

MASS MEDIA LAW

Syllabus for Summer Semester - 2008

Instructor: Professor Deborah Zexter

Credit Hours: Two Credit Hours

Days & Times: Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. - 10:20 p.m.

Room: 216

- I. **Required Text:** *Entertainment, Media and the Law*, Paul Weiler, 3rd Edition, West Group Publishing (2006).
- II. **Course Objectives/Goals/Contents:** This course will cover the legal, regulatory and ethical constraints imposed on the mass media. Also, students will learn the purpose and philosophy underlying these constraints through the study of case law. This course will also cover the broad historical background under which such constraints have developed and continue to develop. Protection of the Mass Media through the First Amendment will be emphasized.

Students are not permitted to tape record classes unless special circumstances exist and special permission is received prior to class.
- III. **Classroom Expectations:** Students are expected to read and be prepared to discuss the material contained in the “required text” assignments (*infra*). Preparation is extremely important. A lack of proper preparation, when called upon, wastes time, adversely effects the entire class, and cannot be tolerated.
- IV. **Mandatory Attendance Policy:** Students cannot miss more than 20% of their classes (more than 3 meetings). If a student is not prepared when called on, the professor has the option of marking that student absent. When a student misses his or her fourth class, they will be automatically removed from the class, unless they successfully petition the administration to stay in.
- V. **Examinations/Grading Components:** There will be one final examination (two hours in length) consisting of two essay questions, each equally weighted. Questions will present hypothetical factual scenarios that require the student to analyze and apply the appropriate legal principles. A numeric grade based upon that examination will be assigned in accordance with the *College of Law* policies and rules pertaining to absences and instances of unpreparedness.
- VI. **Guest Speakers:** Attendance is always important, particularly where guest speakers are scheduled to appear. Students are expected to display the highest level of courtesy when guests are lecturing.
- VII. **Office Hours:** The professor will be available during the following office hours, and by way of phone [310-351-2593] or at samiz33@yahoo.com.

Monday and Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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VII. Course Schedule: The following schedule includes chapters that are sizable and therefore, may be considered as ambitious and subject to reduction. The professor reserves the right to alter or modify that schedule in order to best accommodate the needs and requirements of the members of the class. If any student is absent from a class, he or she should verify the assignment for the class session that follows. This syllabus is subject to change at any time and any and all changes will be announced in class.

- Week 1** [06/02/08] - Introductory Lecture: Sex and Violence in Entertainment and the Law (Pages 10- 45).
- Week 1** [06/04/08] - Chapter 1: Entertaining Sex (Pages 45-78).
- Week 2** [06/9/08] - Chapter 1: Entertaining Violence (Pages 78-119)
- Week 2** [06/11/08] - Chapter 1: Self Regulation by the Entertainment Industry (Pages 120-133)
- Week 3** [06/16/08] - Chapter 11: Performer Organization (Pages 912-943) – Guest Speaker
- Week 3** [06/18/08] - Chapter 4: Intellectual Property Issues (Pages 378 - 406) – Guest Speaker
- Week 4** [06/23/08] - Chapter 11: Judicial Control of Entertainment Power (Pages 943 - 973)
- Week 4** [06/25/08] - Chapter 11: Antitrust Challenges to Performing Rights Societies (Pages 973 - 1000)
- Week 5** [06/30/08] - Chapter 12: Entertainment Conglomerates Under Corporate and Antitrust Law (Pages 1001 - 1040).
- Week 5** [07/03/08] - Chapter 12: Post-Paramount Motion Pictures Practices (Pages 1041 - 1081).
- Week 6** [07/07/08] - Chapter 13: Entertainment in a New Telecommunications World (Pages 1082 - 1119).
- Week 6** [07/09/08] - Chapter 13: Broadcast Speech, Cable Distribution and “Must Carry” (Pages 1120 - 1156).
- Week 7** [07/14/08] - Chapter 13: Epilogue: Entertainment in International Trade (Pages 1157 - 1174).
- Week 7** [07/16/08] - Interactive Media: Materials to be provided.
- Week 8** [07/21/08] - Concluding remarks and review for final examination (subject to student accommodation).
- Final Examination:** **Two Hours/See Final Examination Schedule for Date and Time.**

