

**Law of Mass Communication
COM 415
Spring 2014**

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Class time: T & Th, 12 – 1:15 p.m.
Room: Carpenter 101
Office hours: W & Th 10:45-11:45 & by appt.
Angel site: <http://lms.wsu.edu>
Turnitin.com: Course ID 7457503. Password HugoBlack

(Email is the best way to reach me...I try to respond promptly during business hours. Be sure to send mail from your WSU email address; the WSU email system classifies hotmail, gmail, etc. accounts as junk.)

Course description

Law of Mass Communication will introduce students to the basic concepts surrounding, and theories of, the First Amendment's protections of speech and press.

Required textbook

Tedford, Thomas L. *Freedom of Speech in the United States*, 7th ed.

Grading

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

Exams (3 at 100 points)	300 points
Quizzes (5 at 25 points each)	100 points*
Free expression current event paper	150 points
Optional free expression current event	Optional (will average with low score from Exam 1 or 2)

Grading is recorded on a standard percentage scale, with the following breakdowns:

A	93% and above (511-550 pts)	C	73-76.99% (401-422 pts)
A-	90-92.99% (495-510 pts)	C-	70-72.99% (385-400 pts)
B+	87-89.99% (478-494 pts)	D+	67-69.99% (368-384 pts)
B	83-86.99% (456-477 pts)	D	63-66.99% (346-367 pts)
B-	80-82.99% (440-455 pts)	F	62.99% and below (0-345 pts)
C+	77-79.99% (423-439 pts)		

Participation and attendance

Attendance and participation in Communication Law are vital to your understanding of the material. While I will not take attendance, you should be aware that it will be very difficult to do well in the course if you choose not to attend class.

Please, *no cell phone* use of any kind during class. Additionally, you may use laptops during lecture, but only for purposes directly related to class (like taking notes). If your use of your laptop becomes disruptive to yourself, to me or to others, I will ask you to put it away.

Quizzes

There will be five quizzes throughout the semester, worth 25 points each. They will primarily consist of short answer and multiple choice questions. The first 100 quiz points count toward your grade; therefore you may miss one quiz without penalty, and/or any points you earn above 100 are extra credit. Quizzes *cannot be made up* for any reason.

* The total points possible from quizzes is 125; quizzes are worth 100, which means you may earn up to 25 extra credit points from your quiz scores.

Exams

There will be three exams, which will test your knowledge of the readings and class lecture and discussion. These exams will be a combination of short answer and short essay. Exams usually will require to you apply your knowledge of the law to an actual or hypothetical case. You must take all three exams to pass the class. Make-up exams will be permitted only in rare circumstances, must be scheduled prior to the set exam time, and will be far more difficult than the scheduled-time exam.

Exam 1 will cover Introduction through Hate Speech; Exam 2 will cover Prior Restraint through Privilege; Exam 3 will cover Fair Trial through Pornography and Obscenity.

Free expression current events paper

Each of you will write a paper outlining the legal issues surrounding some current first amendment controversy. You will summarize the issue, explain the legal aspects of it, and use relevant case law to suggest what the outcome of that issue should be. You will need to upload your paper to www.turnitin.com to check for plagiarism issues. For www.turnitin.com the class ID is 7457503, and the password is HugoBlack. More information will be available on the class website.

Final paper (optional)

If you choose to, you may write a second current event paper, which will act as extra credit. Your topic on this paper must be from a different area of law than your first current event paper (for example, if your first was about free speech, your second must be about free press). Your score on this paper will be *averaged* with the low score from among your first two exams; that average will replace your low exam score. So, for example, if your low exam score is 50 out of 100, and your extra credit paper earns 100 out of 100, the average of the two (and thus your new low exam score) is 75.

*Additional information**Accommodation for disabilities*

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please either visit or call the Access Center (Washington Building 217; 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the Access Center.

Academic dishonesty

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating and/or academic misconduct will not be tolerated, and will result in sanctions ranging from failure of an assignment to failure of the class. Additionally, I will report all instances of academic misconduct to the Office of Student Standards and Accountability.

I define plagiarism as the appropriation of another's language, thoughts, ideas or creation, and representation of them as one's own. For further explanation of plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, please see <http://conduct.wsu.edu/policies/standards-of-conduct/>

Schedule

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Reading (all from Tedford & Herbeck):</u>
Jan. 14	Intro to law Theories of free speech	
Jan. 16	Theories of free speech	Ch. 1, 15, and ch. 2 (parts I & II)
Jan. 21 & 23	Sedition & Radical Speech/ Compelled Speech	Ch. 2 (part III) and ch. 3
Jan. 28 & 30	Public forum/Time, place and manner	Ch. 11 (parts I, II, III & V)
Jan. 30 [*]	Quiz 1 (Intro, Theories, Sedition, Compelled)	
Feb. 4	Symbolic speech	Ch. 11 (part IV)
Feb. 6 & 11	Fighting words & Hate Speech	Ch. 7
Feb. 13	Prior restraint Quiz 2 (Forum/TPM, Symb, FW/Hate)	Ch. 9
Feb. 18	EXAM #1	
Feb. 20, 25 & 27	Libel	Ch. 4
March 4	Quiz 3 (Prior Restraint and Libel)	
March 6, 11 & 13	Privacy (March 6 is the last day to turn in Current Event paper for 20 points extra credit)	Ch. 5
March 25	Privilege	Ch. 10 (part II)
March 27	Catch up and review Quiz 4 (Privacy and Privilege) (March 27 is the last day to turn in Current Event paper for 15 points extra credit)	
April 1	Fair trial	Ch. 10 (part I)
April 3	No class meeting—Murrow Symposium day	
April 8	EXAM #2	
April 10 & 15	Electronic media (April 10 is the last day to turn in Current Event paper for 10 points extra credit)	Reading provided online (from earlier edition of text)
April 17	Copyright Quiz 5 (Fair Trial and Electronic)	Ch. 13
April 22	Corporate/Commercial speech	Ch. 8
April 24 & 29	Pornography & Obscenity Current event paper is due by April 24	Ch. 6
May 1	Catch up and review	
May 2 (Friday)	OPTIONAL EXTRA CURRENT EVENT PAPER DUE BY 5 p.m.	
Monday, May 5, 8 – 10 a.m.	EXAM #3	

^{*} Quiz dates are subject to change; normally quizzes will be held the class period following the day we finish the topic(s) covered by that quiz.