

# Media Law

## COMM-4454

Fall 2020 Section 01 3 Credits 08/12/2020 to 12/05/2020 Modified 08/12/2020

### Description

Examination of the legal context regulating print, telecommunication and electronic media as well as advertising and public relations industries. Emphasis on libel, slander, privacy, copyright, free press/fair trial and obscenity law. This course is restricted to Seniors.

#### Requisites

Prerequisites:

COMM 2254 Minimum Grade: C and COMM 1154 Minimum Grade: C and ENGL 1102 Minimum Grade: C

Corequisites:

### Contact Information

**Instructor:** Patrick D. Hadley, Ph.D.

**Physical Office:** Humanities Room 214

**Physical Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 am - 11:30 am (CourseDen email; Google Voice call/text)

(Other times or communication media, e.g., WhatsApp, can be arranged by appointment)

**Google Voice Phone/Text:** (404) 919-7349

**E-mail:** phadley@westga.edu (for use only if CourseDen email is unavailable)

### Meeting Times

Humanities Room 312

- Monday assigned section: Mondays from 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm
- Wednesday assigned section: Wednesdays from 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

NOTE: Students assigned to Monday section are NOT authorized to attend Wednesday section, and vice versa. Please attend only your assigned day of the week to maintain UWG's social distancing protocols.

### Materials

For this course you will purchase access to McGraw-Hill's Connect, rather than buying a physical textbook (although a physical textbook option is available as a supplement through McGraw-Hill Connect). Here is the Connect access code that you will purchase:

- Access Card For Calvert, Kozlowski, & Silver, *Mass Media Law* (21st Edition). ISBN10: 1260838714 | ISBN13: 9781260838718.

Here's how to purchase the access code/card:

Option 1: [Purchase Connect by inside CourseDen](#)

You can purchase Connect access through your CourseDen account. Login into CourseDen, click on this course (COMM 4454-01), and then click on the McGraw-Hill Connect link, which will take you to the Connect registration page where you can follow the prompts, entering your name, email address, etc.

At that time, you will need to do one of the following:

- Enter your access code (if you have purchased one for this book already)
- Purchase access to Connect from McGraw-Hill through CourseDen
- Begin your 14-day Courtesy Access period

If you are purchasing access to Connect through CourseDen, you will enter your payment information at this point.

**Option 2: Purchase an access card from the UWG bookstore, then register your Connect account through CourseDen**

Purchase a Connect access card at the UWG bookstore. Use the access code that you are provided to register and enter your Connect access code through CourseDen.

**Courtesy Access Expiration:** Once three students in our class have registered into the Connect section for our course, the courtesy access sign-up link remains open for 14 more days from that point. After that, the link disappears and courtesy access is no longer available. Courtesy access allows students who cannot purchase Connect access during the two weeks of the class to complete Connect assignments while they prepare to purchase access. The assumption is that all students will have had an opportunity to register for courtesy access by the time courtesy access expires. Thus, if you wait 3 weeks into the semester and attempt to register for Courtesy Access, the link probably will no longer be available. My recommendation is that if you need Courtesy Access until you are able to purchase Connect, sign up for it during the first week of class.

- **Print Book Options:** After you register, you will have the option to purchase a low-cost print version of the text through Connect. This print book is not required. If you choose to purchase a copy, a full-color, loose-leaf version will be shipped to you. You also will have the option through Connect to rent a bound version of the book.

**Important:** Please be aware that even if you purchase or rent the physical version of this textbook from a third-party bookseller like Chegg.com, you **MUST** purchase Connect access to complete assignments related to each chapter. (ALERT: Access codes purchased from third party companies -- companies other than McGraw-Hill or UWG Bookstore -- may have been used previously and, if so, will not operate properly.) **Failure to purchase Connect access due to financial or other considerations is not a justification for failing to complete SmartBook assignments, nor is it a justification for late submission or extended deadlines for SmartBook assignments.**

All SmartBook chapters assigned for the semester will be open at the start of the semester. The expectation is that you will purchase Connect access and complete each SmartBook assignment as we get to that chapter in the semester. However, you have the option to complete SmartBook chapter assignments earlier in the semester than the the week they are due. To optimize your learning, it is best to complete the SmartBook assignments close to the time we will discuss specific chapters in class, or to return to those assignments for practice during the term.

Additional content from other resources also will be assigned throughout the semester.

**\*\*KEY:** It is not possible to successfully complete the requirements of COMM 4454 without reading the eBook/textbook and additional materials. Online presentation slides are provided to highlight certain textbook content and help guide discussion. They are not a replacement for reading the content in the textbook.

## Outcomes

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### Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will identify the constitutional, statutory, and common laws, as well as administrative rules that apply to communicators in any medium. (ACEJMC SLO 1)
2. Students will analyze the philosophy supporting the liberty of speech and the press and the legal principles that both protect and limit that liberty. (ACEJMC SLO 6)
3. Students will apply practical guides to coping with legal problems likely to confront communicators in the area of freedom of speech and press, censorship, libel, invasion of privacy, fair trials, obscenity, indecency, and copyright. (ACEJMC SLO 1)

# ✓ Evaluation

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## Criteria

### Semester Grading Scale:

A=90% - 100%

B=80% - 89%

C= 70% - 79%

D= 60% - 69%

F= 59% and below

\*Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the assignments in an effort to meet the objectives of the course. Ample notice will be provided if such changes are made.

