



## Course Syllabus

<b>Course Code</b> LAW-388	<b>Course Title</b> Media Law	<b>ECTS Credits</b> 6
<b>Prerequisites</b> N/A	<b>Department</b> Law	<b>Semester</b> Fall or Spring
<b>Type of Course</b> Elective	<b>Field</b> Law	<b>Language of Instruction</b> English
<b>Level of Course</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle	<b>Lecturer</b> Dr Costas Stratilatis	<b>Year of Study</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Mode of Delivery</b> Conventional	<b>Work Placement</b> N/A	<b>Corequisites</b> N/A

### Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Present the theoretical foundations of freedom of speech and analyze the various aspects of media freedom (freedom of expression, right to information, journalistic freedom, media pluralism, etc.)
- Demonstrate the basic principles, rules and legal remedies for the protection of reputation and of private life from the media.
- Illustrate and analyze the rules limiting the role of the media within judicial proceedings; specifying the right to information; restricting advertising; and protecting intellectual property.
- Present the main regulatory instruments and bodies for the printed press, for audiovisual media and for the entertainment and communications industry.
- Assess the development of media law in view of the digitalization and of new information technologies.

### Learning Outcomes:

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

- Enumerate and define the fundamental rights which comprise media freedom as well as the fundamental principles of Media Law; appraise their importance in a democratic society.
- Assess media practices such as photojournalism in view of the protection of privacy.
- Comprehend in depth, cite and apply the rules, the standards, the defences and the remedies of defamation law; discuss new issues arising in the Information Age, such as

defamation through Internet and ‘libel tourism’.

- Analyze the role and limits of media freedom in the context of court or other legal proceedings; understand and apply the legal framework regarding contempt of court.
- Discuss the problems of obscenity, of pornography and of religious hate speech in the context of media; cite, analyze and apply the relevant rules and principles.
- Assess the importance and the implications of intellectual property law in our digital age; cite, analyze and apply the relevant rules and principles.
- Cite, analyze and apply the rules regarding advertising.
- Recognize and describe the main 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. 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.
2. The protection of privacy in the sphere of media; media practices and human rights; photojournalism in public places; a tort of privacy; Internet and privacy; protection of private life under Article 8 of the ECHR.
3. General framework for defamation law; the Defamation Act 2013; defences; remedies and damages.
4. Libel tourism; Internet libel; defamation and human rights; the effects of the Defamation Act 2013 on the academic debate.
5. Contempt of Court at common law; the Contempt of Court Act 1981; reporting on court proceedings; juries and contempt of Court; proposals for law reform.
6. Reporting legal proceedings; hearings from which the public are excluded; reporting on children and young person; special anonymity orders.
6. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the media; legal challenges and the effects of FOIA in public life; data protection and freedom of information.
7. Abolition of blasphemy laws and new religious hate speech provision; art or obscenity, the obscenity laws in the UK; extreme pornography and human rights; indecency or freedom of expression?
8. 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.

9. 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?
10. Advertising rules and principles, in accordance with Directive 2010/13/EU; the problem of transborder regulation of audiovisual media in the EU.
11. Regulatory authorities; regulating print press; the Leveson inquiry; protection of journalistic sources.
12. Regulating the communications industry; film, video and games censorship; advertising and on line censorship; self-regulation in the digital age.

### Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, student participation, individual and group work

### Assessment Methods:

Final exams, midterm exams, student participation, assignment(s)

### Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Media & Entertainment Law (3 <sup>rd</sup> edition)	Ursula Smartt	Routledge	2017	978-1138961883

### 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