

Montgomery County Community College
COM 200
Ethics, Responsibility, Mass Media and the Law
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students examine and analyze mass media through case studies and commentaries that focus on a wide spectrum of historical and contemporary legal and ethical issues faced by media practitioners in broadcasting, advertising, public relations, publishing, and filmmaking. The course builds on information learned in COM 111 to provide a foundation for the theoretical principles of media ethics and the legal issues surrounding mass media, journalism, and content distribution.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

- COM 111 Mass Media and Society with a minimum grade of "C"

Previous or Concurrent Course Requirements

- ENG 102 English Composition II

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Analyze the process of a court case.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Writing Assignments	Portfolio Research Paper
2. Conduct basic legal research related to mass media.	Lectures/Discussions	Portfolio Research Paper
3. Explore ethical and judicial values as they relate to Mass Media.	Lectures/Discussions	Portfolio Research Paper
4. Identify legal foundations used in media law.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments	Portfolio

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. First Amendment Rights
2. Industry Ethics
3. Media Accountability and Responsibility
4. Legal Research
5. Obscenity, Fair Trial, Censorship, Libel
6. Regulation and Broadcast Content
7. Recent Supreme Court Rulings
8. ADA Compliance

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Associated Press. (2013). *Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law*. Basic Books.

Pember, Don. (2015). *Mass Media Law*. 19th edition. McGraw-Hill.

Patterson, Philip. (2013). *Media Ethics: Issues and Cases*. 8th edition. McGraw-Hill.

In addition, the instructor may provide students with handouts or access to selected Radio or Television programs or clips.

In addition, the instructor may provide students with handouts or access to selected Radio or Television programs or clips.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Neil Goldstein and Allan Schear	Date: 3/8/2007
Revised by: Allan Schear	Date: 6/21/2012
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 8/27/2012
Revised/Reviewed by: Neil Goldstein	Date: 5/15/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 6/17/2013
Revised by Allan Schear and Gerald Collom	Date: 1/14/2016
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 6/01/2016
Revised by Debbie Dalrymple	Date: 2/3/2018
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 2/6/2018



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.