

J485 (Section 6117), Senior Seminar in Journalism
Spring 2012

6 – 7:15 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday, Crestview 207
Professor: Ron Allman
Office: Crestview 117
Phone: 941-2381, e-mail: rallman@ius.edu
Office hours: M/T/W/R 3 - 4 p.m. and by appointment

Course Objectives: This course will teach the different systems of guiding principles that journalists use to confront ethical situations and issues. Case studies will be used to explore situations facing today's media practitioners, such as truth and fairness, privacy, conflicts of interest, responsibility, indecent materials and media monopolies. The course will also introduce research methods used to investigate ethical issues in mass media.

Students with Special Needs: If you require any special assistance in meeting the class requirements due to a certified disability, please see me during office hours within the first two weeks of the semester. Special accommodations or alternative-format materials will be made available. Students with disabilities may want to contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities.

Required Text: "Media Ethics Issues and Cases," seventh edition, by Patterson and Wilkens, ISBN#978-0-07-351194-8 – this book is available as an eText via Courseload on OnCourse. You have already paid for the eText version of this book.

Reading Assignments: All reading assignments will be read before class and you should be prepared to discuss the reading assignment in class. I reserve the right to quiz you on the readings if I feel the reading assignments are not being done.

Attendance, Punctuality and Deadlines: Class attendance is mandatory. You should plan to attend all class sessions, to participate in class and to stay for the entire class period. Attendance will be taken. Being late twice will be considered an absence. A total of three absences will result in a grade of "F." *Medical appointments, job interviews and part-time or full-time jobs are not considered valid excuses for absence.* All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Deadline extensions will only be given under special circumstances.

Class Interruptions (Laptops, Cellular Phones, Pagers, Et Cetera): Laptops will not be used during class time. Cellular phones and pagers will be turned off during the class time. Please inform those who might wish to contact you during class time that your devices will be turned off. Those creating these interruptions will be asked to leave the class and will be considered absent.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined by the total number of points you accumulate out of a possible 675. The breakdown is as follows:

11 Homework Assignments (25 points each): 275 points
2 papers (100 points each): 200 points
1 exam (100 points): 100 points
1 research paper (100 points): 100 points

Points will be determined by the following chart:

A — 634-675	B- — 540-566	D+ — 452-471
A- — 607-633	C+ — 519-539	D — 432-451
B+ — 587-606	C — 499-518	D- — 405-431
B — 567-586	C- — 472-498	F — Less Than 405

There will be no extra credit opportunities.

Class Schedule

January 10	Introduction Read Chapter 1
January 12	Ethics and Society, Potter's Box Read pp. 99—103
January 17	Moral Reasoning, Philosophers
January 19	Principles, Philosophers continued <i>Paper 1 Assigned</i>
January 24	Truth Read Chapter 2
January 26	Truth Case Study <i>Homework 1 due</i>
January 31	Privacy Read Chapter 5
February 2	Privacy Case Study <i>Homework 2 due</i>
February 7	Confidentiality <i>Paper 1 Due</i>
February 9	Confidentiality Case Study <i>Homework 3 due</i>

February 14	Conflict of Interest <i>Paper 2 Assigned</i> Read Chapter 4
February 16	Conflict of Interest Case Study <i>Homework 4 due</i>
February 21	Social Responsibility Read Chapter 3
February 23	Social Responsibility Case Study <i>Homework 5 due</i>
February 28	Questionable Materials Read Chapter 10
March 1	Questionable Materials Case Study <i>Homework 6 due</i>
March 6	Media Monopolies Read Chapter 7 <i>Research paper assigned</i>
March 8	Media Monopolies Case Study <i>Homework 7 due</i>
March 13	Photo and Video and Ethics Read Chapter 8
March 15	Photo and Video and Ethics Case Study <i>Homework 8 due</i> <i>Paper 2 due</i>
March 20	Politics Read Chapter 6
March 22	Politics Case Study <i>Homework 9 due</i>
March 27	Spring Break
March 29	Spring Break
April 3	New Media Read Chapter 9

April 5	New Media Case Study <i>Homework 10 due</i>
April 10	Hate
April 12	Hate Case Study <i>Homework 11 due</i>
April 17	Becoming a Moral Adult Read Chapter 11
April 19	Research/Project Work Day
April 24	Codes of Ethics Project <i>Research paper due</i>
May 1	Final Exam, 5:45 – 7:35 p.m.