



JOMC 840.01: Seminar in Media Law – Fall Semester 2015

Tuesdays, 2:30-5:15 p.m. in Carroll 338
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor

Michael Hoefges, J.D., Ph.D.

- Office: 355 Carroll Hall (third floor in the “new” part of the building)
Weekly Office Hours:
 - Thursdays – 1:00-3:00 p.m.
 - Appointments made during office hours will be honored first. Otherwise, it will be first-come, first-served. Other days and times are available for appointments – let me know.
- Telephone: 843-0971 (direct line to my office, equipped with voice mail)
- Email: mhoefges@email.unc.edu

Course Description and Objectives

Welcome to JOMC 840 – Seminar in Media Law. Official course description: “In this seminar, students explore free expression theory and the research perspectives and methods used in the study of media law. The main goals of the course are to 1) familiarize students with First Amendment theories and interpretations; 2) expose students to an array of legal research focusing on communication law; 3) teach students to critically read and evaluate such research; and 4) provide students with experience in legal research and writing. Each student will identify a legal research question he or she will investigate, write a paper proposal, produce a research paper, and present his or her research findings to the class. It is expected that all papers will be of high enough quality to be presented at a scholarly convention and/or published in a scholarly journal.” Prerequisite: JOMC 740 (or an equivalent course) or a law school course in media law. Please note: Students are expected to have already obtained a thorough grounding in the field of media law – including substance and procedure – and also have learned how to conduct legal research (including primary and secondary legal sources), especially in the field of media law, before taking JOMC 840.

Course objectives. You will have the opportunity to develop substantive expertise in a particular theoretical or conceptual framework (or, perhaps, one particularly significant First Amendment scholar) that you select with the instructor as most relevant to your legal research project, and, ideally, to your overall studies and goals (i.e., your thesis or dissertation). You will have the opportunity to develop a publication-quality manuscript of original legal research that you will develop and complete with the instructor and classmates. Through this process, you will have the opportunity to further develop your expertise – and hone your skills – in legal research methods. You will have the opportunity to further develop your expertise in a substantive area of mass communication law that you also will select with the instructor for your legal research project. You will be expected to utilize legal research methodology as the primary method for completing your research project in the course. You’ll receive further instructions on completing the research proposal and the legal research paper.

Customization. Because of the limited enrollment in this course, there will be many opportunities to customize the course for each student depending on her or his particular interests, goals and course of study – through targeted readings and through the research project, for example. In other words, it is the aim of the course to best serve your program and course of study here and, ultimately, your professional goals upon graduating from the program – while ensuring that we cover the overarching goals and objectives set out above for JOMC 840.

Required Course Materials and Resources

Required Book:

(1) THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et al. eds., 20th ed. 2015)

Other assigned readings will be available from one or more of the proprietary databases available through the UNC Libraries (i.e., HeinOnline, LexisNexis Academic, WestlawNext, etc.) and on reserve in the Park Library. Hein Online provides access to law review articles in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, which allows you to read an available article in its original printed format. In addition, you may retrieve most law review and journal articles from the UNC law library by making photocopies of the articles from the printed volumes themselves if you wish. Please note that our access to electronic databases such as WestlawNext, for example, may vary from semester to semester.

Important University Policies

Honor Code: The Honor Code is in effect for this course and all others at the University. Please make sure that you are thoroughly familiar with the terms of the Honor Code including your rights and responsibilities as set out in the most current edition of *The Graduate School Record* available online at <http://www.unc.edu/gradrecord/front/univregulations.html#honor>. We'll discuss in detail how the Honor Code applies to assignments in class and to your legal research project. Throughout the semester, please see me if you have questions about how the Honor Code applies in the context of the course or specific assignments. Please read the current version of *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*: <https://studentconduct.unc.edu/sites/studentconduct.unc.edu/files/documents/Instrument.pdf>. Please be sure to read Section B titled "Academic Dishonesty" that begins on page 5 of *The Instrument*. I am fully committed to making sure we abide by the Honor Code in this course.

Please note: All work submitted in the course should include the signed pledge: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance in the completion of this assignment." This pledge statement may be electronically signed.

Accessibility Resources and Service: The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities. All accommodations are coordinated through the Accessibility Resources and Service Office. In the first instance please visit the ARS website at <http://accessibility.unc.edu>, or call the ARS office at 919-962-8300, or contact ARS via email at accessibility@unc.edu. A student is welcome to initiate the registration process at any time, however, the process can take time. ARS is particularly busy in the run-up to Finals and during Finals. Students submitting Self-ID forms at that time are unlikely to have accommodations set until the following semester. Please contact ARS as early in the semester as possible. (Source: ARS)

Diversity and Inclusivity: The University is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic community. Please review the University policy statement titled "UNC's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusivity," "Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Related Conduct," and "Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination," all available in the most current version of *The Graduate School Record* available online at <http://www.unc.edu/gradrecord/>. I am fully committed to making sure that we honor and respect these important policies in this course and our academic community.

Course Requirements and Grading

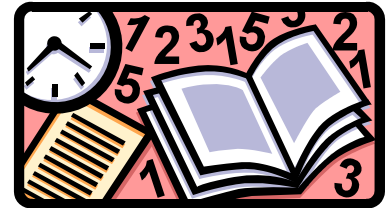
Graded components: Your course grade will be determined based on the following components:

Research Paper:		65%
Research Proposal	10%	
First Submission	15%	
Final Paper	40%	
Participation:		35%
In-class participation	25%	
Written article critique 1	5%	
Written article critique 2	5%	

Grading: Grades of H (clear excellence and superiority), P (entirely satisfactory), L (low passing), and F (failure), will be utilized for all graded components of the course and for the final course grades. We'll discuss in particular how these grades apply specifically to each graded component of the course, and you'll receive further explanation in writing about requirements and grading for each of these components.

Course Schedule and Important Due Dates

You will receive a separate schedule of readings and the dates on which they will be discussed along with additional instructions on completing the assigned projects including the legal research project and its components. The article critiques (3-5 pages each) will be due on two dates during the semester to be determined. However, please note the following important key DEADLINES and EVENTS:



- ✓ **Tuesday, September 22:** Research proposal DUE today by 5 p.m. – please send electronic copy to instructor – Word file please (not PDF format please). Please also bring a hard copy to class.
- ✓ **Tuesday, September 29:** Please plan to attend the First Amendment Keynote Address by Professor Danielle Citron at 7:15 p.m. in the auditorium in Carroll Hall (CA 11) (required). An alternate assignment may be given for students who cannot attend the address. For more details, visit the First Amendment Day website: <http://medialaw.unc.edu/first-amendment-day/>. This is the make-up class for Tuesday, August 18.
- ✓ **Tuesday, October 20:** First submission of research paper DUE before class begins – send electronic copy to instructor – Word file, please (not PDF format please). Please bring a hard copy to class.
- ✓ **Tuesday, November 24:** Final paper DUE before class begins – send electronic copy to instructor and to your classmate(s) – Word file, please (not PDF). Please bring a hard copy to class.