

# MCOM 4643 – Mass Communication Law

Fall 2022 – 3 credits  
Tuesday, Thursday – 9:30 a.m.  
Dr. Jim Sernoe  
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## Office Hours:

Monday – 9-11 a.m., 3-4 p.m.; Tuesday – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.;  
Wednesday – 9-11 a.m., 3-4 p.m.; Thursday – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.;  
Also by appointment – In-Person or Zoom

## Prerequisites

- Completion of MCOM 1233 – Mass Media and Society
- Junior standing

## Course Objectives/Description

- This course is designed to give students an overview of how mass communication law works in this country, with special emphasis on how the First Amendment has been interpreted.
- In addition to learning the actual laws, students will evaluate how well those laws work.
- Students will gain a better understanding of the types of behavior that will lead to trouble during their mass communication careers.
- Students will become familiar and comfortable with legal jargon and gain a better understanding of how the justice system works.

As this is a survey course, emphasis will be placed on gaining a broad, general understanding, and it will be difficult to study specific topics in depth. However, I encourage students to approach me about suggestions for more in-depth readings and/or projects on various topics.

## Reading

I have decided not to use a formal textbook for this course this semester. Required reading will consist of numerous handouts over the course of the semester and will be supplemented by considerable outside assignments/research. Note that there will be a lot of reading in this course and that reading loads vary considerably from week to week.

## Grading

Final grades will be based on assignments and in-class quizzes; a Moot Court project related to media law; and a final project. You should take note that you will be required to do a lot of writing over the course of the semester, and the quality of your writing will be a factor in your final grades.

In addition, you will find yourself in one or more public-speaking situations. It should also be noted that studying the law requires an eye for detail as well as the ability to organize your thoughts. In all formats and situations, you will be required not only to read/listen to the material thoroughly and gain complete comprehension, but also to think critically about the topics being discussed and form coherent, defensible positions. As a result, I'm not interested in true-false or multiple choices tests, nor am I interested in having you quote back the literature to me — I've read it. Details on all assignments will be given as the semester progresses.

Assignments and Quizzes - 45%: This component of the grade will have two sub-components:

- Students will complete brief assignments that relate to the material being discussed. Further instructions will be given as the semester progresses.
- Regularly scheduled quizzes will be given to make sure students are keeping up with the reading, attending class regularly, and comprehending the material. These quizzes will be announced in advance.

Please note that the number of quizzes and assignments is not set in stone. This means that it is impossible at the outset of the semester to determine how much each individual quiz or assignment will be worth.

If I sense that you are not keeping up with the readings or attending class regularly, unannounced quizzes will also be given, and they WILL count toward your final grade. This tends to happen when I can not generate a decent class discussion due to the fact that few or no students are prepared.

All quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and late students will receive scores of zero unless the late arrival is excused. See also the **Missed Assignments Policy**, which includes zeroes on quizzes.

If in-person instruction at MSU ends due to covid-19, quizzes will not be given online, but assignments will continue. Discussion posts may be required as well.

Moot Court or Case Study – 30%: Students working in groups will participate in moot court trials as attorneys and jurors. Further instructions will be given as the semester progresses.

If in-person instruction at MSU ends due to covid-19, Moot Court may or may not be possible. We will have to determine whether it is a good idea to pursue it in a remote format. Each group may instead give a presentation on an aspect of media law. We will decide as a class which option to pursue.

Final Project - 25%: Students will have the choice of two formats for the final project. Further instructions will be given as the semester progresses. Due dates will be determined later. In lieu of an in-class exam, we will spend the final exam session discussing your projects.

If in-person instruction at MSU ends due to covid-19, the final project may be altered according to circumstance.

Attendance: Attendance does not constitute a specific part of your grade, but perfect attendance is required. Past students have told me the reading is difficult and that they understood the material only after listening in class. In addition, there will be in-class work that may be collected. Thus, in order to do well, you will need to attend regularly and keep up with the reading. I will go to great lengths to attain full attendance (see note above re. quizzes, for example). If you have to miss a class or a deadline for any reason, please contact me IN ADVANCE to let me know. Contacting me in advance does not automatically excuse an absence, but it is a lot better than calling after the fact. If you fail to contact me before the next class period to explain an absence, it will be very difficult for me to excuse the absence. Please note that work, non-emergency medical and dental appointments, hangovers, intramural games, visitors from out of town, fixing your roommate's computer, fraternity/sorority events, arguments with boyfriends/girlfriends and studying for other classes do NOT constitute excused absences. See also the Missed Assignments Policy.

