

Mass Media Law
Journalism 4700-01
Fall 2011
MW 5:30-6:55
100 MJ

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COURSE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce you to the structure and function of the American legal system. You will gain valuable insight into the development of the law, the system of American courts and the political and social forces that shape the law. You will become familiar with legal literature -- opinions from real judges on real cases and state and federal statutes. You will be exposed to discussion and reflection on some fundamental concepts of the Constitution of the United States and the legal battles that serve to define and develop those concepts. As such, a student from any field should find this course interesting and helpful.

But, this course is *Mass Media Law*. It will bring you to focus on some of the basic concepts of law that relate to you as a mass media professional. It is intended not only to make you aware of some of the great protections that you have under the Federal Constitution but also to alert you to some of the legal pitfalls to be avoided.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES AND COMPETENCIES

- understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press, for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;
- think critically, creatively and independently;

PREREQUISITE:

None

TEXTBOOKS:

Mass Media Law by Pember, Don R., McGraw-Hill College Publishers, 2011-2012 Edition

HOW PROFESSIONAL VALUES AND COMPETENCIES WILL BE MET

Cognitive Objectives To Be Mastered (Ability To Explain, Analyze, Understand, Think Critically):

- Students should become aware of First Amendment principles of interpretation.
- Students should become aware of many First Amendment issues and legal ramifications for the mass media.
- Students will read legal cases and become familiar with real legal opinions.
- Students will learn to think through arguments on both sides of issues.
- Students will learn some basics about the American Legal System.

Performance Standards To Be Met (Demonstrable Skills, Abilities, Techniques, Applied Competencies):

- Students will learn how to read legal cases and think through legal issues.
- Students will be required to evaluate legal findings in light of societal norms
- Students will learn about the mechanics and methods of the legal system

HOW ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING WILL BE MET:

- There will be quizzes almost every class period to assess the student's learning of the reading material.
- There will be three tests during the semester to assess the student's learning of the course material.
- There will be class discussion and interaction to assess the student's progress in learning the material.

CLASSROOM FORMAT:

The class will be presented in both the lecture and discussion formats. Class discussion will test the student's retention of reading material and will involve the application of legal concepts and principles to the mass media field.

GRADING:

Quiz Average:	25%
Test 1:	25%
Test 2:	25%
Final Exam (comprehensive):	25%

A=90%

B=80%

C=70%

D=60%

The plus and minus system will not be used for this class.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE CLASS:

1. Attendance is mandatory.

You will do very poorly if you do not come to class. In fact, 25% of your grade will come from quizzes taken in class. You will be allowed to drop two quiz grades during the semester to account for emergencies prohibiting you from being present. If you miss a third quiz, for any reason, you will get a zero, which will severely damage your quiz average.

2. Assigned reading is mandatory.

You will need to read and study for comprehension. Please allow extra time for reading since much of this material may be foreign to you and will require some thought.

3. Quizzes:

You will be quizzed each class period over assigned reading. Be sure to come to class prepared for quizzes.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic/ Assignment	Pages	Additional Info
8/29	ORIENTATION / INTRODUCTION AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM	1-13	
8/31	AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM	14-30	
9/5	LABOR DAY	NONE	
9/7	THE FIRST AMENDMENT	33-46	
9/12	THE FIRST AMENDMENT	46-64	
9/14	THE FIRST AMENDMENT	64-72	
9/19	THE FIRST AMENDMENT	75-87	
9/21	THE FIRST AMENDMENT	87-110	
9/26	THE FIRST AMENDMENT	110-128	
9/28	REVIEW FOR TEST 1		
10/03	TEST 1		
10/5	LIBEL	128-165	
10/10	LIBEL	167-188	
10/12	LIBEL	188-204	
10/17	FALL BREAK		
10/19	LIBEL	204-238	
10/24	PRIVACY	241-275	
10/26	PRIVACY	277-301	
10/31	REVIEW		
11/02	TEST 2		
11/7	GATHERING INFORMATION	303-362	
11/09	MOVIE		
11/14	PROT. OF NEWS SOURCES	367-410	
11/16	FREE PRESS / FAIR TRIAL	414-437	
11/21	THE LAW OF OBSCENITY	468-495	

