

COURSE SYLLABUS

Comm 325 SECTION 1

Fall Semester 2015

Professor Mark Tolstedt

Comm Arts Center #228

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Office Hours:

Mondays: 12:00PM-12:30PM

Wednesdays and Thursdays by appointment

Course Description:

This course examines the regulatory structures and various rules and processes under which the media industries operate. Although this course looks at all the regulatory bodies and policies affecting **content** creation, distribution, and exhibition, special emphasis is placed on the relationship between the courts and federal, state, local, and industry regulatory bodies governing the content process.

Course Objectives:

- to understand the basic legal principles applicable to producers of media content
- to understand regulatory relationships in, over and among media participants

About This Class:

This is an online class administered through two different sites: UWSP D2L and the McGraw-Hill SmartBook location for Pember, D. R. and Calvert, C. (2014). *Mass Media Law 19th edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

D2L is where you will take your unit examinations, complete the posting and discussion forum requirements, deposit the written assignments, keep track of your point totals (grades)—through the gradebook, and ask questions. The *SmartBook* is where you will read the book, complete practice sessions and take the pre-tests.

For the most part, **this is a self-paced class**. Excluding the discussion forum activities, the only deadline for you to have your work completed is December 14th at 5PM. In the course schedule (see below), you will find my recommendations for how you should be progressing over the course of the semester. **You can expect that you will be spending about 7 hours a week to keep up weekly with the class.**

I expect that, excluding the discussion forums, all of the work you complete in/for this class is your own.

I have office hours on Mondays from 12 to 12:30 PM and will be available via phone and email during those hours. You can email me at any time and I will respond within 48 hours.

Textbooks:

Miller, P. (2003) *Media Law for Producers 4th. Ed.* New York: Focal Press.

This book is available through textbook purchase. You can also access an eBook version of this through electronic reserve in the library. There is no cost to you if you do this. I do think, however, that for those of you interested in careers in producing, you will find that the Miller book is one that you might want to purchase and keep.

Pember, D. and Calvert, C. *CourseSmart eBook Online Access for Mass Media Law 19e*: McGraw-Hill: 2015. ISBN: 9781259144899

To gain access to this book, you need access the McGraw-Hill website and purchase access to the SmartBook (do not purchase Learnsmart, only SmartBook).

<http://learnsmartadvantage.com/course-books/?product-search=Pember&product-type>

You will need the following information for access:

(Note: this is case sensitive)

Class name: UWSP Comm 325 Media Law

Student Sign Up Code: Fall 2015

If you use an email address other than your university account, you absolutely must send me your email address.

Grading:

Grades for this course are based on student performance on a series examinations, crossword puzzles, discussion forum activities, and SmartBook engagement activities.

SmartBook readings and practice:

-The Pember book is an eBook with SmartBook features. This means that while you are reading the book, portions are already highlighted and the book allows for interactivity. It also lets you engage with the reading by providing practice

sessions for each chapter. You are required to complete the practice session for each chapter. You can earn up to 4 points for each practice session: 4 points if you complete 95% or more, 3 points if you complete between 85 and 95%, 2 points if you complete between 80 and 85%, and 1 point if you complete between 70% and 79%. If you don't attempt the practice session, or if you start but complete less than 19%, you will receive 0 points.

Crossword puzzles:

-For each of the chapters in Pember and for the entire Miller book, there are crossword puzzles that you are required to complete. You will find the puzzles in the Content area of D2L, as a PDF. You should print the puzzle and complete it as you are reading the book(s). Once done, scan it into your computer, or take a picture of it with your cell phone and deposit it into the appropriate Dropbox folder in D2L. Please know that if you do take a picture of it, I absolutely must be able to see your answers. You are required to complete the crossword puzzles for each chapter in Pember and for the Miller book. You can earn up to 3 points for each: 3 points if you get every answer correct; 2 points if you miss 1 of the clues, 1 point if you miss 2 of the clues. If you don't attempt the puzzle, or if you miss more than three clues, you will receive 0 points.

Online Group work:

-Twice during the semester, you will be assigned to an online discussion group, of 8 members. Each group will be given a set of questions to answer. Each set of questions are worth 10 points. Even though the questions are based on content in the Pember book, you won't find the answers there: you will need to extrapolate from the readings in order to answer the questions. For example, you may be given a current/ongoing court case (not mentioned in Pember) and asked to predict how the case will be resolved, based on what the book says about the circumstances of this case to similar cases that are cited in Pember. Each group is welcome to answer these however they want: you can divide them up among yourselves or you can all work through them together. Please know that this is a group grade, which means that you are dependent on each other. So if you do decide to break the questions up individually, you should give yourselves a deadline that provides enough time for every group member to review each other's answers and provide comments or additional, differing perspectives. The answers to the questions must be saved in a single word document and deposited in the Dropbox by the date and time due. Please know that the membership of the groups will change between the two activities. Also know that I will be monitoring the discussions and awarding up to 5 points per student for participation and contribution to the groups' work.