If you need to miss class due to a religious holiday, please see me as far in advance as possible.

If you need to miss class due to university-sponsored events such as field trips and sports, please see me as far in advance as possible. You will be required to complete the assigned work on or before the due date, and you will be required to submit an official form from the university before your absence.

As one of my former colleagues says, in the “real world,” you can not do your job if you are not present to do it. Employers do not generally tolerate such behavior, and employees who offer weak, irritating excuses frequently find themselves unemployed and unemployable. The same rules apply in this course. I don’t judge anyone who chooses to make attending classes a secondary (or lower) priority. However, this choice is not without consequences.

If you cannot make it a priority to attend every class session, please drop now so another student, who is more serious, can have your spot.

It is your responsibility to see me if you miss class. I will not chase students around the city.

A related note: You are required to be on time and I have little tolerance for those who are continually late. Constant tardiness will be noted and could lower your final grade. I am not above embarrassing students who walk in late.

Proper Communication with Me: Unlike some faculty, I do not generally give my cell. phone number to students. However, I am in my office far more than just during office hours, and I have an open-door policy (if I am in the office, the door is almost always open, unless I am discussing something of a private nature). If someone is already in my office when you arrive, please wait in the hall or work-café (i.e., don’t hover in the doorway and don’t interrupt unless it is truly an emergency). I try to return phone calls and respond to e-mails quickly. Please observe proper grammar and other rules of etiquette in your e-mails (e.g., “Hello Dr. Sernoe” is a far more professional greeting than “Hey!” or “Sernoe,” or worse, no greeting at all). Please remember this not a DM 2 ur friends 😊 – you are sending a professor an e-mail. There’s a difference. Please note also that I am not attached to devices 24/7. I generally do not look at e-mail after 6 p.m. or before 7 a.m. If you e-mail me at 1 a.m. or on the weekend with a question, do not expect an immediate answer.

Missed Assignments Policy: If you miss any assignments or quizzes without being excused, you will fail the course. I reserve the right to determine whether an absence will be excused. In-class assignments may be excused at my discretion; however, all outside assignments must be completed within a reasonable time frame after your absence — no exceptions. In addition, I reserve the right to determine what, exactly, is a “reasonable time frame.” In sum: This is a zero-tolerance policy.

I have no time or patience for those who are not going to take this class seriously; thus, "three strikes and you're out" does not apply. "ONE strike and you're out" is more applicable. Some past students have flunked the course for this reason. In any case, I tend to be cynical about making up missed assignments, but if you have a legitimate problem, alternate arrangements can be made at my discretion.

If you cannot make it a priority to complete every assignment, on time, please drop now so another student, who is more serious, can have your spot.

Please note that there is no provision for late work. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing deadline, please contact me. I reserve the right to determine whether a late assignment or project will be accepted.

By accepting this syllabus and remaining enrolled in this course, you are indicating that you understand the Missed Assignments Policy.

Grade Calculations: Almost all assignments will be graded on a 0-100 scale unless otherwise announced. Final grades will be determined on the traditional 90/80/70/60 scale.

Attitude/Class Participation: The success of this course will depend on students keeping up with the reading and discussing the topics at hand. As noted above, this isn't the type of course in which you memorize cases and precedents, spit them back to me on an exam, and forget what you've learned as you walk out of the exam room. I find that students get a lot more out of a course when they are forced to think critically and to present their conclusions. Because this is an upper-level course, corresponding attitudes and work ethics are required. If you're planning a semester filled with multiple choice and true-false exams, please drop now. Although there is no set percentage for this component, it will play a big role if you are on the "borderline" at the end of the semester.

I realize this class is among the more demanding in this major and that this course requires a lot for the three credits you earn. But given the legal minefield you will all face when you enter the mass communication world, your knowledge of this material is crucial.

If you cannot make it a priority to have a good attitude, please drop now so another student, who is more serious, can have your spot. See also the Missed Assignments Policy.

A related note: Cellular phones, pagers and other similar devices will not be tolerated. In my mind, they are a sign of a bad attitude. I will not tolerate annoying jingles and beeps. If you own such a device, turn it off (not on vibrate) or somehow make sure it doesn't make any noise while I am trying to conduct class – better yet, leave it at home or in your car. If your other commitments are so pressing that they can not wait until the end of the class session, it may be in your best interests to reconsider the priority you place on being here.

