

Communications Law
GO 367
Spring 2011
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Course Description

An exploration of communications law related to the First Amendment, risks public safety, damage to reputation, invasion of privacy, access to places and information, media and the justice system, creative property, FCC and broadcast licensing, electronic media content, obscenity and indecency and commercial speech.

Required Texts

- Communications Law: liberties, restraints, and the modern media, 6th Edition
- Cases in Communication Law, 6th edition

Lots of additional readings will be handed out in class

Course Requirements

1. Short weekly quizzes on assigned readings (25%)
2. 3 Take-home written assignments (30%)
3. 1 Oral presentation on a topic of your choice (20%)
4. Moot court (25%)
 - Written brief or opinion
 - Oral arguments

Course Standards

Attendance. It counts. Poor attendance, defined as 2 or more absences, will result in your final grade being lowered. Tardiness counts as an absence.

Participation. I assume that if you stay in the course you agree to carefully prepare all class assignments, come to class prepared, actively listen, take meaningful notes, and thoughtfully participate in class discussions.

Late Papers. I don't accept them except under extraordinary circumstances and then only with *prior* permission.

Academic Integrity. Do your own work.

Equity. I assume that if you stay in the course you have agreed to the terms of the course as outlined above.

This syllabus is a "living and flexible document." I reserve the right to amend the syllabus, reading lists and assignments when "necessary and proper for carrying into the execution" the goals and objectives of the course.

Dates	Topics and Assignments	Readings
1/25 1/27	US Legal System The Court	Chapter 1
2/1 2/3	First Amendment	Chapter 2
2/8 2/10	Risks to Public Safety	Chapter 3
2/15	Damage to Reputation	Chapter 4
2/22	Invasion of Privacy	Chapter 5
3/4	Access to Places & Info	Chapter 6
<i>Spring Break</i>		
3/22 3/19	Media and the Justice System	Chapter 7
3/22 3/26	Creative Property	Chapter 8
3/31 4/2	TCC and Broadcast Licensing	Chapter 9
4/7 4/9	Electronic Media Content	Chapter 10
4/12 4/14	Obscenity and Indecency	Chapter 11
4/19	Commercial Speech	Chapter 12