

CTVA 487: Regulation of the Electronic Media

Fall, 2009...S. Landes, BA, MS, JD

Class: Tues. @ 7:00pm, SG109....Office hour: Tues. @ 6:00 PM

Purposes of this course:

1. To learn constitutional foundations of Communications Law;
2. To trace legal developments in this field and place them in historical perspective;
3. To develop an awareness & understanding of media law concepts and ethical considerations as preparation for application in journalism and media management career settings.

Textbook: The Law of Public Communications, 7th edition (2007 Update) [OR LATEST EDITION], Middleton & Lee, (2007, Pearson)

Grading: Letter grades with plus/minus detail (grade values defined in University catalog). Grades will be based on performance in 2 quizzes (10% of final grade each), midterm (35%), and final exam (45%). Class participation will earn upward adjustment. No other extra credit. Maximum of 2 unexcused absences. 3 final grade points deducted for each additional unexcused absence or excessive lateness.

Please arrive on time having read the assigned chapter. Lectures will expand upon the reading assignments. Discussion & questions encouraged.

Please set all cell phones & pagers on silent mode.

Department Plagiarism Policy:

The University is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and integrity. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will receive a failing grade in the course and will be reported to the University for possible further disciplinary action. For a further explanation of the behavior defined as cheating, and a more detailed discussion of disciplinary procedures, consult pages 552-554 of the 2003-2005 CSUN Catalog. Please also remember that much of the information posted on the Internet is protected by U.S. Copyright laws. Passing this information off as your own is a violation of CSUN's plagiarism policy, and carries the penalties outlined above

Proposed class meeting schedule (subject to revision):

8/25/09: Course intro, intro to legal system, Interpreting the 1st Amendment, "Marketplace of Ideas", Prior Restraint..... Chap.1, 2, 3 & 7

Ethical consideration: Liberty vs License.

(consider what Journalists have the right to do vs the right thing to do).

9/1: Defamation of character.....Chap. 4

Ethical consideration: "Extreme departure from the standards of professional journalists"- is it extreme or the norm?

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Schedule of class meetings [subject to revision], continued

- 9/8: Privacy.....Chap. 5
Ethical consideration: Public figures are newsworthy but just how much privacy do they give up?
- 9/15: FURLOUGH DAY. No class meeting.
- 9/22: Regulation of electronic media.
- 9/29: Quiz and Review quiz answers
- 10/6: Regulation of content.....Chap. 9
- 10/13: Review Class
- 10/20: Midterm exam
- 10/27: Review midterm answers
- 11/3: Commercial Speech.....Chap. 8
Ethical consideration: Misleading campaign advertising.
- 11/10: Intellectual Property.....Chap. 6
Ethical consideration: "Everybody's doing it!" - Copyright Infringement and the Internet
- 11/17: Newsgathering rights.....Chap. 11 & 12
- 11/24: FURLOUGH DAY. No class meeting
- 12/1 Quiz [Media & the Judiciary] and lecture...Chap. 10
Ethical consideration: Poisoning the jury pool for the sake of attracting cable viewers.
- 12/8: Review

FINAL EXAM: Dec. 15, 2009 @ 8:00pm in our usual room.

.5/18: LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION. Review [Your questions welcome].

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