Sending and receiving text messages during class will not be tolerated.

Unfortunately, laptop computers, iPhones, tablets and other similar equipment will not be allowed in class for note-taking. Although I realize this is a convenient way to take notes, past students have abused the privilege by using the equipment to surf the Internet, send e-mail, and troll Facebook. I will not tolerate this kind of distraction. I will, however, allow the use of technology for legitimate class reasons only with my express permission.

These policies apply to all devices, including smartwatches.

Related: Recording any part of the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

Why am I so adamant about technology? As a colleague once said, "Learning requires attention and focus." Despite the current generation's approaches to multi-tasking, my experience has been that the brain cannot perform two high-level functions at once, and multi-tasking is a myth. We can't learn, pay attention to class material, and monitor our text-messages all at once. In addition, a student using/misusing a device can distract other students and even the entire the class. While some students are willing to sacrifice their own opportunities to learn, and they often argue that their actions affect no one else, this simply is not true. You do not have the right to distract the class.

I reserve the right to ask you to leave immediately or to embarrass you mercilessly if your beepers/phones/pagers/etc. make noise during class or if I see you using a device when it has nothing to do with the in-class topic at hand. If cell. phones become more than a one-time problem, I reserve the right to lower your final semester grade and/or take further disciplinary actions.

Appropriate conduct – in the classroom, with the instructor and in any other class-related situations – is required at all times. The instructor has the right to remove disruptive, disrespectful students (or students creating any other

kinds of problems) from the classroom and take other disciplinary actions as necessary.

No food and beverages are allowed beyond water, or if allowed in the specific classroom, other non-alcoholic drinks. Past students have brought fast food, breakfast and salads to class, and this is not appropriate.

I reserve the right to drop any student with an F if he/she has excessive absences or missed assignments, engages in disruptive behavior, has a poor attitude, or in any other way is clearly not taking the class seriously.

By accepting this syllabus and remaining enrolled in this course, you are indicating that you understand my expectations for students concerning attendance, attitude and work ethic.

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor will, if necessary, provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Any student who is in danger of earning a D or F in this course will receive notification. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student's transcript, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They do, however, give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should contact me as soon as possible to discuss future actions.

Related: MSU faculty also have the option of filing an Academic Referral and/or a Conduct Referral with appropriate offices, both of which will follow-up with students. I reserve the right to file such referrals when needed. I will always try to contact the student first to request a meeting, but if the student does not respond appropriately, I will file the relevant referral(s).

Two final notes on grading: Critics from both within and outside of higher education have accused faculty of engaging in "grade inflation," the idea that grades don't truly reflect quality and instead have been devalued to the point that an A means very good, a B means average, and anything less than a B is failing. I'm not sure whether those people would include me in their criticisms, but I do know I try my best to adhere to the system as I understand it: an A means outstanding, a B means above average, and a C means average. Please remember these interpretations as the semester progresses.

Please remember also that attending every class and completing every assignment do not constitute outstanding quality or guarantee an A for the course. Attending every class and completing every assignment are only prerequisites for achieving a desired grade in the class. Too many students have argued that these are the reasons they deserved an A in the class, and I do not buy into this way of thinking.

By accepting this syllabus and remaining enrolled in this course, you are indicating that you understand the grading policies for the course. If you have questions, you should see me as soon as possible.

### Statements Related to the Current Health Situation

- Given the state of the world, everything in this course could change with very little notice. That means deadlines, projects, even weighted percentages for each component of the course could change. Please note that I will consult with the class and use students' input to the extent practicable in making decisions about how to proceed. Students should not hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns and, even better, great suggestions. Most students know I will go out of my way to be fair to all.
- Safety and health of all are our top considerations. You are required to follow all best practices as they are developed during this crisis. If you feel sick, do not come to class. If you need to miss class, contact me as outlined under class procedures, and I will work with you.
- All class sessions will be available on Zoom. Those who stay home due to illness but feel well enough to attend through Zoom are welcome to do so. Please send me an e-mail in advance so I can open the meeting.
  - Related: The fact that a Zoom meeting is available does NOT constitute an invitation to miss an in-person class session. I strongly believe that the best learning takes place in a face-to-face setting. Please do not attend on Zoom simply because you do not feel like attending in-person.
- Masks cannot be mandated in classrooms, per the governor's misguided order. However, science has informed the world that it is a best practice. As a result, I am highly suggesting that you wear a mask. University administration has also made the wearing of a mask a strong suggestion, especially for those who are not vaccinated. I will wear a mask as I exit and enter the classroom, as well as when I am within 6 feet of another person. As the instructor's podium is at least 10 feet from the closest student, I will usually take my mask off when



I speak. However, if any student is uncomfortable with this decision, they are urged to contact me to discuss privately. Please see the university's official policy at the web site listed below.

