, rights, and civic freedom. Students will reflect on how surveillance can both protect and endanger democratic values.

[3. New Forms of Participation: Beyond Voting]
From online petitions and digital deliberation to civic tech communities, this theme looks at new models of participation emerging through digital tools. We will discuss how technology can empower citizens, enable transparency, and create new possibilities for democratic co-creation.

The seminar combines reading, discussion, and interactive sessions with international experts. Students will learn to read short academic and policy texts, summarise key ideas, ask questions, and discuss them in English.

[到達目標]

By completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand how digital technologies influence democratic systems, public communication, and civic life in contemporary society.

2. Identify and analyse key issues related to disinformation, surveillance, and new forms of participation using conceptual tools introduced in class.

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3. Read and summarise short academic and policy texts on democracy and technology, and formulate thoughtful questions.

4. Discuss and present ideas in English with growing confidence, demonstrating improved skills in critical reasoning and collaborative dialogue.

5. Develop and complete an individual research project by exploring a specific issue within the course themes, supported by guidance and feedback throughout the semester.

Through these outcomes, students will cultivate the ability to think critically about democracy’s future in the digital age and to express their perspectives clearly and respectfully in an international academic context.

[授業計画と内容]

Weekly Schedule and Class Themes

Week 1: Introduction: Course overview and introduction to democracy in the digital age.
Week 2: Theme 1: Disinformation and Democracy (I) + Method Workshop
Week 3: Theme 1: Disinformation and Democracy (II)
Week 4: Guest Lecture I: Expert on fact-checking and digital literacy
Week 5: Theme 2: Surveillance and Freedom (I) + Presentation Clinic I
Week 6: Theme 2: Surveillance and Freedom (II)
Week 7: Theme 3: New Civic Participation Models (I) + Presentation Clinic II
Week 8: Theme 3: New Civic Participation Models (II)
Week 9: Guest Lecture II: Lawyer from an international organisation or civic tech community
Weeks 10-14: Final Presentations (two students per week with peer discussion)
Week 16: Reflection Session

This seminar proceeds step by step, combining reading, discussion, and practical exercises to help students explore how digital transformation affects democratic life.
The course is organised around three main themes: Disinformation and Democracy, Surveillance and Freedom, and New Civic Participation Models. It also features two guest lectures by international experts. Students receive continuous guidance through workshops and presentation clinics, gradually developing their own research projects. In the final weeks, each student presents their findings and engages in peer discussion, followed by a reflection session that connects individual insights to the broader possibilities and challenges of democracy in the digital age.

[履修要件]

特になし

[成績評価の方法・観点]

Students will be evaluated through continuous assessment based on participation, written and oral work, and the final report.
Emphasis is placed on steady progress, active engagement, and the ability to connect ideas across discussions and individual research.

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Class participation and discussion (20%)
Active contribution to class discussions, group activities, and reflection on course materials and guest lectures.

Article summary and question (20%)
Each student will select, during the first class, one week to be responsible for summarising or raising discussion questions, and one week for their final presentation.
In each theme, two readings will be discussed per week.

Final presentation (40%)
Oral presentation of the student’s individual research findings, connecting one of the course themes with real-world cases or theoretical debates.
Presentations will include peer discussion and feedback.

Final paper (20%)
A written version of the research project (approx. 1,200-1,500 words), demonstrating independent thinking, coherent argumentation, and integration of feedback.

Evaluation criteria:
Grades will reflect the student’s understanding of key concepts, analytical ability, clarity of expression, and consistency of effort.
Continuous engagement, creativity, and improvement throughout the semester are valued as essential elements of assessment.

[教科書]

使用しない

[参考書等]

（参考書）
授業中に紹介する

[授業外学修（予習・復習）等]

Before each assigned summary, question submission, and presentation, students are expected to prepare by carefully reading the selected materials and reflecting on key issues.

Students are also encouraged to explore related topics beyond the assigned readings, such as recent news, digital policy debates, or examples of civic innovation, to broaden their understanding and connect theory with real-world developments.

[その他（オフィスアワー等）]

Contact via Email.

[主要授業科目（学部・学科名）]