

COURSE SYLLABUS

Comm 325

Spring Semester 2017

Professor Mark Tolstedt

Comm Arts Center #228

346-3920

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Office Hours:

T + TH:: 9-10:15AM

W: by appointment

Course Objectives:

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

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.

This is a hybrid class. Inasmuch, you are expected to be in class on the days indicated and working online when the schedule indicates "no class."

Textbooks:

Miller, P. (2003) Media Law for Producers, (4th. ed). New York: Focal Press.
(textbook purchase)

Note: this book is available online through Electronic Reserve.

Pember, D. and Calvert, C. *CourseSmart eBook Online Access for Mass Media Law 19e*: McGraw-Hill: 2018.

To gain access to this book, you need purchase access from McGraw-Hill. Follow this link.

<https://connect.mheducation.com/paamweb/index.html#/registration/signup/mtolstedt-spring-2018-sections-1--2>

You will need the following information for access:

Spring 2018 Sections 1 + 2

Grading:

Grades for this course are based on student performance on a series of online examinations, a final examination, SmartBook Practice sessions, and a written essay and presentation of that work.

SmartBook engagement: You are required to use the McGraw-Hill Connect for *Mass Media Law 20th edition*. The SmartBook (think eBook) allows you to read through the material in which key portions/concepts/ideas have been highlighted. It also allows you to “practice” what you have learned by asking questions and guiding you through the answers. Book chapters have been assigned and scheduled (see Course Schedule below). You must complete the reading AND the chapter practice sessions for each assigned chapter.

--The SmartBook allows me to monitor your progress with the chapter readings and practice. There are 80 points (5 per chapter) assigned to this--points will be awarded accordingly, depending on your progress through the chapters. In other words, if you don't use the SmartBook, you don't earn points. If you complete the Practices Sessions by the due date and times, you earn points.

--In each chapter, you will find Read---Practice---Recharge options. Access the Read when you are ready to read the text. **Print off the PowerPoint presentation for the chapter you are about to read.** As you read, take notes onto the printed PPT slides (you will find this in the content area of D2L). After you have read the chapter, access Practice and the questions/review session starts. Recharge allows you to go back and review, from a slightly different perspective. When you have finished working in each chapter, make certain to log out...this will preserve your completion percentages which will be accessed and used to assign points per chapter earned. You can expect that each chapter will take between 20 and 30 minutes to read and each practice session should take another 20 minutes. If you are finding that it is taking significantly longer for you, please let me know and we can talk about the process. A final note concerning the SmartBook assignments in this class: these activities are a precursor/set-up for your examinations. Completing the Read and Practice for each chapter, will help you significantly on the unit examinations.

D2L Quizzes: There are 5 exams covering the materials from readings. Four exams from the Pember book (one per unit) and one exam covering the materials from the Miller book. Each of these Pember exams is worth 20 points, are open book AND must be completed by the scheduled times (again, please refer to the exam and online quizzes schedule posted to the content area of D2L). The Miller examination is on the materials in the Miller textbook and is worth 20 points.

Final Examination:

The final exam for this class will cover materials from both the Pember and Miller books, as well as materials from the student presentations. The exam is worth 50

points and although it is not an open book/open note exam, questions will be distributed in advance.

Written Essay and Presentation:

The bulk of the point available for this class are assigned to a written essay and a presentation of that essay to your peers. During the 6th week of the semester students will be assigned their topic for their essay and presentation. During the 9th week (immediately before spring break), students will meet individually with the instructor for feedback on work in progress. For a detailed explanation of the essay, see the Content area of D2L. All written essays are due in the D2L DropBox no later than 11PM on Thursday, May10th. The schedule for students presentations will be distributed on Tuesday, March 20th. During your presentation, each student will distribute of list of five questions (a minimum of three of them must be essay questions) to the class. Some of these questions will be on the final examination. The essay must follow the APA Style Manual and is worth 75 points, while the presentation of your work is worth 25 points.

Grading and Point Totals:

Point totals:

Pember Exams (4 @ 20 points):	80
Miller Exam	20
SmartBook Practice Sessions:	
16 @ 5 points	80
Final Examination:	50
Written Essay:	75
Essay Presentation:	25
Total Points:	280

Grading Scale:		Point Totals:	
95%+	=	A	266-280
94%	=	A-	263-265
93%	=	B+	260-262
87%-92%	=	B	244-259
86%	=	B-	240-243
85%	=	C+	238-239
77%-84%	=	C	215-237
76%	=	C-	212-214
75%	=	D+	210-211
71%-74%	=	D	198-209
0%-70%	=	F	0-199

Other Relevant Information:

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.