11/23	NO CLASS		
11/28	COPYRIGHT	497-546	
11/30	REGULATION OF ADVERTISING		
12/5	REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM		
12/7	FINAL EXAM		

DEPARTMENT POLICIES

EMAIL:

You must have your UM email account activated. If you are using another provider such as Google, you are required to have your UM email forwarded to that account. Go to the <http://iam.memphis.edu> website to implement forwarding of UM email. You are required to check your email daily. You are responsible for complying with any email sent to you by your professor or the University.

CELLPHONES:

You must turn them off during class.

ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance is mandatory in the Department of Journalism. You may be assigned a failing grade for the semester for nonattendance, or habitual late arrival. No late work will be accepted without prior arrangements, which are acceptable to your professor. Students may not be permitted to make up any missing work unless it is for an absence due to illness or other catastrophic emergency such as a death in the family that can be documented (e.g. with a doctor's note or a copy of the newspaper obituary). This is a professional program for journalists who are expected to understand and comply with deadlines. If you have some problem making it to class on time make arrangements to fix the problem or consider taking another class. You should consider this class your "job" in the educational process and be on time just as you would elsewhere.

CHEATING:

In addition to university-wide policies stated in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Department of Journalism considers making up quotes from sources, turning in substantially the same assignment for credit in two different courses, or a student receiving any assistance from others for work assigned to be done on his/her own, as acts of cheating punishable to the degree determined appropriate by the course instructor and department chair. That may include grade reductions or seeking dismissal of the student from the university.

"Your written work may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar electronic detection method, for an evaluation of the originality of your ideas and proper use and attribution of sources. As part of this process, you may be required to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your written work, or be given other instructions to follow. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may undergo this review process and that the assignment may be included as a source document in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Any assignment not submitted according to the procedures given by the instructor may be penalized or may not be accepted at all." (Office of Legal Counsel, October 17, 2005)

ONLINE SETEs:

You are urged to complete the SETEs evaluation of this course. Once your instructor has posted your grade, you can immediately see that grade, provided you completed a teacher evaluation for that class. How to access your evaluation forms: Log in using your UUID and email password; click on the gray “Student” tab; complete an evaluation for each course listed and hit the “Submit” button at the bottom of the form. It will only take a few minutes of your time. We take the evaluations very seriously and use them to improve courses and instructional quality. Your feedback is essential and will be appreciated.

DISABILITY:

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office for Disability Services at (901) 678-2880 in 110 Wilder Tower Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

EXIT EXAM FOR ALL JOURNALISM MAJORS:

All Journalism majors are required to take the Journalism Exit Exam their last semester before graduation. Please contact the Journalism office staff anytime during the semester to sign up. You may take the test anytime there are open lab hours during the semester. You will not be certified to graduate until you have completed the test.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES AND COMPETENCIES FOR JOURNALISM PROGRAM:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication requires that, irrespective of their particular specialization, all graduates should be aware of certain core values and competencies and be to

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- demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications.
- demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society.
- understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
- think critically, creatively and independently;
- conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
- write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
- apply basic numerical and statistical concepts;

- apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING FOR JOURNALISM PROGRAM:

The Council seeks to promote student learning and encourages experimentation and innovation. Assessment is a system of evaluation of student learning at the course or unit level (as opposed to grading at the individual level). Three criteria should guide assessment of student learning:

- Awareness: familiarity with specific information, including facts, concepts, theories, laws and regulations, processes and effects.
- Understanding: assimilation and comprehension of information, concepts, theories and ideas.
- Application: competence in relating and applying skills, information, concepts, theories and ideas to the accomplishment of tasks.