- Similarly, vaccines cannot be mandated, per the governor's misguided order. However, science has informed the world – and continuous data collection shows – that it is a best practice. As a result, I am highly suggesting that you obtain a vaccination. I have done so, not only to protect myself but also to help contain the disease. University administration has also made obtaining a vaccination a strong suggestion. Please see the university's official policy at the web site listed below.
- Similarly, social distancing cannot be mandated. Again, however, I strongly suggest seating yourselves accordingly to the extent possible. Please see the university's official policy at the web site listed below.
- The Mass Comm. Dept. and the College of Fine Arts have adopted specific cleaning protocols, and all students are required to abide by these rules. Students who are unwilling to do their share to ensure everyone's health will be contacted by the professor. In short, you will be required to clean your area before and after class, the first as a safety precaution for yourself, the second as a courtesy toward others. We realize this means some areas may be cleaned twice within a brief time period, but this is better than not at all. This rule holds for traditional classrooms, labs, editing equipment, the newsroom and public areas such as the work-café.
- All handouts and other information will be available through the university's D2L system, and D2L's Gradebook function will be enabled (I will, nonetheless, keep my own spreadsheet with grades, and students are welcome to contact me for grade updates). Students are expected to understand how to navigate D2L, even if we continue with in-person classes.
  - If you do experience problems with D2L, please let me know as soon as possible. In addition, the D2L page has a "Report A Problem" function on the top navigation bar as well as a FAQ function in the middle of the page on the right.
- Related: All handouts will be available in hard copy and will be passed out in class. If you are uncomfortable with this and would like digital copies only, please inform me privately.
- If we are forced to switch to online-only instruction, all students will be required to:
  - Attend class at the assigned time. I will offer to record the sessions but these recordings are supplemental and not replacements for attending at the assigned times. Excuses such as work will not be accepted, and students will be expected to

make arrangements to attend every session. Students are also required to attend for the full class session.

- The same provisions regarding attendance for in-person classes will be in effect if we move to a virtual classroom.
- Have a computer with a webcam that can accommodate Zoom or other video software.
- Have reliable WiFi.
  - As to the three requirements above, I know not all students have access to a reliable computer and reliable WiFi. However, you are expected to make arrangements in advance and have a plan. Do not assume you will be able to complete the course using only your phone and/or without attending actual classes during class time. If these requirements present problems for you, please contact me as early in the semester as possible. I will work with students in the hope that they do not have to drop the class as a result of these requirements.
- Observe proper video meeting etiquette:
  - Arrive on time.
  - Leave your camera on. I realize not all students are comfortable with having their cameras on, but it will be a requirement. Not having the ability to look at you in-person to make sure you are paying attention and understanding what is being discussed, I will need to see you on camera (see next bullet point as well).
  - Pay attention. Devices such as phones will be prohibited, as they are in face-to-face classes. Students who are e-mailing or attending to other tasks while on screen will be reminded of this policy. Continued violations could result in a student facing disciplinary sanctions up to being dropped from the course with an F.
  - Set the mute function as the default. As stated above, discussion is encouraged, both in-person and in video meetings, but we do not need to hear barking dogs, ringing phones, roommates, etc.
  - Use the raise-your-hand function.
  - Wear proper clothing. I have heard stories of students sitting in on video meetings with no shirt and in bikinis. This is not appropriate and will not be tolerated.
  - Avoid eating while on camera. As in a face-to-face classroom, you are expected to eat your meals while not in class.
  - Have a proper background.

