

**Communication Law and Professional Ethics**

Code: 104980  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2501933 Journalism	OB	2	2

**Contact**

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**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: spanish (spa)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

**Prerequisites**

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**Objectives and Contextualisation**

This course is intended to provide students with knowledge of the legal norms and the basic ethical principles for the practice of journalism.

**Competences**

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Demonstrate a critical and self-critical capacity.
- Demonstrate a self-learning and self-demanding capacity to ensure an efficient job.
- Demonstrate adequate knowledge of the modern world and its recent historic development in terms of social, economic, political and cultural aspects.
- Manage time effectively.
- Research, select and arrange in hierarchical order any kind of source and useful document to develop communication products.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Value diversity and multiculturalism as a foundation for teamwork.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Apply ethical and regulatory principles to the production of journalistic texts.
2. Critically analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
3. Demonstrate a critical and self-critical capacity.
4. Demonstrate a self-learning and self-demanding capacity to ensure an efficient job.
5. Explain the explicit or implicit code of practice of one's own area of knowledge.
6. Identify the principal forms of sex- or gender-based inequality and discrimination present in society.
7. Manage time effectively.
8. Recognise and describe the codes of self-regulation and codes of ethics governing the profession, both in Spain and at EU level.
9. Research, select and arrange in hierarchical order any kind of source and useful document to develop communication products.
10. Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
11. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
12. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
13. Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
14. Value diversity and multiculturalism as a foundation for teamwork.
15. Weigh up the impact of any long- or short-term difficulty, harm or discrimination that could be caused to certain persons or groups by the actions or projects.

## **Content**

- 1.- Conceptual framework, rationale and focus
- 2.- Source system and jurisprudence in the Spanish legal system
- 3.- Communication rights in the Spanish Constitution: freedom of expression, right to information, conscience clause, professional secrecy and right of retraction
- 4.- Limits to communication rights: individual rights to honor, privacy, self-image and protection of personal data
- 5.- Limits to communication rights: public interests (national security and official secrets, public order, public health, morals, and protection of youth and children)
- 6.- Publicity of public authorities' activity
- 7.- Pluralism in the media system: internal (public media) and external (regulation on concentration)
- 8.- Self-regulation. Internal mechanisms: stylebooks, editorial statutes and ombudsman
- 9.- Self-regulation. External mechanisms: deontological codes and press councils. Independent regulators
- 10.- Balance and future challenges

## **Methodology**

The course will consist of one theoretical lecture and two seminars that will be held weekly. Seminars will deal with case studies as closely related to the present as possible, and they will provide students the opportunity to apply the theoretical concepts learned in class to a real case scenario.

The proposed teaching methodology and evaluation may undergo some modification depending on the evolution of the pandemic.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master class	16	0.64	8
Seminar	32	1.28	1, 8
Type: Supervised			
Exams	6	0.24	1, 8
Tutoring	5	0.2	1, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study	85	3.4	1, 8

## Assessment

Activity A: Seminar practical exam, 25% of final grade

Activity B: Seminar practical exam, 25% of final grade

Activity C: Final exam on theoretical lectures, 50% of final grade

Students are required to pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

There will be a re-sit opportunity only in the case of the final exam.

In the event that the student performs any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation of an evaluation act, this evaluation act will be graded with 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that could be instructed. In the event, that several irregularities occur in the evaluation acts of the same subject, the final grade for this subject will be 0.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final exam on theoretical lectures	50%	2	0.08	2, 1, 9, 4, 3, 5, 7, 6, 13, 12, 10, 11, 8, 15, 14
Seminar practical exam	25%	2	0.08	2, 1, 5, 13, 12, 10, 11, 8, 15
Seminar practical exam	25%	2	0.08	2, 1, 9, 4, 3, 5, 7, 6, 13, 12, 10, 11, 8, 15, 14

## Bibliography

Class manual:

Martínez Otero, Juan: Lessons in Communication Law. Valencia: Tirant lo Blanch, 2018.

For both lectures and seminar sessions compulsory readings and recommended complementary texts for each topic will be provided.

## **Software**

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