

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Media Law in Society	Level: 5	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: HUM540	Cost Centre: GAJM	JACS3 code: P300/P500
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered: 1	With effect from: September 2014
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Office use only: To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: September 2014 Date revised: - Version no: 1
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Existing/New: New	Title of module being replaced (if any): HUM528 Professional Contexts
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Originating Academic Department: Creative Industries	Module Leader: Janet Jones
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Module duration (total hours): 200	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate): Core
Scheduled learning & teaching hours: 48	
Independent study hours: 152	
Placement hours: 0	

Programme(s) in which to be offered: BA (Hons) Broadcasting, Journalism and Media Communications	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None
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Module Aims:

This module aims to give students a detailed understanding of the restrictions imposed on public communication to comply with the legal and regulatory framework on defamation and contempt. The module builds upon core work at level 4 in which students examine the social

and cultural dimensions of media communications and are introduced to the basics of media law and regulation.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module, students will be able to ...

1. Analyse and apply the legal principles of defamation to case studies (K1, K3)
2. Use knowledge of media law to produce legally safe media material (K1, K3)
3. Apply the legal restrictions of contempt to court reporting and case studies (K3)
4. Analyse the application of media law to social media and internet publication (K5, K6)

Key skills for employability

1. Written, oral and media communication skills
2. Leadership, team working and networking skills
3. Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
4. Information technology skills and digital literacy
5. Information management skills
6. Research skills
7. Intercultural and sustainability skills
8. Career management skills
9. Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self management)
10. Numeracy

Assessment:

Indicative assessment:

Assessment 1

Analyse and discuss in a 2,000 word essay the changing attitude of the British media to defamation cases with reference to a specific case study.

Assessment 2

Discuss in a 2,000 word essay whether the UK's current law on contempt of court is effective in protecting the right to a fair trial in the light of challenges posed by new media forms of communication.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1-2	Essay	50%		2,000
2	3-4	Essay	50%		2,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be delivered using a combination of formal lectures, practical workshop sessions, individual tutorials and guided learning to support the lecture and workshop content. It will also include visits to court to provide context and professional experience.

Syllabus outline:

- Sources of law
- Structure of the judicial process
- Common law contempt and the Contempt of Court Act 1981
- The Defamation Act 2013
- Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act

Bibliography:

Essential reading:

Dodd, M. Hanna, M (2014) *McNae's Essential Law for Journalists 22nd edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Other indicative reading:

Quinn, F. (2013) *Law for Journalists*. London: Pearson Longman

Barendt E. Bosland J. Crauford Smith R. Hitchens L. (2013) *Media Law: Texts, Cases and Materials*. London: Pearson Longman

Morrison J. (2013) *Essential Public Affairs for Journalist*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Websites

UK Government education service

www.parliament.uk/education

Press Gazette

www.pressgazette.co.uk

Journalism.co.uk

www.journalism.co.uk

Department for Communities and Local Government

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government