

<b>Course title</b>	<b>CONSPIRACY THEORIES</b>
<b>Lecturer</b>	Krzysztof Załucki, PhD, LL.M. Eur. (Munich)
<b>Hours</b>	30
<b>ECTS</b>	5
<b>Semester</b>	<b>Fall</b>
<b>Content</b>	<p>According to the Oxford English Dictionary conspiracy theory is <i>“the theory that an event or phenomenon occurs as a result of a conspiracy between interested parties; spec. a belief that some covert but influential agency (typically political in motivation and oppressive in intent) is responsible for an unexplained event”</i>.</p> <p>Why are conspiracy theories so popular and familiar to millions of people? What is their path of life (birth, growing and death)? Do we really need them to explain our world? Are they always imagination or simple belief?</p> <p>During our classes we will try to find answers to these and many other questions while working on certain examples of conspiracy theories.</p>
<b>Prerequisites</b>	General English level B1
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p><u>Knowledge:</u> Student can explain the basic concepts of conspiracy theories and their impact on the political, social and economic spheres on a global scale or in selected countries.</p> <p><u>Skills:</u> Student is able to critically and consciously assess the truthfulness and validity of individual conspiracy theories, indicating their strengths and weaknesses, as well as potential threats resulting from accepting them. Student has a practical ability to indicate the importance of these theories for himself and his social environment, taking into account economic, cultural, religious and other differences.</p> <p><u>Competences:</u> Student is able to, working independently or in a group, critically and consciously apply the acquired knowledge and logical reasoning tools to analyze conspiracy theories.</p>
<b>Selected literature</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Routledge Handbook of Conspiracy Theories</i> Edited By Michael Butter, Peter Knight, 2020</li> <li>2. <i>Covid Conspiracy Theories in Global Perspective</i> Edited By Michael Butter, Peter Knight, 2023</li> <li>3. <i>Understanding Conspiracy Theories</i> Karen M. Douglas, Joseph E. Uscinski, Robbie M. Sutton, Aleksandra Cichočka, Turkey Nefes, Chee Siang Ang, Farzin Deravi, 2019</li> </ol> <p>Supplementary reading suggested or handed out in class.</p>

<b><i>Teaching tools/methods</i></b>	on-site lectures, classes, exercises, discussion,
<b><i>Form of examination</i></b>	written test