# THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of PARIS — 50 YEARS

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| **COURSE TITLE:** | **Topics – Human Rights and Digital Technology** | **COURSE NO:** | LW5091 PO3091 |
| **PREREQUISITES:** | None | **SEMESTER:** | Spring 2014 |
| **PROFESSOR:** | Susan Perry and Claudia Roda | **CREDITS:** | 4 |
| **CLASS SCHEDULE:** | Monday, Thursday 12h10 – 13h30 | **ROOM NO:** | C-31 |
| **OFFICE HOURS:** | PERRY – Mondays/Thursday 3-6pm in C41B. RODA – by appointment croda@aup.edu | **PERIOD (S):** | M3, R3 |

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course, an elective for the major in History, Law and Society; the major in International & Comparative Politics; the minor in International Law; and the major in Computer Science, ICT track; as well as MIN, MAIA, MPL and MPPA, is designed to provide students with certain fundamentals of digital technology and international human rights law.

When we speak of digital technology, our focus is often prohibitively narrow. Taking our cues from scientific research models, we examine the parts, rather than the whole, inadvertently isolating software from hardware, the technological frameworks from their actual use, or the costs of the digital revolution from the benefits. This course joins two seemingly disparate disciplines – law and science – in an attempt to understand more fully the dense, multidimensional nature of the digital revolution and how we are going to live with it. While it is somewhat risky to predict the outcome of a revolution, we find the application of a human rights framework extremely useful in highlighting many of the connected aspects of this technological transition. We have designed our course as an interdisciplinary primer, a guide to examining the critical issues that shape our use of digital technology; by elaborating specific case studies, we ground our general arguments in lived experiences across diverse geographic contexts.

Please note that considerable creative thinking is required for this course. Students will work with the professors to design educational materials for PRIPARE (Preparing Industry for Privacy-by-design by supporting its Application in REsearch), a European Union-funded project to facilitate application of a privacy-by-design framework for Internet use in Europe.

## STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:
- ❖ Clear analytical thinking as demonstrated by contributions to in-class discussions and argumentation as developed in written work
- ❖ Succinct, well-organized oral expression
- ❖ Lucid, well-structured written work
- ❖ Initiative and originality in designing PRIPARE project materials
- ❖ Cogent critical analysis of the human rights implications of digital technology

## TEXTBOOKS:
All material covered in class is available in the course web site: http://ac.aup.fr/roda/lw5091 . Foundational readings include:
- ➤ Perry S. & Roda C. (forthcoming 2014) Digital Tightrope: Human Rights and Digital Technology in the 21st century. Currently under consideration by a university press. Available chapter by chapter on the course Web site.
- ➤ Roda C. & Perry S. (2014) Mobile Phone Infrastructure Regulation in Europe: Scientific Challenges and Human Rights Protection. Environmental Science and Policy, forthcoming.
- ➤ Perry S. & Roda C., Conceptualizing and Contextualizing the Changing Nature of Internet Usage in China. China and the New Internet World: The Eleventh Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC11) - Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford, June 2013.
- ➤ Perry S., Roda C. & Carlson K. (2012) Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child for the General Comment on the Rights of the Child and the Business Sector, http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/SubmissionsGC/AmericanUniversityParis
- ➤ Roda C. (2011) Human Attention in Digital Environments. Cambridge University Press.

## GRADING:

In addition to the required reading, students will be expected to prepare (for) the following:

- In-class participation (10%).
- Class assignments (40%). Through a set of short assignments students will work in teams to design information material on privacy-by-design.
- Final paper (50%). 10-15 pages for undergraduates; 15-20 pages for graduate students; clear mastery of a specific subject related to the course topic. *Due May 8, no exceptions.*

## PLAGIARISM:

Presenting someone else's ideas as your own is unacceptable under any circumstances. Special anti-plagiarism measures have been into this course to encourage all students to do their own work.

**Classroom comportment**: As a courtesy to all, no eating; no soft drinks; no cellphones, no email, Twitter or Facebook consultation in class.

## ATTENDANCE:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

**Attendance at all exams is mandatory.**

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and *especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.*

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY:

As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

## COURSE OUTLINE:

Please see weekly plan, assignments and other material on the course website at: http://ac.aup.fr/roda/lw5091

During the semester, you should check regularly for updates.