Examinations:

-There are 16 Pember exams, one for each chapter. Each exam is worth 15 points and is comprised of multiple-choice, True-False, and essay questions. You will have only one attempt at the exam and once you start, you need to finish within 120 minutes. Three things to know about the Pember exams: First, please be aware that the questions are set to be randomly generated for you. This means that each student in the class will probably have different questions than other students in the class. Second, D2L is set to auto grade the exams.

D2L can be very word and letter specific. For example, if the answer is FCC but you write Federal Communications Commission, D2L will count it as incorrect, even though I would mark it as correct. I will be looking at each exam on a weekly basis through the semester and correcting the incorrect auto graded questions. Third, each [of the Pember exams is closed and will not open until you deposit the crossword puzzle for that chapter in the Dropbox.](#)

-There is one Miller examination, covering materials from the entire textbook.

This exam is comprised only of essay questions. You will have only one attempt at the exam and once you start, you need to finish within 120 minutes. [The exam is closed and will not open until you deposit the crossword puzzle for the Miller book in the Dropbox.](#)

Grading and Point Totals:

Examinations:	16@15=	240
	1@20=	20
Pember SmartBook Practice:	16@4=	64
Crossword Puzzles:	17@3=	51
Group (online) work:	2@10=	20
Participation bonus		5
Total:	400	

Final grades will be determined on the following scale:

95%+	=	A	380-400
94%	=	A-	376-379
93%	=	B+	372-375
87%-92%	=	B	348-371
86%	=	B-	344-347
85%	=	C+	340-343
77%-84%	=	C	308-339
76%	=	C-	304-307
75%	=	D+	300-303
71%-74%	=	D	284-229
0%-70%	=	F	0-283

Other Relevant Information:

How to take this class:

- 1) Go to D2L and in the Content area, find and listen to the audio introduction for each chapter (in the content area of D2L)
- 2) Then find the Pember PPT PDF and the crossword puzzle PDF for the chapter you are working on. Print both of them.
- 3) Access the Pember Smartbook and start reading the chapter. As you read, take notes onto the printed PPT slides AND work on the crossword puzzle.

- 4) After reading the chapter, do the practice session for that chapter in the SmartBook.
- 5) Submit the crossword puzzle to the appropriate folder in the Dropbox in D2L.
- 6) Open D2L and take the quiz for the chapter you have been working on.
- 7) Weekly, you should access your assigned online group in the discussion forum and participate with your group members.
- 8) [The Miller book is not a SmartBook, so the only activities you need to complete before taking the exam is the crossword puzzle.](#)

I will be using email to contact you individually as needed. I will be posting updates and other information to the news item area of the D2L site for this class on a regular basis. It is expected that you monitor this class on a regular, if not daily, basis.

Dates due are deadlines. Period.

Academic dishonesty: Using material from another source (book, journal, internet site, a faculty member, another student, etc.) without proper acknowledgment is not acceptable. Period. The University has policies that govern academic dishonesty. You should be familiar with them. You will find a statement of my views on plagiarism appended to this course syllabus. If you violate these policies on any of your course work, you will receive a grade of **Fail** for that assignment/exam. You may also receive a grade of **Fail** for the class and be subject to University procedures on academic dishonesty. **YOUR WORK HAS TO BE YOUR OWN.**

Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

UW-Stevens Point values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to success, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP.

Read more here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

Assistive Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, check here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

Course Schedule:

Week 1:

Wednesday, September 2:

Thursday, September 3:

Friday, September 4:

Should be through Pember Chapter 1

Week 2:

Monday, September 7:

Tuesday, September 8:

Wednesday, September 9:

Thursday, September 10:

Friday, September 11:

Should be through Pember Chapter 2

Discussion Forum Opens and Questions Posted at 5PM

Week 3:

Monday, September 14:

Tuesday, September 15:

Wednesday, September 16:

Thursday, September 17:

Friday, September 18:

Should be through Pember Chapter 3

Week 4:

Monday, September 21:

Tuesday, September 22:

Wednesday, September 23:

Thursday, September 24:

Friday, September 25:

Should be through Pember Chapter 4

Should be through Pember Chapter 5

Week 5:

Monday, September 28:

Tuesday, September 29:

Wednesday, September 30:

Thursday, October 1:

Friday, October 2:

Should be through Pember Chapter 6

Week 6:

