



University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code COMM-440	Course Title Communication Law and Ethics	ECTS Credits 6
Prerequisites None	Department Communications	Semester Spring
Type of Course	Field Public Relations/ Communication/ Journalism	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course Undergraduate	Lecturer(s) Antigoni Themistokleous	Year of Study
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Inform students on the establishment and the development of media regulation
- Introduce students to the regulatory framework in which media operate in Cyprus
- Develop a profound understanding of fundamental principles and concepts in media law and media ethics discourses
- Familiarize with key notions on regulation by statute and self-regulation
- Understand the significance of freedom of expression as the founding principle of media law in the international public sphere
- Understand the international case law in communication law

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Apprehend the laws, the rules and the regulations that govern communication activities
2. Understand the interplay between law and regulation on the one side and ethics on the other
3. Assess the legal privileges and the regulatory limitations affecting each sector of the broader media industry
4. Familiarise with the rules and the regulation that journalists must adhere to
5. Assess the major ethical issues emerged in the practice of journalism

Course Contents:

- Introduction: Law and Ethics – the historical background to media regulation
 - Why are media regulated?
 - The public interest in communication
- The European policy framework and the regulatory context in which media in Cyprus operate (case studies will also be considered)
 - European Convention on Human Rights (article 10) and the Universal Declaration
 - Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMS)
 - The Cyprus Radio and Television Organisations Law 1998 until 2015 and the Cyprus Radio and Television Stations Regulations 2000 (10/2000)
- Media Theory, Regulation and Accountability
 - Freedom of expression and freedom of the press
 - The rights and the responsibilities of media in society
 - The degree to which society may legitimately intervene to protect the public interest
 - General principles of media regulation in the western world (e.g.the right of privacy, the protection of public order and the security of the state, respect of matters of taste and decency; protection of individuals from insult and prejudice; prevention of harm to society and to individuals, safeguarding benefits for the public in terms of information flow, access, diversity, maintaining cultural diversity)
 - Media regulation and Self-regulation (formal and informal rules and regulations)
 - Mechanisms of media accountability and regulation (analysis of press councils, press ombudsman)
- Basic models of regulation (press, telecommunications, broadcasting) and potential current challenges. Regulation of the Internet .

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Case Studies, Analysis and Discussion, Student presentations and/or assignments

Required Textbook:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Creech, K.	Electronic Media Law and Ethics	Elsevier-Focal Press	2007 (5 th ed.)	0240805097
Gibbons, T.	Regulating the Media	Sweet and Maxwell	1998 (2 nd ed.)	0421606606

Recommended Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Feintuck, M.	Media Regulation, Public Interest and the Law	University of Edinburgh Press	1999	9780754670186
Bartle, I. and Vass, P.	Self-regulation and the Regulatory State, a Survey of Policy and Practice (Research Report 17)	Bath: Centre for the study of Regulated Industries, University of Bath	2005	Available at: see below
van Cuilenburg, J.J. and McQuail, D.	Media policy paradigm shifts: towards a new communications policy paradigm	European Journal of Communication, Vol.18, No.2: pp.181-208	2003	Available at: see below

Sources of Recommended readings:

Bartle, I. and Vass, P. (2005). Self-regulation and the Regulatory State, a Survey of Policy and Practice. *Research Report 17*. Bath: Centre for the study of Regulated Industries, University of Bath. Available at:

http://www.bath.ac.uk/management/cri/pubpdf/Research_Reports/17_Bartle_Vass.pdf

Van Guilenburg, J. and McQuail, D. (2003). Media Policy Paradigm Shifts: Towards a New Communications Policy Paradigm. *European Journal of Communication*, 18(2), pp.181-207.

<http://cdn.agilitycms.com/centre-for-communication-rights/Images/Articles/pdf/Cuilenburg-McQuail2003.pdf>