## Breakdown

Grades earned in this class are based solely on the following:

SmartBook Study Assignments (1 percent/chapter x 12 chapters) = 12 percent

Test #1 = 20 percent

Test #2 = 20 percent

Test #3 = 18 percent

Case Brief (Writing Improvement) = 7 percent

Recorded Screencast Presentation on Assigned Case = 8 percent

Final Written Project (Writing Improvement) = 15 percent

Total = 100%

## ☰ Assignments

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**SmartBook Study Assignments** - For each assigned chapter, you will complete a SmartBook assignment before we begin class discussion on that chapter. SmartBook is described as follows on the McGraw-Hill Higher Education website:

SmartBook is an interactive study tool that adaptively assesses students' skill and knowledge levels to track which topics students have mastered and which require further instruction and practice. Based upon student progress, it then adjusts the learning content based on their knowledge strengths and weaknesses, as well as their confidence level around that knowledge.

[As an] online study tool that maximizes time spent with your course textbook or eBook, SmartBook® tests your knowledge of key concepts and pinpoints the topics on which you need to focus your study time.

There are several tutorials available in Connect as well to assist you in getting familiar with this educational resource. Each SmartBook assignment is worth 1 percent of your grade, for a total of 12 percent of your final grade over 12 chapters.

Deadlines for completion of each chapter's questions will be posted in SmartBook and also in the Course Schedule.

**Tests** - Three (3) timed online tests will be administered in the quizzes area in CourseDen during the semester. The tests will contain objective questions (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank), as well as short answer and essay questions that cover material from textbook chapters, presentation slides, instructor and other online lectures, handouts, and other online resources. The

first two tests are worth 20 percent of your course grade, while the third exam is worth 18 percent of your course grade, for a total of **58 percent** of your final grade. There is A LOT of reading in this course. Begin reading the chapters immediately so you do not fall behind.

**Case Brief** – You will select a court ruling from a list of cases to be provided, all of which are found in various chapters in our textbook. Some cases are major turning points in case law and others are important because of the presence of a specific factual issue or development. You should get an overview of your case from the textbook, but for full credit your case brief should examine the full court ruling, which you can access using the Westlaw Campus Research database available through the [UWG Library website \(https://www.westga.edu/library/\)](https://www.westga.edu/library/). Click "Databases and Galileo" link, then click "View databases by Subject or A-Z listing," click tab for letter "W," and then scroll down to "Westlaw Campus Research."

- **Submission format:** You will attach a MS Word version of your case brief in the Assignments area of CourseDen. [Posting dates to be announced in updated Course Schedule]

You will complete one case brief, worth up to **7 percent** of your grade.

**Recorded Narrated Screencast Video on Your Selected Case (4 - 6 minute recording):** You will prepare a narrated screencast video on elements such as the facts of the case, key legal issue(s), legal reasoning of the court(s) involved in the case, and ongoing relevance of the case. You will submit a link to your final narrated video in the Assignments area in CourseDen. More complete details will be provided for this assignment. (Worth up to **8 percent** of final grade).

**Final Research Paper:** All students enrolled in Media Law will complete a research project. You may work alone, with a partner, or in a team of three. Groups of four or more are not permitted. More detail will be provided later in the semester (worth up to **15 percent** of final grade).

## Schedule

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The [Course Schedule \(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tywEP750inVUuhbFleNn4dCzBNdh0Vvr1oqPh7kvBvM/edit?usp=sharing\)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tywEP750inVUuhbFleNn4dCzBNdh0Vvr1oqPh7kvBvM/edit?usp=sharing) for this semester is available here and under the Content tab of CourseDen.

## \* Course Policies and Resources

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### Attendance

Due to UWG's response to COVID-19, our full class will NOT meet on the same day this semester to maintain social distancing protocols. Half the class is assigned to attend class sessions **ONLY** on Mondays, while the other half is assigned to meet **ONLY** on Wednesdays. **You are not allowed to attend class on the day of the week other than the one assigned for you.**

Attendance will be taken during every class period for university administrative purposes. However, absences will not count directly against your grade. However, active participation in class is encouraged. While all substantive content for the course will be available online via CourseDen and Connect, we will use time in class to engage in activities and discussions to help deepen and clarify your understanding of the content. No graded activities (e.g., exams, presentations, etc.) will occur during physical class meetings.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the attendance policy in this class or if you have issues arise that impact your ability to attend class on your assigned day.

