MASS MEDIA LAW

Professor Pielemeier

FALL SEMESTER 2012

11:00-12:30 Wednesdays and Fridays, Room 103

SYLLABUS (as revised on July 27, 2012)

ADVANCE ASSIGNMENT: Our first class session is scheduled on Friday, August 17. For that class session, please prepare to discuss the materials on pages 1-35.

REQUIRED COURSE NATERIALS

The required materials for this course have been assembled by your professor. You should purchase a set from the law school Bookstore. They will be photocopied materials, punched for a three ring binder. You should consider using one or two such binders to keep the material organized.

TWEN. Signing up for this course on TWEN is mandatory. You will need your Westlaw password to do so. Go to http://lawschool.westlaw.com, click on TWEN and after signing in, click on Drop/Add a course. You will see this course listed and you should add it.

OFFICE HOURS AND AVAILABILITY

My office hours are posted on my office door, and I will normally be in my office at those times. If I am not, and no note is posted on my door, please try again in five to ten minutes. I am frequently in my office during other hours and, except for the hour preceding one of my classes, you are welcome to stop by during those times as well. My office telephone number is 651-523-2910. You can also reach me by E-Mail at: jpielemeier@gw.hamline.edu

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The basic goals and objectives of this course include the development of an understanding of the legal issues, rules, and policies that have a strong impact on the "mass media," which includes entities such as radio and television stations, newspapers, producers of books and entertainment, producers of content for the World Wide Web, and others. The general topics to be covered are reflected in the table of contents below. Focus will also be on continuing to develop your proficiency in legal methodology and analysis.

Course Expectations:

HUSL Policies on attendance, lateness and preparation
The program of instruction at the School of Law is based on an active and informed exchange between instructor and student and between student and student. Regular, prepared class attendance helps develop skills essential to the competent practice of law. A student who violates the attendance policy, including the instructor's specification of class expectation described below, may lose his or her right to take the exam in the course, to receive course credit or may receive other penalties described below and in Academic Rule 108. Persistent or frequent lateness or unpreparedness may also be the basis for reduction of the grade awarded in a course. See Academic Rule 108 for further details.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

You are expected to be prepared for discussion of the materials assigned for each day. If you are called upon and are not well-prepared, this will result in a waste of your classmates' time as well as your own. Thus, if for any legitimate reason, you are not well-prepared, please let me know *before* class begins, and you will not be called upon during that class period.

As the Academic Rules and Attendance Policy provide, regular and punctual class attendance and preparation are required. As a general rule, I consider absences in excess of four class sessions per semester to be excessive. If the permitted number of absences is exceeded, opportunities to pursue "make-up work," as opposed to other sanctions, will not be granted absent a strong justification for the excessive absence, such as incapacitating illness or injury, death in the family, childbirth, or analogous circumstances. Such make-up work, if permitted, will ordinarily be in the form of a required short written paper.

At my discretion, lateness to class may be deemed an absence. Please be on time (subject to snow emergencies) and remain in the classroom during the entire class period unless illness requires that you leave.

Technology Policy

You may use laptop computers or other electronic devices in class to take notes and access course related materials. You should not use your laptop or electrnoic devices for other purposes.

In addition to the usual courtesies due to your classmates, refrain from text-messaging and email, using cell phones, pagers, or any other communication device. Refrain also from displaying wallpaper, screen savers, or other material on your computer screen that can reasonably be expected to distract your classmates.

GRADES

Subject to the next paragraph, your grade in the course will be based on a written final exam. That exam will be a three hour, closed book, self-scheduled exam.

However, grades may be adjusted upwards by one grade increment (e.g., from a C+ to a B-) for significant contributions to classroom discussion. These entail contributions beyond mere apparent good preparation. To warrant consideration for upwards adjustment, such contributions must reflect significant thought about the assigned materials. Extensive contributions are not the equivalent of significant contributions (and can on occasion be the opposite).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Table of Contents of the material used in this course in 2012 is attached for your general information about course coverage.

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JAMES R. PIELEMEIER
HAMLINE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
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