Department 13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies

Course title A general understanding of Information

Hours per week (SWS) 2

Number of ECTS credits 2

Course objective Students should understand the unity within the diversity of information processes. Hence, on the one hand, they will learn about the peculiarities of information in physical, biological, social and technical contexts; on the other hand, they will become able to articulate relevant differences by means of a limited set of theoretical elements. A systematic vision on the hierarchy of complexity shall provide an interdisciplinary competence to move throughout different professional contexts, which has been highlighted by international institutions (e.g. European Commission) as a key-factor for coping with current economic, social, and ecological challenges.

Prerequisites

Recommended reading Floridi, L. (2012). Information. A very short introduction. Oxford University Press. More literature hints and direct accesses to materials used within the lectures are available at the course website: https://sites.google.com/site/aguihm/

Teaching methods The lecture will be held in a colloquial style and some documentary film will be used. Hint: In order to establish an early contact with the lecturer, who shall provide hints, announcements and materials, an e-mail to Prof. Diaz Nafria should be sent as soon as possible. Additionally, a course website will be used to the same purpose.

Assessment methods written examination

Language of instruction English

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Link https://sites.google.com/site/aguihm/

Course content If we aim at making our social and political life spinning around information, we need a coherent account of information in which the phenomena in each realm can be understood upon a common ground. Thus a systematic understanding beyond the usual multiplicity of irreducible accounts in physics, biology, society and technology shall provide a clue for coping with current challenges of global dimensions. A proper understanding of information enables in fact a coherent vision throughout the whole hierarchy of complexity, from elementary physical systems to organisms and societies.

Remarks