### Late Work Policy

- **Smartbook Assignments:** SmartBook deadlines will not be extended without **documented evidence** of ongoing circumstances outside your control that prohibited you from being able to work on the assignment for a reasonably substantial period before an assignment deadline. Given that all SmartBook assignments are available at least two weeks before deadlines, last-minute

technological obstacles (e.g., computer or Wi-Fi issues) or scheduling issues (e.g., unanticipated extra work hours) will not be considered justification for an extended deadline. Please submit documentation justifying the circumstances of the missed deadline within 24 hours of the missed deadline for consideration, unless such submission is not possible due to the nature of the circumstances. In such as case, submit documentation as soon as reasonably possible.

- **Early or Make-up Exams:** Permitted only in cases of unavoidable situations outside the student's control, substantiated with documentation. Requests for early exams must be made at least 48 hours prior to the exam. Requests for makeup exams must be communicated to me no later than the start of the exam in question, barring some form of incapacitation or emergency outside your control. In such circumstances, evidence justifying the request for a makeup exam should be provided within 24 hours of the end of the exam.
- **Late Case Brief/Video Screencast Postings:** Grades for late case briefs or video screencast postings will be reduced by 25 percent if posted after the deadline on the same day, but by 11:59 pm. The earned assignment grade is reduced by an additional 25 percent for each additional day it is late. You must submit written documentation to the instructor for review within 24 hours of the deadline if you believe that circumstances outside your control (e.g., your unexpected hospitalization, death in the family, or similar event) justify acceptance of late work without penalty.
- **Final Research Paper:** Grades for final papers submitted after the deadline listed in the Course Schedule will be reduced by 25 percent if submitted within 24 hours of the deadline. The final grade will be reduced an additional 25 percent for every additional 24 hours after the deadline that the paper is submitted.

## 🎯 College/School Policies

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### Mass Communications Degree Program Learning Outcomes

**ACEJMC Professional Values and Competencies:** The Bachelor of Science degree program in Mass Communications is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC), and the Department is committed to preparing students with the requisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the media and communications industries after graduation. The Department has adopted as its Mass Communications degree program learning outcomes ACEJMC's 12 professional values and competencies, known as 6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS, that all graduates of an ACEJMC accredited program should be aware of and able to demonstrate as scholars and professionals in the discipline. For the detailed list of the ACEJMC professional values and competencies, see the [UWG Undergraduate Catalog](https://catalog.westga.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&poid=1991) ([https://catalog.westga.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=11&poid=1991](https://catalog.westga.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&poid=1991)) or [ACEJMC - Standard 2. Curriculum and Instruction](http://www.acejmc.org/policies-process/nine-standards/) (<http://www.acejmc.org/policies-process/nine-standards/>).

### 6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS

<p><a href="https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/mass-communications/assets/pics/6x6_MC_Success_Graphic.JPG">6 X 6 MASS COMM SUCCESS</a> (<a href="https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/mass-communications/assets/pics/6x6_MC_Success_Graphic.JPG">https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/mass-communications/assets/pics/6x6_MC_Success_Graphic.JPG</a>)</p> <p>(click to view image)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Freedom of Speech &amp; Press</li><li>2. History</li><li>3. Diversity</li><li>4. Global Impact</li><li>5. Theory</li><li>6. Ethics</li><li>7. Think Critically &amp; Creatively</li><li>8. Research &amp; Evaluate</li><li>9. Write Effectively</li><li>10. Self-Evaluate</li><li>11. Apply Numbers &amp; Statistics</li><li>12. Apply Technology</li></ol>
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### Film & Video Production Degree Program Learning Outcomes

**Overview:** The Bachelor of Science degree program in Film & Video Production is designed to train graduates in the field who are agile, adaptable, and able to employ their skills in an array of roles from entrepreneurial content producers to on-set film work,

both above and below the line. It will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the machinery at work behind media production and distribution, along with a set of tangible, marketable, and transferable skills for an array of positions within the infrastructure of film and content production. The FVP degree program learning outcomes include:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking, aesthetic awareness and technical proficiency in the production and assessment of audio-visual film work.
2. Understand all phases and roles of film production in order to help formulate career goals.
3. Understand the various potentials of film as both a commodity for a targeted audience, and an act of authorship and creative expression.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of cinema in a global society.

## Institutional Policies

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### Academic Support

**Accessibility Services:** Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

**Center for Academic Success:** The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or [cas@westga.edu](mailto:cas@westga.edu).

**University Writing Center:** The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or [writing@westga.edu](mailto:writing@westga.edu).

### Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

### Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of

academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

## UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

## Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

## HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: [http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional\\_information#](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information#) ([http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional\\_information](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information))

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

## Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGcares](#).

## ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

## COVID-19

**Proctored Exams/Online Instruction:** Students should be aware and plan ahead for the possibility of having to complete all courses and/or exams online or in a proctored environment. This means talking with your instructors about what minimum technical requirements (software and hardware) will be required should your class move online or a student's personal needs dictate. This also includes making plans for internet access at whatever location participation may occur.

Virtual or in-person proctored exams, if your instructor should require them, may result in an additional cost to the student. Please discuss these details with your instructor or see the information provided here.

**Face Coverings:** Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia institutions, including the University of West Georgia, will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where

six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

**Student FAQs:** For more information about UWG COVID-19 guidance for students visit the [Student FAQ webpage](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php>).