

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** DGME 102 **TITLE:** Media Law and Ethics

Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

Recommended Preparation:

Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848 or ESL 400.

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

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science

CSU GE:

CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions

IGETC:

IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and 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. Identify how the law and media inter-relate.
2. Defend and support a position on media regulation and/or ethical issue
3. Identify ethical vs legal issues and their differences.
4. Students will demonstrate information competency.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

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

1. Evaluate how the law and media inter-relate.
2. Defend and support an ethical position on media regulations.
3. Identify ethical vs legal issues and their differences.
4. Students will demonstrate information competency.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. US Legal System
 - A. Lawmakers, Law Enforcers, the Courts
 - B. Government oversight of American media
2. 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
 - G. National Security and a Free Press
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. 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
- B. Critique
- C. Activity
- D. Discussion
- E. Guest Speakers
- F. Other (Specify): Primary method: Lecture and discussion with supporting visuals and audio Secondary methods: oral, reading, written research assignments, class discussion

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Written short answer and short paragraphs incorporated in the assignments and projects.

Reading Assignments:

Weekly reading from course textbook and resources.

Other Outside Assignments:

Completion of homework assignments.

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. Projects -Student will be assigned projects to execute to specifications. -Students will be graded on performance of these projects. Quizzes/Mid Term/ Final Exam -Students will be tested on their retention of important principles. Class Demonstrations -Students will make presentations and demonstrate course topics.

10. **REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Lewis, J. *Media Law and Ethics in the 21st Century: Protecting Free Expression and Curbing Abuses*, 1st ed. Palgrave Macmillan , 2014
- B. Moore, Roy. *Media Law and Ethics*, 5th ed. Routledge, 2018

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Course Originator: Diana Bennett