

J280, Journalism Ethics

Course Information

Spring 2019

6 – 7:15 p.m. Tuesday & Online, Crestview 209

Professor: Ron Allman, Office: Crestview 117

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Office hours: Tuesday, 3 — 5:30 p.m. and by appointment

Website: www.ronallman.com

Course Objectives

This course will teach the different systems of guiding principles that journalists use to confront ethical situations and issues. Case studies will be used to explore situations facing today's media practitioners, such as truth and fairness, privacy, conflicts of interest, responsibility, indecent materials and media monopolies. The course will also introduce research methods used to investigate ethical issues in mass media.

Students with Special Needs

Students who have a disability that requires accommodations in the classroom should contact the Office of Disability Services by phone, 812-941-2243, early in the semester so that their learning needs may be appropriately met. The student will need to provide documentation of the disability and if further documentation is needed, recommendations can be provided from the Office of Disability Services. Additional information about the Office of Disability Services may be obtained at [this website: www.ius.edu/disability-services/](http://thiswebsite:www.ius.edu/disability-services/).

Required Text

“Ethics in Media Communications: Cases and Controversies,” fifth edition, by Louis A. Day, ISBN# 978-0534637149.

Reading Assignments

All reading assignments will be read before class and you should be prepared to discuss the reading assignment in class. I reserve the right to quiz you on the readings if I feel the reading assignments are not being done.

Attendance, Punctuality and Deadlines

Class attendance is mandatory. You should plan to attend all class sessions, to participate in class and to stay for the entire class period. Attendance will be taken. Being late twice will be considered an absence. Three absences will result in a grade of “F.” Medical appointments, job interviews and part-time or full-time jobs are not considered valid excuses for absence. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Deadline extensions will only be given under special circumstances. Make up exams will not be given.

Class Interruptions (Laptops, Smart Phones, Et Cetera)

Laptops will not be used during class time. Phones will be turned off during the class time. Please inform those who might wish to contact you during class time that your devices will be turned off. Those creating these interruptions will be asked to leave the class and will be considered absent.

Grading

Your final grade will be determined by the total number of points you accumulate out of a possible 575. The breakdown is as follows:

- 11 Homework Assignments (25 points each): 275 points
- 2 papers (100 points each): 200 points
- 1 exam (100 points): 100 points

Points will be determined by the following chart:

A,	534-575	A-,	507-533	B+,	487-506
B,	467-486	B-,	440-466	C+,	419-439
C,	399-418	C-,	372-398	D+,	352-371
D,	332-351	D-,	305-331	F,	Less Than 305

There will be no extra credit opportunities.

Class Schedule

Jan. 8	Introduction Read Chapter 1
Jan. 10	Online Lecture: Ethics and Society, Potter's Box Read pp. 99—103
Jan. 15	Moral Reasoning, Philosophers
Jan. 17	Online Lecture: Truth Read Chapter 2 <i>Paper 1 Assigned</i>
Jan. 22	Truth Case Study <i>Homework 1 due</i>
Jan. 24	Online Lecture: Privacy Read Chapter 5
Jan. 29	Privacy Case Study <i>Homework 2 due</i>
Jan. 31	Online Lecture: Confidentiality <i>Paper 1 Due</i>

Feb. 5	Confidentiality Case Study <i>Homework 3 due</i> <i>Paper 2 Assigned</i>
Feb. 7	Online Lecture: Conflict of Interest <i>Paper 2 Assigned</i> Read Chapter 4
Feb. 12	Conflict of Interest Case Study <i>Homework 4 due</i>
Feb. 14	Online Lecture: Social Responsibility Read Chapter 3
Feb. 19	Social Responsibility Case Study <i>Homework 5 due</i>
Feb. 21	Online Lecture: Questionable Materials Read Chapter 10
Feb. 26	Questionable Materials Case Study <i>Homework 6 due</i>
Feb. 28	Online Lecture: Media Monopolies Read Chapter 7
March 5	Media Monopolies Case Study <i>Homework 7 due</i>
March 7	Online Lecture: Photo and Video and Ethics Read Chapter 8
March 12	Photo and Video and Ethics Case Study <i>Homework 8 due</i> <i>Paper 2 due</i>
March 14	Online Lecture: Politics Read Chapter 6
March 19	Politics Case Study <i>Homework 9 due</i>
March 21	Online Lecture: New Media Read Chapter 9
March 26	No Class
March 28	No Class
April 2	New Media Case Study <i>Homework 10 due</i>

- April 4 Online Lecture: Hate
- April 9 Hate Case Study
Homework 11 due
- April 11 Online Lecture: Conflict Management
- April 16 Becoming a Moral Adult / Review
Read Chapter 11
- April 18 Online Lecture: Working as a Team
- April 30 **Final Exam**, 5:45 — 7:35 p.m.

Diversity Statement

Diversity is the valuing and respecting of difference, including socio-economic status, race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, cultural and international origin, and other groups traditionally underrepresented at the university and in society. We grow and evolve as a university through seeing equality and representation as a goal and human right for everybody. IU Southeast is committed to recruiting students from diverse populations and to making the climate and curriculum welcoming and equitable. Students will leave the university with a raised level of awareness of the history of equality and difference and attain international awareness, so that their understanding of academic disciplines, society, and the workplace will be enhanced, and they will be receptive to and promote valuing and respecting difference in their lives and in the workplace.

Policy for Religious Observances

Indiana University respects the right of all students to observe their religious holidays. Accordingly, instructors will make reasonable accommodation, upon request, for such observances. As a student, it is your responsibility to request accommodations by the end of the second week of the semester using the Request for Religious Accommodations Form, which you can download at <http://www.ius.edu/diversity/files/religious-observances-request-for-accommodation.pdf>. More information on the religious observances policy is available at <http://www.ius.edu/diversity/resources/religious-observances.php>.

Student Code of Conduct

- website: <https://www.ius.edu/dean-of-students/code-of-conduct/index.php>

Disability Services

- website: <https://www.ius.edu/disability-services/index.php>

Weather Delay

- website: <https://www.ius.edu/about-southeast/emergency-preparedness/weather-policy.php>