

Media Ethics and First Amendment Law (CMJ 3011) Fall 2002
Class meeting times: T Th 9:30-10:45, Ackley 36

Dr. Victoria Carchidi Dunton 33 Ext. 8333 Office Hours: T Th 1:30-4 and by appointment

Required Texts: First Amendment Handbook, RCFP
Media Ethics: Issues and Cases 4th edition, Patterson and Wilkins
Handouts, and reserve readings as assigned

Course description: an introduction to ethical thinking and implications of the first amendment. Classes will take a seminar form, with different members of the class presenting cases that allow exploration of ethical and legal issues surrounding the media. For some on-going assignments, we will use class time to brainstorm, critique and revise projects.

Objectives: by the end of the semester, you should have—

- Read carefully and thoughtfully about media ethics
- Thought about your own ethical positions
- Learned about the first amendment to the Constitution
- Presented ethical dilemmas to your peers
- Participated in discussions about ethical questions
- Practiced listening to and considering unfamiliar ideas
- Applied class material to media you encounter outside class
- Made some decisions about ethical issues presented in class
- Practiced writing clearly and carefully

Policies: *Attendance:* As this class is based on discussion as a forum for testing and refining ideas, absence is a bad idea. Because you will deprive us of your presence, it will hurt your final grade. However, as an ethical adult you will make choices, as you must. Be aware of the following consequences. Missed in-class work cannot be made up; you are responsible for all material and assignment information covered (NOT by asking me “did we do anything?”); and

Late work: Each assignment builds upon the one before. Accordingly, one delay has the potential to put you off track all semester. As an incentive to getting work in on time, a half-grade penalty will apply for each class period the assignment is late, up to two. Beyond two, the late work will not be accepted. If your schedule causes problems, please see me to arrange alternatives. Work may be submitted before the due date.

Academic conduct: Given that this is a class in ethics, it behooves us all to be ethical. So standard warnings against plagiarism or misrepresenting work apply, but need not be stated. If you have any uncertainty, please see me before submitting work.