1. COURSE ID: DGME 102    TITLE: Media Law and Ethics   
Units: 3.0 units    Hours/Semester: 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours   
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)   
Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848.

2. COURSE DESIGNATION:   
Degree Credit   
Transfer credit: CSU; UC   
AA/AS Degree Requirements:   
CSM - COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS: C3 Information Competency   
CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E2c. Communication and Analytical Thinking   
CSU GE:   
CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: D7 - Interdisciplinary Social and Behavioral Science   
IGETC:   
IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: G: Interdisciplinary, Social & Behavioral Sciences

3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:   
Catalog Description: Why do you think they're called "illegal" downloads? In this course, students will examine U.S. law and regulation governing mass media, from print to the Internet. Students will also examine the ethical conflicts faced by media professionals. Topics include: freedom of speech, citizen journalism, defamation, privacy, copyright, obscenity, truth, ethics, social media and advertising. This course will help prepare future media producers to work in industries that have significant influence over society.

4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):   
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:   
1. Describe how the law and media inter-relate.   
2. Defend and support a position on media regulation and/or ethical issue.   
4. Explain the legal foundation for Freedom of Speech.   
5. Distinguish an ethical decision from a legal issue.   
6. Identify the ethical dilemma in a case study and apply ethical theories to consider outcomes.   
7. Information Competency   
8. Identify and access information resources, such as library databases, collections, or Web sites appropriate to the field.   
9. Demonstrate effective search strategies that yield specific information sources, such as articles, books, Web pages, etc., appropriate to the subject being researched.   
10. Evaluate the specific information sources in order to use the most relevant ones for the project/assignment.   
11. Analyze and interpret technical and non-technical information/data from reliable sources using critical thinking strategies.   
12. Organize and use appropriate and credible information/data to support the purposes of a project or assignment.

5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:   
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:   
1. Describe how the law and media inter-relate.   
2. Defend and support an ethical position on a media regulation.   
4. Explain the legal foundation for Freedom of Speech.   
5. Distinguish an ethical issue from a legal one.   
6. Identify the ethical dilemma in a case study and apply ethical theories to consider outcomes.   
Information Competency   
1. Identify and access information resources, such as library databases, collections, or Web sites appropriate to the field.   
2. Demonstrate effective search strategies that yield specific information sources, such as articles, books, Web pages, etc., appropriate to the subject being researched.
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4. Analyze and interpret technical and non-technical information/data from reliable sources using critical thinking strategies.
5. Organize and use appropriate and credible information/data to support the purposes of a project or assignment.

6. COURSE CONTENT:
   Lecture Content:
   1. The American Legal System
      A. Lawmakers, Law Enforcers, the Courts
      B. Government oversight of American media
   2. The First Amendment and Freedom of Speech
      A. What is protected speech?
      B. Prior Restraint, Obscenity
      C. Protection from Freedom of Speech
      D. Defamation: Libel and Slander
      E. Defenses: Privilege, Truth, Opinion
      F. Invasions of Privacy
   3. Media Law and Regulation
      A. Why we regulate media
      B. Ownership requirements
      C. Copyright Laws
      D. Fair Use, Public Domain
      E. Content Regulation
   4. Introduction to Ethics
      A. Ethical Theory
      B. Ethics and self-regulation
      C. Historical Perspectives: utilitarianism, teleological, golden mean, categorical imperative. (Kant, Aristotle, Mill)
      D. The Potter Box & other models for ethical decision-making
   5. Ethical Issues in Media
      A. Sex, Drugs, & Violence
      B. Racism and Offensive Material
      C. Censorship
      D. Considering Children
      E. Representation or Stereotype?
   6. News
      A. Reporter's Right to Information
      B. Accuracy, Investigation and Truth
      C. Free Press/Fair Trial
      D. Source Protection - state shield laws
      E. Who is a journalist in an age of citizen journalism?
   7. Ethical Issues in News
      A. Serving the public vs. making a profit
      B. Truth telling and Objectivity
      C. Social Justice
   8. Advertising
      A. Regulation of Advertising
      B. Ethical Issues in Advertising
   9. Special Regulations for Broadcasting
      A. The FCC & Licensing
      B. Content
      C. Guidelines for sex, drugs, violence

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
   Typical methods of instruction may include:
   A. Lecture
8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS
Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**
- Discussion/Participation
- Weekly Summary/Assignments
- Case Study
- Team Research
- Personal Code of Ethics
- Mid Term
- Final Exam
- Reflection Paper
- Information Competency

**Reading Assignments:**
- Required Textbook
- Online Resources
- Instructor Provided Resources

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION
Representative methods of evaluation may include:

A. Class Participation
B. Class Work
C. Exams/Tests
D. Group Projects
E. Homework
F. Oral Presentation
G. Papers
H. Projects
I. Quizzes
J. Research Projects
K. Written examination
L. 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. Written Assignments, Forums, 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 relating to media law and ethics

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):
Possible textbooks include:


**Origination Date:** August 2014
**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** January 2015
**Effective Term:** Fall 2015
**Course Originator:** Diana Bennett