**JOMC 340, Section 1**

**Introduction to Media Law**

**Syllabus**

**Fall 2014**

Instructor: Dr. Cathy Packer

Office hours: 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to noon Thursdays or by appointment

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**This section of JOMC 340 is not for public relations, advertising or strategic communication students. This section is for everyone else. Also, successful completion of JOMC 153 is a prerequisite for this course.**

**Texts:**

Kent R. Middleton & William E. Lee, *The Law of Public Communication*, New York: Pearson (2014). Please purchase the correct edition of this book. Used copies should be available. This expensive book is available at a somewhat lower price as an eBook. The eBook is an access code card purchased at the Student Stores sales desk.  All links and instructions are provided on the card.

Cathy Packer, Hugh Stevens & C. Amanda Martin, eds., *North Carolina Media Law Handbook*, 20012-13. (This is on online book. To access it, go to <http://ncmedialawhandbook.com>. You will have to register and pay $25 to obtain a password. Then you will have access for at least one year.)

Kyu Ho Youm, “International and Foreign Law”in Roy L. Moore & Michael D. Murray, *Media Law and Ethics* 677-730 (4th ed. 2012). This chapter will be available on our Sakai site via protected password as a library course reserve item.

**Sakai:**

PowerPoint slides, reserve readings, practice exam questions and other materials will be posted on the Sakai site for this course. The UNC Sakai service is located at <http://sakai.unc.edu>.

**Course Objectives/Professional Values and Competencies:**

Our School is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC). Among the Professional Values and Competencies for accreditation is understanding and applying the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press in the United States, as well as having an understanding of the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances. Our focus in this course will be American law, but the course will include selected international and foreign media law principles and the extent and role of free speech and press in other countries.

Also, the School recognizes that only professional communicators possessing knowledge of mass communication law can thoughtfully assert their rights and avoid needless infractions of the law. This course is designed to make communicators – reporters, copy editors, broadcasters, bloggers, Web designers, photographers and others – expert in recognizing their legal rights to gather, prepare and disseminate news and other information.

**Course Work:**

Careful and sustained reading is necessary for this course. Most of the reading will be from the assigned texts with some additional readings assigned online. Additional readings may be assigned besides those listed on the assignment sheet. All reading assignments should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. A short, multiple-choice online reading quiz will be given approximately once a week. At least two days before a quiz, you will receive an email alerting you to the times (never during class) during which you can take the quiz and the material to be covered. If you miss a quiz, you cannot make it up. However, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

There also will be three examinations, including a comprehensive final examination.

**Class Discussion Board:**

You can use the discussion board to practice solving legal hypotheticals, a type of question(s) you will see on your exams. Your professor will post hypothetical legal problems and questions about those problems, and you and your classmates can discuss the best ways to answer those questions. The expectation is that students will do most of the work on the discussion board. However, the professor and her graduate assistant will join in as needed. Participation on the discussion board is not required and will not be graded, but it is a very good way to prepare for exams and for the professional work that is in your future.

**A Special Event:**

Students should attend the First Amendment Day keynote lecture at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 23 in Carroll 111. The speaker will be Greg Lukianoff, president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. Lukianoff is expected to talk about freedom of expression – or the lack of it – on college campuses.

Students who are unable to attend the lecture must talk to Dr. Packer. She will assign another lecture to attend. Students who attend neither the Lukianoff lecture nor an approved alternative event will earn one absence.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance at lectures is essential. Law is a complex, continually changing subject. Lectures are designed to explain and expand upon the material in the textbook.

You are expected to attend class. You will be allowed two absences without penalty. That is an entire week of class. You need not provide any excuse or explanation for these absences. However, for each absence in excess of two, your final grade will be reduced by one point. Thus, a student who completes the semester with an average of 83 but with a total of four absences will have his or her grade reduced to 81. You should, therefore, use your two allowed absences wisely, saving them for illnesses, job interviews or trips arranged as part of another class, for example. No extra absences will be granted to complete assignments for other classes or for campus publications.

The roll will be taken at the start of class. Students who arrive after the roll sheet has circulated will be counted as absent. A student whose late arrival causes him or her to miss a reading quiz will not be allowed to make up the quiz. If you need to leave class early, please tell the professor before class begins. Otherwise you will be counted as absent.

Turn off your cell phones. Put away your computers and tablets. Class time will be devoted to lecture and discussion, not social media.

Napping in class will not be tolerated.

**Class E-mail:**

You will receive e-mail messages from your professor and her graduate assistant through a class listserv. Be sure to read those messages! You might learn a test date has been changed, a class cancelled or an additional reading assigned.

**Honor Code:**

The Honor Code and the Campus Code, embodying the ideals of academic honesty, integrity and responsible citizenship, have for over 100 years governed the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University. Acceptance by a student of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in these codes and a respect for this most significant University tradition.

Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work.

The [Instrument of Student Judicial Governance](http://instrument.unc.edu/), which contains the provisions of the Honor Code, states that students have four general responsibilities under the Code:

1. Obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code;
2. Refrain from lying, cheating, or stealing;
3. Conduct themselves so as not to impair significantly the welfare or the educational opportunities of others in the University community; and
4. Refrain from conduct that impairs or may impair the capacity of University and associated personnel to perform their duties, manage resources, protect the safety and welfare of members of the University community, and maintain the integrity of the University.

The [Instrument](http://instrument.unc.edu/) defines plagiarism as "deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise."

Please submit all written work with the following pledge: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment.”

**Students Needing Academic Accommodations**

Students who may need academic accommodations and associated resources, like extended testing time, must contact the Department of Accessibility Resources and Service (DARS) in a timely manner to determine whether and to what to extent such accommodations or resources are necessary for this course. Only DARS can make this determination for you – not your professor. It is the goal of UNC to “ensure that all programs and facilities of the University are accessible to all members of the University community.” If you think this might apply to you, please contact DARS as soon as possible either by telephone at 962-8300 or through the DARS website at <http://accessibility.unc.edu/about-us> for additional information. Please know that I am fully committed to this policy and will abide by any recommendations DARS makes for you for this course.

**Diversity and Inclusivity**

The University is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic community, and prohibiting discrimination and harassment. Please review the University policy statements on diversity and inclusivity, and prohibited harassment and discrimination, both in *The Undergraduate Bulletin 2014-2015* at <http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/>. Please know that I am fully committed to fostering and enforcing these policies.

**Keys to Success:**

Read all assignments before class.

Come to class and come on time.

Sit near the front.

Stay awake.

Print out the Powerpoint slides before class.

Take good notes.

Participate in class discussions.

Use the class discussion board to practice solving legal hypotheticals in preparation for exams.

Talk to your instructor and her graduate assistant before, after and outside of class.

Study hard – not just the night before the first exam. Consider forming a study group.

**Final Grades:**

Reading quizzes 20%

First examination 25%

Second examination 25%

Final examination 30%

100%

\*\*\* Makeup exams will be given only in cases of proven emergencies and then only if your instructor is notified in advance of the scheduled exam. No make-up quizzes are given.