- Stay seated. Do not wander around. It will distract the rest of us and make us dizzy.
  - Do not plan to connect to Zoom while you are driving. This is obviously unsafe, as well as a poor atmosphere for learning.
- Use D2L effectively. As stated above, all syllabi, instructions for assignments/projects and other materials will be posted on the class D2L page. If we are forced to go to an online-only set-up, discussion posts may be required and assignments may have to be submitted through D2L.
- Communicate with me. It is well-known among faculty and students that I do not share my cell. phone number publicly, as some other faculty do. As a result, I do quite a bit of communicating through e-mail, especially if I won't be in my office. My office phone will be forwarded to my cell. phone, but students will still be expected to check their e-mail regularly. I will also make every effort to meet with individual students by Zoom or other video platforms.
  - Related: if adjustments to the normal office hours routine are necessary, I will communicate them to you.
- If we are forced to switch to online-only instruction, deadlines, assignments and other course elements may change (see also info. above). I will provide clear revisions, in writing, and will address any questions/concerns by phone, e-mail or in a video platform.
- Please note that the federal government, state government, various local government units (city, county, health district, etc.) and the university administration have the power to issue declarations that can directly affect how we navigate. Please be flexible and we will get through these extraordinary times as a team.
- Related: these governmental bodies have varying powers and can change the guidelines and mandates with very little notice. Please be flexible.
- Students are encouraged to visit the web page developed by the university in response to this crisis:
  - [MSU Coronavirus Update Page](#)
- I reserve the right to drop any student with an F if he/she violates any of these policies. At the same time, I will work with all students to my fullest ability to ensure a worthwhile educational experience.

## Ethics

Don't cheat.

"Not everyone cheats. Not everyone cuts corners. There isn't a diploma in the world that's more valuable than your integrity. And you can't buy your integrity back." –

Jason Gay, commenting in *The Wall Street Journal* on the recent admissions scandals involving celebrities and the wealthy, March 14, 2019, p. A16.

The MSU Student Honor Creed, written and adopted by the 2002-2003 Student Senate, covers expectations related to cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. The main statement from this document is:

"As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so."

All students in my courses are expected to abide by this student-produced document, as well as all other related university policies. I will provide copies of the MSU Student Honor Creed to any student who requests one. It is also available online at [MSU Honor Creed](#).

In addition, the university requires faculty to provide this statement to all students:

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and educational purposes.

By accepting this syllabus and remaining enrolled in this course, you are indicating that you understand the statement provided above and agree to comply with it.

I require complete honesty in producing your work. Working professionals are often encouraged to confer with their colleagues on strategies and wordings, but there is a difference between advice and blatant plagiarism.

I also realize it will be very easy to confer with colleagues on take-home assignments, but you should realize that instructors can usually identify when students have worked together. I also realize the Internet provides a convenient source of information, but students need to be aware that proper citation will be required.

Past students will tell you I take this issue very seriously and have not hesitated to confront them. A slightly higher grade on an assignment is not worth the extremely unpleasant experience of taking an accusation of academic dishonesty through the university hierarchy. Please don't force me to do it.

I reserve the right to drop any student with an F if he/she engages in any form of academic dishonesty. I further reserve the right to recommend other sanctions as may be appropriate. Students are also encouraged to consult the following sources for additional discussion of students' rights and responsibilities regarding cheating, attendance and general conduct:

- The MSU Student Honor Creed, available online at [MSU Honor Creed](#).
- The 2021-2022 MSU Undergraduate Catalog, available online at [MSU Undergraduate Catalog](#) (the 2022-23 Handbook was not available as this syllabus was being finalized).
- The 2021-2022 MSU Student Handbook (the handbook is also available online at [MSU Student Handbook](#)) (the 2022-23 Handbook was not available as this syllabus was being finalized).

By accepting this syllabus and remaining enrolled in this course, you are indicating that you understand the seriousness of academic dishonesty and realize I will impose the harshest sanctions possible if I can prove you have engaged in academic dishonesty. You are also indicating that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty; I will not tolerate the excuse that the student did not know he/she was engaging in academic dishonesty.

## Privacy

Federal privacy law prohibits me from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases I will not discuss your academic progress or other matters with your parents. Please do not have them call me. Regardless of these important legal considerations, it is my general policy to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

One possible exception is information for parents or emergency contacts that is determined on a need-to-know basis.

Related: Due to security and confidentiality concerns, I generally do not discuss grades and other sensitive information over e-mail.

## Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Please be advised that any violations of the law will be reported immediately.

## Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be accessed via the MSU Police Department's webpage at "[Run. Hide. Fight.](#)"

Please be advised that I make it a point to review safety procedures during the first week of class, to include active shooter and weather-related situations.