-The online exams are scheduled to close at a specific time on the due date. I will allow you to reschedule the date and time **ONLY** for reasons consistent with the UWSP policy on attendance. In all cases, you must inform me in a timely fashion, in advance of the scheduled exam. Please note: I may very well refuse to allow you to reschedule the date and/or time.

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.

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/>

FERPA Disclaimer

This course requires posting of work online, that is viewable only by your classmates. None of the work submitted online will be shared publicly. Your academic records (grades, student IDs, personal identification information) will not be shared by the instructor of this course. Confidentiality of student work is imperative, so you should not share the work of your peers publicly without their permission. By participating in these assignments you are giving consent to sharing of your work with others in this class and you recognize there is a small risk of your work being shared online beyond the purposes of this course. If you elect to not participate in these online assignments due to confidentiality concerns, then an alternate assignment will be offered to you.

Netiquette

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

--The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.

- Keep an “open-mind” and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the “Send” button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Course Schedule:

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to the course requirements depending on need. If this happens, you will be notified of changes in class, via D2L, and through email.

Week 1:

UNIT 1: THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Tuesday, January 23rd: Course Introduction
 Thursday, January 25th: Our legal system
 Access to Connect/SmartBook Required by 5PM

Week 2:

Tuesday, January 30th: The First Amendment
 Thursday, February 1st: No Class: Online Work in McGraw-Hill Connect
 Chapters 1, 2, + 3 **AND** D2L Quiz Due by 11PM

Week 3:

UNIT 2: TORT LAW

Tuesday, February 6th: Libel
 Thursday, February 8th: No Class: Online Work in McGraw-Hill Connect
 Chapters 4, 5, + 6 Due by 11PM

Week 4:

Tuesday, February 13th: Privacy
 Thursday, February 15th: No Class: Online Work in McGraw-Hill Connect
 Chapters 7 + 8 **AND** D2L Quiz Due by 11PM

Week 5:

UNIT 3: GATHERING AND PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Tuesday, February 20th: Records, Meetings, Sources
 Thursday, February 22nd: No Class: Online Work in McGraw-Hill Connect
 Chapters 9+ 10 Due by 11PM

Week 6:

Tuesday, February 27th: The Press and the Courts
 ESSAY TOPICS ASSIGNED
 Thursday, March 1st: No Class: Online Work in McGraw-Hill Connect
 Chapters 11+ 12 **AND** D2L Quiz Due by 11PM

Week 7:

UNIT 4: CONTENT CONTROL

Tuesday, March 6th: Obscenity, Copyright and Advertising
 Thursday, March 8th: No Class: Online Work in McGraw-Hill Connect
 Chapters 13, 14, 15, and 16 **AND** D2L Quiz Due by 11PM

Week 8:

UNIT 5: REGULATION OF PRODUCING

Tuesday, March 13th:

Contracts, Permits, and the like

Thursday, March 15th:

No Class: *Producing Media Law* D2L Quiz Due by 11PM

Week 9:

Tuesday, March 20th:

Researching Case Law

Thursday, March 22nd:

Individual Meetings Scheduled: Progress Report

Week 10:

Tuesday, April 3rd:

Individual Meetings Scheduled: Progress Report

Thursday, April 5th:

No Class: work on final topic presentation

Week 11:

Tuesday, April 10th:

Individual Meetings Scheduled: Progress Report

Thursday, April 12th:

Individual Meetings Scheduled: Progress Report

Week 12:

Tuesday, April 17th:

Student Presentations

Thursday, April 19th:

Student Presentations

Week 13:

Tuesday, April 24th:

Student Presentations

Thursday, April 26th:

Student Presentations

Week 14:

Tuesday, May 1st:

Student Presentations

Thursday, May 3rd:

Student Presentations

Week 15:

Tuesday, May 8th:

Student Presentations

Thursday, May 10th:

Final Exam Review

Written Essays Due in DropBox by 11PM

COMM 325 Section 1 Final Examination: Monday, May 14 @ 12:30PM

COMM 352 Section 2 Final Examination: Wednesday, May 16 @ 10:15AM

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.