



Course Syllabus

Course Code LAW-388	Course Title Media Law	ECTS Credits 6
Prerequisites -	Department Law	Semester Spring
Type of Course Elective	Field Law	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Lecturer Dr. Dimitrios Koukiadis	Year of Study 3 rd or 4 th
Mode of Delivery Conventional	Work Placement -	Corequisites -

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Present the foundational knowledge on what is Media Law, on the Transnational, European, and International dimensions of Media Law.
- Address the legal framework of the fundamental rights and principles in media law, i.e. the human rights framework, the economic rights framework, the EU framework, and the WTO framework.
- Present the theoretical foundations of freedom of speech from a comparative law point of view, and analyze the various aspects of media freedom vs. other rights such as protection of personality, data protection/privacy protection, right to information, e.t.c.
- Demonstrate the balancing exercise between freedom of expression and personality rights.
- Analyse the relationship between freedom of expression, intellectual property and hate speech.
- Address the jurisdictional questions in transnational media law cases.
- Examine the internet governance and regulation issues, and the problematic of law-, rules-,

norm- making in the internet/digital environment environment.

- Assess the development of media law in view of personal data protection.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Enumerate, distinguish, and define the fundamental rights related to media freedom.
- Accomplish the balancing of fundamental rights related to media communication.
- Assess the co-existence in media law of freedom of speech, protection of personality, and protection of private sphere.
- Participate in the global dialogue on shaping the normative order of internet communication, disruptive technologies, digital economy.
- Examine and explain the legal framework on jurisdictional issues in transnational media law cases.
- Discuss the issues of hate speech, commercial speech, religiously offensive speech, media pluralism in the context of media law.
- Recognize and describe the main regulatory theories and the relevant regulatory bodies; summarize their main competences; explain their role for safeguarding media freedom and for the implementation of the rules and principles of Media Law.

Course Content:

1. Definition of media law, the distinction between journalistic media and other content providers; the transnational, European, international dimensions of media law.
2. Fundamental rights and principles in media law; the general legal framework, the human rights framework, the economic rights framework, the EU framework, the WTO framework.
3. Freedom of expression theory, choice of the means and forms of expression; the internet as a means of communication; the protection of anonymous and pseudonymous speech.
4. Restrictions on freedom of speech and press freedom, theoretical foundations; freedom of expression, right to information and media freedom under Article 10 of the ECHR; the significance and the meaning of media pluralism in a democratic society; the boundaries of

media freedom and the need for balancing with other liberties, rights or powers; the right to receive information, the right to access information.

5. Hate speech, religiously offensive speech, the notion of “defamation” of religions, commercial speech; the relationship between media freedom and media pluralism.
6. The balancing between media freedom, freedom of expression, and personal data/privacy protection; a comparative law approach to the much debated issue.; protection of private life under Article 8 of the ECHR.
7. Internet governance and regulation; the construction of a normative order of the digital environment; Regulatory theories on global internet governance; self-regulation vs. legal positivism; the regulatory paradigm of the E.U. legal framework.
8. The jurisdictional question and the notion of jurisdiction in media law; the legal framework of jurisdiction in transnational media law cases; the “centre of interests” analysis; the “country of origin” principle; the “country of reception” principle; the jurisdiction of the “place of establishment”.
9. Telecommunications; economics of telecommunications; international telecommunications union; the World Trade Organization; the EU legal framework; the Council of Europe legal framework.
10. Entertainment law; artists and piracy; musical works, sound recordings and the performers’ rights; collecting societies; towards legislation to protect authors and artists in the cyberspace?
11. Regulating the communications industry; film, video and games censorship; advertising and on line censorship; self-regulation in the digital age.
12. Copyright and intellectual property in the audiovisual media; the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; the EU acquis in the domain of copyright; copyright infringements; defences; remedies; the future of copyright in the digital age.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, student participation, individual and group work

Assessment Methods:

Final exams, midterm exams, student participation

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Digital Media Law	Christopher E. Reed	Taylor&Francis	2022	978-1032055312
Media Law & Ethics	Roy L. Moore et al.	Taylor&Francis	2021	978-0367764210
European and International Media Law	Jan Oster	Cambridge University Press	2017	978-1-107-02658-2

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Media Law: Text, Cases, and Materials (Longman Law Series)	Eric Barendt, Leslie Hitchens, Rachael Craufurd-Smith, Jason Bosland	Pearson	2013	978-1408221617
Media Law	Jacob Rowbottom	Hart Publishing	2018	978-1782256656
Media & Entertainment Law (3 rd edition)	Ursula Smartt	Routledge	2017	978-1138961883