Legal and Ethical Issues in Communication
COMM 6306.D10
Online Instructional Method
https://blackboard.angelo.edu/

Instructor: Professor Mangrum
Office: Library Building, Room B336
Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment M/W 11:30-1:00pm, T/TH 12:30–2:00pm (Blackboard Collaborate)
Phone: 325-486-6084 Email: leah.mangrum@angelo.edu
(allow 24-48 hours for thorough responses to your questions)

Required Textbook:
The Law of Public Communication, 2017 Update
Authors: Middleton, Lee & Stewart
Available for purchase (new /used) and for rent at the ASU Bookstore

Access any device with a web browser (sharing limit 2, print and copy/paste limit 2% of total pages)
Publisher: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group

Most of the reading will be from the assigned text with some additional readings assigned online.

Student Learning Outcomes:
This course focuses on issues and concerns of the communication professional including: communication law, copyright law, technological innovations, instructional/educational paradigms, organizational policies, and application of ethics in communication.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
• Describe the various sources of law that govern communication and media practice and the court/regulatory systems in which media law issues are adjudicated.
• Explain the origins and theory of the First Amendment and associated communication freedoms.
• Identify legal issues in media practice and be prepared to defend against claims of libel, privacy and copyright infringement
• Analyze a case and identify its key components.

Methods for Assessing Learning Outcomes:

Quizzes: (25% of Final Grade)
There will be three quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will draw from the assigned readings lectures, and all other material and activities used in the course. Quizzes will be made available in Blackboard beginning Thursday at 12:00am and must be complete by Friday at 11:59pm. You will have only one attempt at these quizzes and they must be completed within the time frame.

Communication Law Essays: (35% of Final Grade)
Students will provide an analysis for assigned cases. You will be expected to contribute discussion based on the text, assigned readings, audio/video material and other information sources, as well as your own thoughts.
Research Paper: (40% of Final Grade)
Each student will be responsible for completing a research paper on some topic related to law in communication and media practices. You should consider a structure consisting of: a clear statement/overview of the issue; a critical review of relevant cases (noting strengths and limitations); conclusions about what is known from the convergent findings, what is still not conclusively known; and, recommendations for future research. This should be 15-20 double-spaced, APA-style.

Grading Criteria:
You will be evaluated on the following:
1) the level of your engagement with the course materials (as evidenced in written work and quizzes)
2) your capacity to explain your ideas and analysis in articulate and well-written forms
3) your ability to creatively explore theories

How final grades will be calculated:
90-100%  A
80-89%  B
70-70%  C
60-69%  D
under 60%  F

The Lessons section in Blackboard lists weekly module pages that identify each task to be completed for that week. The weekly folders include links to readings, assignments and related media.

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The Course Schedule in the Course Resources section on the left-hand light blue panel in Blackboard, provides an illustration of all due dates in the course. All course activities, excluding the final paper are due by 11:59pm on date specified - No Exceptions
**Online Etiquette Expectations**
- What you write is public, be mindful of proper tone, mechanics and respect for others' opinions.
- Use humor, joking, or sarcasm with caution.
- Distribute contributions evenly when writing essays and research paper (not concentrated all at the beginning and/or end of the document).
- Jot down notes as you read; and before you write, think about the prompt or question in the context of the readings/videos. Address the prompt or questions as much as possible.
- Review your comments carefully for grammar and punctuation before you post. Well-formulated, grammatically correct.

**Honor Code**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both the print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

**American Disability Act**
Request for accommodations may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the essential elements of the academic course and/or the degree being sought. To the extent practical, the faculty and administration will make reasonable accommodations to assist qualified individuals with disabilities meet their degree requirements, consistent with the applicable provisions of Texas statues and the Regents’ RULES AND REGULATIONS. If you wish to have special accommodations made for your studies, please contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, (325) 942-2191.
URL: [http://www.angelo.edu/services/student_life/policystatement.html](http://www.angelo.edu/services/student_life/policystatement.html)

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at [http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc](http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc).

**Student Handbook**
The current student handbook is found on the ASU web site under ‘publications’ [http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17187-20122013-student-handbook-for-web](http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17187-20122013-student-handbook-for-web)