

CMS 428 Media Ethics and Law

Credit Hours: 3

Scheduled hours per week

Lecture: 3

Lab:

Other:

Catalog Course Description: How ethics and law work together to help create and maintain the media environment. Examines ethical paradigms within a legal framework, with special emphasis on morality.

Pre-requisites: PHIL 150

Co-requisites: NA

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the current state of the law in key areas of mass communications practice
2. Analyze and understand legal decisions so they will be able to interpret changes in legal status for media products/organizations
3. Explain the structure of the court system and how law is developed
4. Utilize legal terminology
5. Explain the role of free expression and the media in light of the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Supreme and Superior Court decisions and existing law
6. Understand that the law is always changing, and they must prepare themselves to constantly update knowledge

Topics to be studied:

At the conclusion of the course, students will have a basic understanding of the following:

- Ethical decision making
- The First Amendment
- The meaning of freedom
- The ethics of photo and video journalism
- Libel
- Privacy
- Freedom of Information
- Obscenity
- Advertising
- Copyright/Trademark
- Broadcast/Internet regulation

Relationship of Course to Discipline Learning Outcomes	
Students will demonstrate an ability to select the appropriate channels to communicate effective messages.	x
Students will demonstrate an ability to evaluate and critique their own and others' communication.	x
Students will exhibit strong listening skills.	x
Students will demonstrate an ability to produce strategic communication materials that	x

are clear, accurate, thorough, cogent, and fair.	
Students will demonstrate an ability to apply communication theory and mass communication principles to real-life situations.	X
Students will exhibit creativity and innovation in the delivery of messages.	X
Students will competently analyze an audience to create effective messages.	X
Students will articulate the role of ethics in media and communication.	X

Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes:	
Composition and Rhetoric Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	X
Science & Technology Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	
Mathematics & Quantitative Skills Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
Society, Diversity, & Connections Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	X
Human Inquiry & the Past Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	X
The Arts & Creativity Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	

Special requirements of the course:

Student must maintain a portfolio of all work throughout the semester.

Additional information:

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