Monday, October 5: Should be through Pember Chapter 7

Tuesday, October 6:

Wednesday, October 7:

Thursday, October 8:

Friday, October 9: Should be through Pember Chapter 8

Week 7:

Monday, October 12:

Tuesday, October 13:

Wednesday, October 14: Should be through Pember Chapter 9

Thursday, October 15:

Friday, October 16:

Week 8:

Monday, October 19:

Tuesday, October 20: Should be through Pember Chapter 10

Wednesday, October 21:

Thursday, October 22:

Friday, October 23: Answers to Questions to the Online Group
Due by 5PM

Week 9:

Monday, October 26: Discussion Forum Opens and Questions Posted at
5PM

Tuesday, October 27:

Wednesday, October 28:

Thursday, October 29:

Friday, October 30: Should be through Pember Chapter 11

Week 10:

Monday, November 2:

Tuesday, November 3:

Wednesday, November 4: Should be through Pember Chapter 12

Thursday, November 5:

Friday, November 6:

Week 11:

Monday, November 9:

Tuesday, November 10: Should be through Pember Chapter 13

Wednesday, November 11:

Thursday, November 12:

Friday, November 13: Should be through Pember Chapter 14

Week 12:

Monday, November 16:

Tuesday, November 17:

Wednesday, November 18: Should be through Pember Chapter 15

Thursday, November 19:

Friday, November 20:

Week 13:

Monday, November 23:

Tuesday, November 24:

Wednesday, November 25: [Should be through Pember Chapter 16](#)

Thursday, November 26:

Friday, November 27:

Week 14:

Monday, November 30:

Tuesday, December 1:

Wednesday, December 2:

Thursday, December 3:

Friday, December 4: [Should be through Miller](#)

Week 15:

Monday, December 7:

Tuesday, December 8:

Wednesday, December 9:

Thursday, December 10:

Friday, December 11:

Week 16:

Monday, December 14

All Pember and Miller activities (practice sessions, crossword puzzles, and D2L exams) are due by 5PM

Tuesday, December 15:

Answers to Questions to the Online Group Due by 5PM

Plagiarism

A major problem facing both professors and students is the practice of plagiarism, which is defined as “the deliberate or accidental use of ideas, research, or words of another person without fully attributing them to their original sources.” As a student in this course, it is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. A student who plagiarizes work in my class will receive a failing grade for that assignment, possibly for the course and may be subject to additional academic misconduct sanctions.

The following paragraph offers advice on paraphrasing, a major aspect of plagiarism: Clearly attribute ideas that you have paraphrased to their authors, both directly in your text and by providing reference citations. Do not try to paraphrase by changing just a few of the author’s words (that’s plagiarizing): paraphrasing involves substantial change in the order of words and ideas, usually to condense them. Paraphrasing, in other words, involves putting someone else’s thoughts into your own words, not just rearranging the words and ideas or combining, but shortening, someone else’s sentences. To avoid unintentionally writing a plagiaristic paraphrase, carefully mark the notes that you take on your references where you use exact or nearly exact, words of the source.

The following guidelines are offered as additional hints on what plagiarism is:

- Every paper or report submitted for credit is accepted as the student’s own work. It may not, therefore, have been composed, wholly or partially, by another person.
- The wording of a student’s paper is taken as his or her own. Thus he or she may not submit work that has been copied, wholly or partially, from a book, article, essay, newspaper or another student’s paper or notebook, or any other written or printed source (including speeches, WWW sites, news reports, etc.). Direct quotes or ideas from outside sources may be used, but they must be properly cited. Thus, do not simply change a few words within a sentence from a source, put it in your paper, and drop a footnote by it without using quotation marks. Doing so represents the sentence as your own, when it is not, and this is plagiarism!
- As a student, you may incorporate in your paper ideas that have arisen from discussion or lectures when you incorporated these ideas into your own thinking. However, be careful to either cite properly the source of the ideas or cite other sources that reinforce the ideas you are using.
- You may, as a part of the good writing process, give your work to someone else for suggestions. However, having someone else totally correct and revise your work constitutes that person’s work, not your own, and thus constitutes plagiarism.
- You may of course submit a paper to be typed by another person, provided that typist has not sought to change the wording, ideas, organization, or any significant aspect of the paper in any way. If you submit such a paper, be sure to proofread carefully.
- No paper may be submitted for credit that has been or is being used to fulfill the requirements of another course, in whatever department, unless permission to coordinate work has been granted by both professors.
- Students in my courses are expected to utilize the APA stylebook, which provides guidelines for proper citation.

Did I Plagiarize?

The Types and Severity of Plagiarism Violations

