

ECTS Syllabus

Course Title	Philosophy and Practice in Surveillance				
Course Code	PGT-410				
Course Type	Elective				
Level	1 st Cycle				
Year / Semester	4 th Year				
Teacher's Name	Dr. Petros Petrikkos				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	1 / 12	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	Course Purpose: This course critically examines the philosophical, political, and practical dimensions of surveillance in contemporary global politics. Surveillance, as a phenomenon of governance, security, and control, underscores debates about privacy, human rights, power, and ethics. Drawing on interdisciplinary approaches from Critical Security Studies, International Relations, Political Psychology, National Security and Intelligence, and Technology and Politics, the course investigates how surveillance practices have evolved in response to new technologies, socio-political transformations, and global crises. Students will explore key themes such as government surveillance, corporate data collection, mass monitoring facilitated by artificial intelligence, and the implications of surveillance for democracy, security, and individual autonomy. By engaging with theoretical perspectives and real-world case studies, the course equips students with the analytical tools to understand the contemporary surveillance landscape and critically assess its impact on domestic and international politics. Course Objectives ○ Examine the philosophical foundations and ethical dilemmas of surveillance practices within the context of political and social theory. ○ Analyse how surveillance is conceptualized and critiqued in Critical Security Studies and related disciplines.				

	○ Understand the evolution of surveillance technologies and their role in shaping national and international security frameworks. ○ Evaluate the psychological and behavioural dimensions of surveillance on individuals, populations, and political decision-making. ○ Investigate how advancements in artificial intelligence and big data facilitate surveillance in authoritarian and democratic regimes. ○ Explore the securitization of crises—such as terrorism, pandemics, and migration—as justification for surveillance expansion. ○ Critically assess the impacts of surveillance practices on civil liberties, human rights, and democratic values. ○ Examine the role of private corporations and their collaboration with governments in constructing global surveillance systems. ○ Investigate surveillance in authoritarian regimes and its role in social control and regime durability. ○ Evaluate how surveillance overlaps with race, class, and gender, emphasizing its use as a tool of marginalization and social control. ○ Investigate case studies such as the Snowden revelations, the Chinese social credit system, and predictive policing. ○ Assess the accountability and oversight of intelligence agencies in conducting surveillance operations. ○ Explore resistance to surveillance through social movements, whistleblowing, and encryption technologies. ○ Develop the capacity to interpret and critique key academic and policy-oriented texts on surveillance and security. ○ Formulate evidence-based arguments about the future trajectory of surveillance in light of Transformative technologies and global challenges.
Learning Outcomes	After completion of the course students are expected to be able to: ● Demonstrate a critical understanding of the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of surveillance in global politics and society. ● Identify the complex relationships between surveillance, power, and security across different political systems.

	- Analyse the psychological and political impacts of surveillance on identity, behaviour, and decision-making. - Evaluate real-world case studies to assess the implications of surveillance for privacy, democracy, and governance. - Assess the ethical and normative challenges posed by surveillance in relation to human rights and international law. - Engage with interdisciplinary methodologies from International Relations, security studies, and political psychology to analyse surveillance. - Design policy recommendations addressing the accountability of surveillance practices while balancing security and democratic freedoms. - Critically assess the future role of technology in surveillance and its potential implications for political and societal change.		
Prerequisites	N/A	Required	N/A
Course Content	- Introduction to the Philosophy and Practice of Surveillance - Defining surveillance: Key concepts, evolution, and debates in global politics. - Theoretical Foundations: Surveillance and Social Theory - Explore surveillance from Foucauldian (e.g., panopticism) and critical perspectives; connections to power, governance, and control. - Surveillance and Critical Security Studies - The securitization of threats and justification of mass surveillance post-9/11. - Privacy, Human Rights, and Ethical Dilemmas - Balancing security and liberty; surveillance's impact on individual autonomy and human rights. - Political Psychology of Surveillance - The behavioural and psychological effects of being monitored; fear, compliance, and resistance. - Technology and the Rise of Smart Surveillance - The role of artificial intelligence, big data, and algorithms in enabling mass and predictive surveillance. - Intelligence, Oversight, and Accountability - Exploring the role and accountability of intelligence agencies in domestic and international surveillance. Case study: The Snowden revelations. - Corporate Surveillance and the Data Economy		

	a. Investigating how private companies collect, process, and monetise personal data, often in collaboration with states. 9. Authoritarianism and Surveillance as Social Control a. Surveillance in authoritarian regimes (e.g., China’s social credit system, predictive policing); technology-enabled repression. 10. Crisis-Driven Surveillance: Terrorism, Pandemics, and Beyond a. How governments use crises to justify expanded surveillance infrastructure. 11. Gender, Race, Class, and Surveillance a. Exploring surveillance as a tool of marginalization and control across sociopolitical lines. 12. Resistance to Surveillance a. Examining social movements, whistleblowers, and technology-based solutions (e.g., encryption) resisting surveillance. 13. Student Presentations of Research Findings a. Students present project findings related to the course themes. 14. Course Conclusion and Future Trajectories a. Summarize course themes and discuss the evolving nature of surveillance, future challenges, and transformative technologies.																									
Teaching Methodology	Lectures, Student Presentations, Class discussions																									
Bibliography	<table><tr><th>Title</th><th>Author(s)</th><th>Publisher</th><th>Year</th><th>ISBN</th></tr><tr><td>New Dark Age: Technology and the End of the Future</td><td>James Bridle</td><td>Verso</td><td>2019</td><td>978-1786635471</td></tr><tr><td>Security Unbound: Enacting Democratic Limits</td><td>Jef Huysmans</td><td>Routledge</td><td>2014</td><td>9781315817248</td></tr><tr><td>The Ethics of Surveillance: An Introduction</td><td>Kevin Macnish</td><td>Routledge</td><td>2017</td><td>978-1-138-64378-9</td></tr><tr><td>Routledge Handbook of</td><td>Kirstie Ball, Kevin D.</td><td>Routledge</td><td>2012</td><td>978-0-415-58883-6</td></tr></table>	Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN	New Dark Age: Technology and the End of the Future	James Bridle	Verso	2019	978-1786635471	Security Unbound: Enacting Democratic Limits	Jef Huysmans	Routledge	2014	9781315817248	The Ethics of Surveillance: An Introduction	Kevin Macnish	Routledge	2017	978-1-138-64378-9	Routledge Handbook of	Kirstie Ball, Kevin D.	Routledge	2012	978-0-415-58883-6
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	Surveillance Studies	Haggerty and David Lyon			
	National Security Intelligence and Ethics	Seumas Miller, Mitt Regan, and Patrick F. Walsh (eds)	Routledge	2022	978-0-367-75831-8
Assessment	Class Participation, Class Presentations, Assignment, Final-Exam				
Language	English				