

WOLLO UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION
COURSE PLAN

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Title and Module Number: Media Law, Ethics & Management (JoCo-M2051)
Title and Course Number: Media Law and Ethics (JoCo2051)
Credit Hours: 3 Cr. Hrs. / 5 ECTS
Class Schedule: **M34 T12 W12**

II. INSTRUCTOR

Engdawork Tadesse
Telephone: 0913248406
Office Hours: 3-5 a.m. T, TH or by appt.
Office Location: Ground, Room36, Teachers' Complex
E-mail: engdatf@gmail.com

III. ABOUT THE COURSE

This course will introduce students to the study of legal and ethical issues in the media in general and the structure of the Ethiopian legal system with respect to journalistic practices. Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of these issues and the ability to analyze the important legal and ethical issues involved with the mass media industry.

IV. STUDENTS LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the major legal provisions meant to govern the practice of journalism in particular and media in general in Ethiopia
- Realize the essence of code of ethics and the role it plays for a responsible journalism and communication
- Understand the interplay among various legal provisions and ethical principles in matters of resolving ethical dilemmas
- Evaluate and comment on ethical profile of some local media
- Apply the legal and ethical principles to solve hypothetical or practical cases with ethical dilemma

V. REQUIRED TEXTS and LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Book

Kruger, F. 2005. Black, White and Grey: Ethics in South African Journalism

Legal Documents

Federal Negarit Gazeta. (2012). **Advertisement Proclamation, Proclamation No. 759/2012:** 18th Year No.59. Addis Ababa

Federal Negarit Gazeta. (2009). **Anti-Terrorism Proclamation, Proclamation No. 652/2009:** 15th Year No.57. Addis Ababa

Federal Negarit Gazeta. (2009). **Charities and Societies Proclamation, Proclamation No. 621/2009:** 15th Year No.25. Addis Ababa

Federal Negarit Gazeta. (2008). **Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information, Proclamation No. 590/2008:** 14th Year No.64. Addis Ababa

Federal Negarit Gazeta. (2007). **Broadcasting Service Proclamation, Proclamation No. 533/2007:** 13th Year No.39. Addis Ababa

Federal Negarit Gazeta. (2004). **Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Proclamation, Proclamation No. 410/2004:** 10th Year No.55. Addis Ababa

Federal Negarit Gazeta. (1999). **Broadcasting Proclamation, Proclamation No. 170/1999:** 5th Year No.62. Addis Ababa

Federal Negarit Gazeta of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. (1995). **The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 1/1995:** 1st Year No.1. Addis Ababa

Negarit Gazeta of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (1992). **A Proclamation to Provide for the Freedom of the Press, Proclamation No. 34/1992:** 52nd Year No.8. Addis Ababa

Federal Negarit Gazeta. (1991). **Transitional Period Charter of Ethiopia, No. 1/1991:** 50th Year No.1. Addis Ababa

VI. EXAMS, ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION AND ASSIGNMENT

Exams: It is important that you show up for exams. Please arrive on time for exams. Make up exams will be allowed only under very extreme cases. Do not make travel arrangements that interfere with scheduled exams.

Cheating: Cheating will not be tolerated! Cheating includes the following: Sharing information during exams, reading notes during exams, taking photos of exams, taking photos of notes and looking at them on your cell phone, taking exams out of the classroom, discussing exams with latecomers outside of the classroom, having possession of a stolen exam or a photocopy of any part of a stolen exam, writing a non- attending person's name on an attendance sheet, and copying others' work. Any suspicion regarding cheating of any kind will be reported to Department Council. Cheating can result in serious penalty in addition to losing marks. Don't do it!

Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes. 1 point will be deducted from your final average for each unexcused absence. Verifiable and legitimate absences in which I am notified ahead of time will not result in lost points.

Participation: You are expected to participate in class discussions and activities. A portion of your final grade reflects participation. You will be expected to have read assigned material prior to class. All assignments are due at the beginning of class assigned. No assignments are accepted late.

Manners in Class: Please be conscious of your behavior so as not to offend, bother, or distract those around you. Don't make noise with food, food wrappers, gum in your mouth, rustling through your backpack, texting or playing games on your phone, etc. If you have a cold or allergies and are sniffing, coughing, and sneezing a lot, please sit as far away from others as you can. Be aware that you are in a large crowded classroom and everyone needs to respect each other's space.

Grades: Unless you believe I made a mistake in calculating your grade, do not ask me to change a grade.

VII. MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Small Group Work
- Case Studies

VIII. GRADING

No.	Assessments	Values
1	Assignments	20%
2	Term Paper	10%
3	Exams	25%
4	Participation and Attendance	5%
5	Final Exam	40%
Total		100%

Final grades will be based on your composite average.

No.	Grade	Range	No.	Grade	Range
1	A+	[90,100)	7	C+	[60,65)
2	A	[85,90)	8	C	[50,60)
3	A-	[80,85)	9	C-	[45,50)
4	B+	[75,80)	10	D	[40,45)
5	B	[70,75)	11	Fx	[30,40)
6	B-	[65,70)	12	F	[<30)

IX. COURSE CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF LAW

Law Defined; Natural and Man-Made Law; Divisions of Man-Made Law; the Purpose of Law in the Society; Introduction to the Ethiopian Legal System: Lawmakers and Policymakers; the Court System- Assessment: Test one 5%

PART 1: MEDIA LAWS

1.1 Freedom of Expression Vs. Unprotected Expression

Freedom of Expression: Freedom of the press; Freedom of expression; **Unprotected Expression:** Public person vs. private person; Defamation: Libel and slander; Invasion of privacy, Copyright: Immaterial Property Law; Protecting Literary Property; Fair Use; Freelancing and Copyright; Damages; **Journalism Laws:** Gathering Information: Recordings and Meetings; Protection of News Sources/Contempt Power; Court Coverage;

Assessment: Test Two 10%; Assignment One and Two 10%

1.3 Telecommunication Regulation

1.4 Legal Framework for Freedom of the Press

(A guest speaker will be invited from law department)

International and National standards; Legal Frameworks for Freedom of the Press in Ethiopia-Constitutional Provisions; Media and Media Related Laws; Regulatory Agencies

Assessment: Assignment Three 10%

PART 2: MEDIA ETHICS

2.1 Ethics Defined

The Difficulty Of Ethics; Moral Principles; Process Vs. Outcomes; Potter's Box; Ethics and Other Laws; Unsettled, Unsettling Issues

2.2 Media Ethics

Accuracy: Getting It Right; **Fairness:** Getting All Sides; **Independence:** Keeping Your Distance; **Privacy:** My Home Is (Not Always) My Castle; **the Dark Side:** Reporting Death and Trauma; **Deception:** Flying the False Flag; **Areas of Public Sensitivity:** Reporting Race, Blasphemy and Gender; **Confidentiality; Codes of Ethics**

2.3 Media Accountability: Self Regulation

Ownership Issues; Press Counsel

Assessment: Assignment Three 10%; Final Examination 45%