

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENG 838/ENG 848 or equivalent.
(Pass/No Pass or letter grade)
(AA, CSU, UC)

6. **Student Learning Outcomes** (Identify 1-6 expected learner outcomes using active verbs.)

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe how the law and media inter-relate.
- Defend and support a position on media regulation.
- Compare and contrast U.S. media laws and related court rulings.
- Explain the legal foundation for Freedom of Speech.
- Distinguish an ethical decision from a legal issue.
- Identify the ethical dilemma in a case study and apply ethical theories to consider outcomes.

Information Competency

Students will be able to:

- Identify and access information resources, such as library databases, collections, or Web sites appropriate to the field.
- Demonstrate effective search strategies that yield specific information sources, such as articles, books, Web pages, etc., appropriate to the subject being researched.
- Evaluate the specific information sources in order to use the most relevant ones for the project/assignment
- Analyze and interpret technical and non-technical information/data from reliable sources using critical thinking strategies.
- Organize and use appropriate and credible information/data to support the purposes of a project or assignment

7. **Course Objectives** (Identify specific teaching objectives detailing course content and activities. *For some courses, the course objectives will be the same as the student learning outcomes. If this is the case, please simply indicate this in this section).*

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8. **Course Content** (Brief but complete topical outline of the course that includes major subject areas [1-2 pages]. Should reflect all course objectives listed above. In addition, you may attach a sample course syllabus with a timeline.)

MEDIA LAW & ETHICS

1. The American Legal System
 - Lawmakers, Law Enforcers, the Courts
 - Government oversight of American media
2. The First Amendment and Freedom of Speech
 - What is protected speech?
 - Prior Restraint, Obscenity
 - Protection from Freedom of Speech
 - Defamation: Libel and Slander
 - Defenses: Privilege, Truth, Opinion
 - Invasions of Privacy
 - National Security and a Free Press
3. Media Law and Regulation
 - Why we regulate media
 - Ownership requirements
 - Copyright Laws
 - Fair Use, Public Domain
 - Content Regulation
4. Introduction to Ethics
 - Ethical Theory
 - Ethics and self-regulation
 - Historical Perspectives: utilitarianism, teleological, golden mean, categorical imperative. (Kant, Aristotle, Mill)
 - The Potter Box & other models for ethical decision-making
5. Ethical Issues in Media
 - Sex, Drugs, & Violence
 - Racism and Offensive Material
 - Censorship
 - Considering Children
 - Representation or Stereotype?

6. News

- Reporter's Right to Information
- Accuracy, Investigation and Truth
- Free Press/Fair Trial
- Source Protection - state shield laws
- Who is a journalist in an age of citizen journalism?

7. Ethical Issues in News

- Serving the public vs. making a profit
- Truth telling and Objectivity
- Social Justice

8. Advertising

- Regulation of Advertising
- Ethical Issues in Advertising

9. Special Regulations for Broadcasting

- The FCC & Licensing
- Content
- Guidelines for sex, drugs, violence

9. **Representative Instructional Methods** (Describe instructor-initiated teaching strategies that will assist students in meeting course objectives. Include examples of out-of-class assignments, required reading and writing assignments, and methods for teaching critical thinking skills.) **If hours by arrangement are required by this course, indicate the additional instructional activity, which will be provided during this time.**

- Primary method: Lecture and discussion with supporting visuals and audio
- Secondary methods: reading, written, research assignments, class discussion

10. **Representative Methods of Evaluation** (Describe measurement of student progress toward course objectives. Courses with required writing component and/or problem-solving emphasis must reflect critical thinking component. If skills class, then applied skills.)

- Written assignments, legal research and presentation, participation in class discussions, case study questions, homework that requires identification of legal and ethical issues in a piece of current media.
- Student will be assigned projects to execute to specifications. Students will be graded on performance of these projects.
- Quizzes, Mid-Term, Final. Students will be tested on their retention of important principles.
- In-Class Presentations. Student will be asked to present course topics.

11. **Representative Text Materials** (With few exceptions, texts need to be current. Include publication dates.)

Media Law & Ethics by Roy L. Moore and Michael D. Murray
Lawrence Erlbaum; 3 edition (November 27, 2007)

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Submission Date: _____