

Faculty of Economics and Political Science

Mass Media Law & Religion and Ethics

Information :

Course Code : PMM 206

Level : Undergraduate

Course Hours : 3.00- Hours

Department : Department of Political Mass Media

Instructor Information :

| Title | Name | Office hours |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Lecturer | Samah Mohsen Sabry Abdelfattah | |

Area Of Study :

This course analyzes the legal context of communication and media. It studies the theoretical foundations and the process of evaluating mass media's performance in covering religiosity and spirituality and it tests the religious dimension in secular media. It also focuses on ethical standards and practices of mass media such as the concepts of free expression, media independence and media plurality, as well as a further number of codes of ethics that govern mass media in present day societies. The course uses case studies to illustrate how law, religion and ethics affect mass media.

Course Goals:

- Investigate the dilemmas faced by media professionals in terms of law, ethics and personal beliefs.
- Evaluate case studies where the public's right to know conflicts with invasion of privacy.
- Provide training for making journalistic decisions using ethical decision-making models.
- Analyze the role of the entertainment media in creating communities of discourse.
- Explore how media frames ethical issues, moral dilemmas, spirituality and the religious imagination.

Description :

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Course outcomes :

a. Knowledge and Understanding: :

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| 1 - | Identify key concepts in media law such as prior restraint, defamation, copyright, obscenity, indecency, and journalistic privilege. |
| 2 - | Recall the historical and philosophical evolution of the First Amendment. |
| 3 - | Recognize the copyright laws of using visuals and electronic media. |

b. Intellectual Skills: :

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| 1 - | Compare local, regional and global media laws and ethical standards. |
| 2 - | Analyze the effects of media law on social responsibility. |

c. Professional and Practical Skills: :

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| 1 - | Judge articles to determine whether they are illegal, unethical or unprofessional. |
| 2 - | Criticize their work and that of others from religious, legal and ethical perspectives. |
| 3 - | Apply media law and ethics in practices of mass communication. |
| 4 - | Employ ethical decision-making models. |

d. General and Transferable Skills: :

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| 1 - | Use computers and the Internet. |
| 2 - | Work in a team environment. |
| 3 - | Translate to and from other languages. |
| 4 - | Apply practical and professional problem solving. |

Course Topic And Contents :

| Topic | No. of hours | Lecture | Tutorial / Practical |
|--|--------------|---------|----------------------|
| Introduction and syllabus | 3 | 1 | |
| Code of Ethics locally, regionally and in the Western World. | 3 | 1 | |
| Media laws, locally, regionally and in the Western World. | 3 | 1 | |
| Freedom of expression | 3 | 1 | |
| The truth: Moral and religious duty | 3 | 1 | |
| Media Law and Ethics: Four Genres of Jurisdiction. | 3 | 1 | |
| Midterm Exan | | 1 | |
| Conflict of values | 3 | 1 | |
| Privacy issues: Ethical, legal and religious dimensions | 3 | 1 | |
| Confidentiality: Ethical, legal and religious dimensions | 3 | 1 | |
| Social Diversity and Media Stereotyping | 3 | 1 | |
| Conflict of interest and economic pressures | 3 | 1 | |
| Human Rights and International Law for Journalists | 3 | 1 | |
| Media and the Construction of the Religious Public Sphere. | 3 | 1 | |
| Final Exam | | 1 | |

Teaching And Learning Methodologies :

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| Data show and computer in lectures |
| Lectures by instructor |
| Tutorials by assistant |
| Screening of videos |
| Group discussion |
| Research Paper |

Course Assessment :

| Methods of assessment | Relative weight % | Week No | Assess What |
|---|-------------------|---------|--|
| Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments and Research Paper) | 30.00 | | To assess understanding and theoretical background of the intellectual skills. |
| Final Exam | 40.00 | 15 | To assess knowledge and intellectual skills |
| Midterm Exam(s) | 30.00 | 7 | To assess knowledge and critical skills |

Recommended books :

Tim Crook, Comparative Media Law and Ethics, Routledge, 2010

Stewart Hoover, Knut Lundby, Rethinking Media, Religion, and Culture, Sage Publications, 1997