## Special Accommodations/Emergencies/Outside Difficulties

Students with disabilities or who are in need of special arrangements should see me as early as possible in the semester. I cannot help you if you come to me at the last minute. I will do what I can within reason to accommodate your needs, but federal law requires me to remain fair to all students.

Please note that in order to qualify for consideration of special accommodations, you must be registered with the MSU Office of Disability Support Services, and I must have a memo on file from that office, along with the Special Accommodations Request form.

If you have specific medical information that needs sharing or you need specific accommodations in case of emergencies or emergency evacuations, please see me as soon as possible.

If you have outside circumstances that may affect your performance in this class – including but not limited to food insecurity, inadequate housing, family issues – please contact me if you are comfortable in doing so. I may be able to refer you to on-campus resources that will help you address the situation.

Please note that all information provided to me remains confidential.

## Some Advice

- Attend regularly. This point cannot be stressed enough.
- Thoroughly understand all grading policies.
- Attend regularly. This point cannot be stressed enough.
- Note the Missed Assignments Policy and know that it is enforced.
- Attend regularly. This point cannot be stressed enough.
- Note the Academic Dishonesty Policy and know that it is enforced.
- Attend regularly. This point cannot be stressed enough.
- Note the Privacy Policy and know that it is followed.
- Attend regularly. This point cannot be stressed enough.
- If anything in this syllabus is unclear or if you have questions as the course progresses, ask!
- Attend regularly. This point cannot be stressed enough.

## A Reminder Regarding The Portfolio Requirement

Please note that all mass communication majors are required to submit a portfolio during their Internship course (please note that Internship is a prerequisite to Senior Production). This requirement is a part of MSU's reaccreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is non-negotiable. Students are required to demonstrate communication

competence through the written word and visual communication; two examples of each competency are required for the portfolio.

As you go through this and other classes, you are responsible for saving course work that could be included in your portfolio.

Please see me, your adviser or any mass communication faculty member for handouts with more information.

## Course Organization and Schedule

Because abundant lecturing tends to be counterproductive for both the students and the instructor, I try to include activities that are more interesting than straight lecture, such as discussions, group projects, presentations, etc. Some straight lecture will be necessary, but I don't want the course to proceed solely on my lectures. The success of this format depends on your willingness to **actively participate** in class discussions and other activities. If this approach doesn't work, I will be forced to lecture for the entire time.

This is the **tentative** course schedule. Due to storms, last-minute changes, extended class discussions and my frequent inability to stick to the agenda I set at the beginning of the course, this schedule is likely to change. I reserve the right to change the class schedule if circumstances make it necessary. You will receive a detailed schedule after teams and dates for Moot Court have been determined. Chances are good that you will receive at least one more revised schedule before the semester is over. If reading assignments or deadlines change, I will tell you well in advance. Please note that the reading and general workloads vary considerably from week to week.

It is imperative that you complete the readings before we begin discussing each unit.

Date(s)	Topic(s)	Reading
8/23 – 9/1	Section 1: Introduction; the Court System; Legal Concepts; Legal vs. Ethical	Handouts
9/6 – 9/8	Section 2: Free Expression, Free Speech, Free Press and the First Amendment	Handouts



Date(s)	Topic(s)	Reading
9/13 – 9/22	Section 3: Censorship and Prior Restraint National Security and Political Ideas Order In The Streets/Safety/ Time-Place-Manner Restrictions Schools	Handouts
9/27	Moot Court Instructions	
9/27 – 11/22	More on Section 3 Please note Moot Court during this time as well	Handouts
10/6	Moot Court Group 1: Case Distribution	
10/13	Moot Court Group 2: Case Distribution	
10/20	Moot Court Group 3: Case Distribution	
10/20	Moot Court Group 1: Hearing	
10/24	Last Day To Drop With A W	
10/27	Moot Court Group 2: Hearing	
11/3	Moot Court Group 3: Hearing	
11/17	Final Project Options	
11/22	Final Project Choice Due, 9:30 a.m.	
11/22	Final Project Instructions	
11/24	Thanksgiving Break – Class Canceled	
11/29 – 12/1	Finish Section 3	Handouts
12/1	Final Projects Due, 9:30 a.m.	
Tuesday, 12/6	Final Exam Session, 8-10 a.m.	