



## University of Nicosia, Cyprus

<b>Course Code</b> COMM-511	<b>Course Title</b> Mass Communication Ethics and Law	<b>Credits (ECTS)</b> 10
<b>Department</b> Communications	<b>Semester</b> Fall, Spring	<b>Prerequisites</b> None
<b>Type of Course</b> Elective	<b>Field</b> Communication	<b>Language of Instruction</b> English
<b>Level of Course</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle	<b>Year of Study</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Lecturer(s)</b> Dr Holger Briel
<b>Mode of delivery</b> Face-to-face	<b>Work Placement</b> N/A	<b>Co-requisites</b> N/A

### Objectives of the Course:

This course will take up the rights, liberties and duties of the digital mass communication age. After a broad introduction to the subject via moral theory, the course then turns to the ethical issues raised by mass media. It will examine print media ethics, journalists' codes of conduct, privacy, ethics and copyright issues. Several case studies will be presented and discussed. These will be linked to theories of duties and freedom in the mass media and digital age. In particular, ideas put forth by Zelesny, Lessig, Manovich, Leonhard and others will be analysed and used to shed light on the deeper matters underlying such phenomena as privacy issues, data verification, file sharing, P2P downloading, ripping and media streaming.

### Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Assess the present state of art regarding legal issues and the ethics of Mass media
2. Discuss approaches to the ethics of mass communication
3. Comprehend privacy issues
4. Explain what roles ethics and law play in new media
5. Be able to discuss the issues surrounding digital rights and digital commons

### Course Contents:

Ethical Issues, a starting Framework  
European Media Law

American Media Law  
New challenges of New Media  
Photomontage and Reality  
Properties and Commons  
Copyright law and its detractors  
Privacy and New Media

**Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:**

Lectures, Practical Exercises and Assignments.

**Assessment Methods:**

Homework, Project, Class presentation, Final Essay.

**Required Textbooks/Reading:**

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Wheeler, Thomas	<i>Photo Truth or Photo Fiction? Ethics and Media Imagery in the Digital Age.</i>	Erlbaum	2002	0-8058-4261-6
Perebinosoff, Philippe	<i>Real-World Media Ethics.</i>	Focal Press	2008	978-0-240-809212

**Recommended Textbooks/Reading:**

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Wilkins, Lee	<i>The Handbook of Media Ethics</i>	Routledge	2009	0-8058-6191-2