Fall 2019

HIST 370-001: Legal Issues in Media History

Kyle Riismandel

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HISTORY 370
LEGAL ISSUES IN MEDIA HISTORY
FALL 2019

Professor: Dr. Kyle Riismandel
Email: kriis@njit.edu
Room: CKB 314
Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11:20AM
Office: Cullimore 326
Office Hours: Monday 12-1PM, Tuesday and Thursday 1-3PM, and by appointment

Course Description:
In this course, we will consider how legislation and jurisprudence have structured the development of media industries, artists, and end-users in American history. We will examine how media law and policy affect media content and industry behavior as well as artists', citizens', and consumers’ rights. In addition, we will contextualize the development of media law within broader social and political currents in American history and analyze how multiple intertwining histories—the advent and adoption of new technologies; the shifts in American politics and culture; the transformation of American social life and leisure; and the interpretation, application, and reinterpretation of American law—collectively have affected the role, content, and structure of media in American life.

Required Texts:
All texts are available for download via Moodle: moodle.njit.edu. BRING ALL TEXTS TO CLASS (ON PAPER OR ELECTRONICALLY) as you may need to refer to them during discussion or be asked to use them for class activities.

Course Goals, Expectations, and Assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Goals – Students will have:</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of the key legal and cultural issues in 20th century media history in America.</td>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
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<td>Historian’s Brief</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Competence with the analysis of primary source texts including but not limited to court decisions, legislation, television, music, and Internet texts as well as other popular media.</td>
<td>Historian’s Brief</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Experience writing and speaking critically about regulations, laws, and court cases in American media history</td>
<td>All assignments</td>
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<td>Identify, analyze, and deploy secondary sources to make historical arguments.</td>
<td>Historian’s Brief</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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Course Grade:
Failure to complete all of the assignments will result in an automatic F for the course.
Final grades will be calculated as follows:
- Reading Quizzes: 5 x 3% = 15%
- Historian’s Brief Proposal: 5%
- Historian’s Brief Draft: 5%
- Historian’s Brief Final: 27.5%
- Take-home Final Exam: 27.5%
- Class Participation: 20%

Assignments
Reading Quizzes: Five quizzes will be given throughout the semester to test your comprehension of that week’s reading assignments. Depending on the week, the quiz may include questions on more than one reading. These will not be “gotcha” questions but will be used to evaluate your understanding of the key concepts of the reading assignments.

Historian’s Brief: This assignment will ask you to prepare an historian’s brief for a Supreme Court case from the list of cases on Canvas. In short, this brief will present historical evidence to advocate for a particular outcome in that case. You will propose which case and outcome you will be advocating, write a draft brief, and revise based on my comments to submit a final draft. Further directions will be available via an assignment sheet on Canvas.

Exams: There will be one exam, a take-home final. This exam will test your knowledge of key terms, events, policies, and debates in media history policy debates and will ask you to think critically about the role of government, corporations, and citizens in media regulation in the United States.

Class participation: Students are expected to:
1. Participate actively in all class discussions and activities
2. Be respectful to the instructor and their fellow classmates
3. Arrive to class on time
4. Stay focused on what is happening in our classroom not on chatting or using digital devices.

Further, participation will be assessed not just on quantity but also on quality. Quality participation demonstrates knowledge of the issues at hand, completion of that week’s assignments, and a willingness to engage in critical assessment of course texts and lectures. The participation grade may also include pop quizzes and short writing assignments done in class.

I encourage students to check in with me over the course of the semester regarding their class participation performance. Every course is a collaboration between teacher and student so please ask questions, come to office hours, and generally stay involved with me and your classmates. Further, do not wait to contact me if you are falling behind or having trouble understanding course content. Earlier is always better (I’m looking at you Seniors).

Course Policies
Attendance:
Students are expected to attend all course meetings on time unless receiving prior authorization. Missing class will not only adversely affect your class participation grade, but there will be screenings in class that will only be offered during that class period so do your best to attend. If you miss class to attend an NJIT sponsored event, to observe a religious holiday, or due to a documented illness, those absences will be excused. For these absences to count as excused, you must receive permission from the instructor in advance or provide a doctor's note (or other relevant note) in the case of sickness.

Classroom Conduct:
In this course, we welcome intellectual inquiry and thoughtful discussion of difficult questions but hate speech and disrespectful comments will not be tolerated. We must come to class with an open mind, a willingness to learn, and fundamental respect for the humanity of each person in the room and the historical actors we discuss.

Office hours/student appointments:
My office hours will be every Monday 12-1PM and Tuesday and Thursday 1-3PM. I am also available to meet by appointment if students are unable to make it to my office during these times. Feel free to send me an email to set up a meeting if you’d like to talk or have any questions about course topics, assignments, or grades.

Academic dishonesty:
Students are expected to obey the NJIT honor code, and I will enforce this code to its fullest extent. The goal of this course is to evaluate your understanding of course materials and ability to express that understanding. Cheating, plagiarizing or otherwise violating the code of academic integrity not only breaks the trust between professor and student but keeps you from learning course content and improving writing and critical thinking skills. I am here to help so if you are having trouble, do not cheat, ask me for help.


Generally speaking, it is a violation of the academic integrity code to:
- Use someone else’s words or ideas without attribution
- Copy content from someone else’s paper, quiz, or exam
- Pay for course assignments to be complete by someone else

Cell phones, Laptops, Tablets, etc.:
Students must turn off and stow their cell phones before class begins. Under no circumstances may students answer their phones, make calls, send text messages, or use their cell phone in any manner during class hours unless approved by me before class begins. Laptops and tablets may only be used for classwork. If I see a student using a cell phone in class or misusing their laptop or tablet, I will ask the student to leave for the remainder of the class. This policy is not because I do not like using cell phones, laptops, or tablets. This policy is because I do not want to interrupt class to ask you to stop texting, etc. It interrupts the flow of discussion, distracts other students, and keeps us all from doing the work of the course.
Students with Disabilities or Special Needs:
Students who have disabilities or special needs should contact NJIT’s Student Disability Services to help procure accommodations in completing coursework. The center can be found at http://www.njit.edu/counseling/services/disabilities.php. I am happy to help you in any way I can to learn course content so please register so I can properly assist you.

WEEK 1 – Introductions/Preparing for Success
SEPT 3: Introductions/What is Media?/Why do we study it?/Canvas orientation
SEPT 5: Studying Law and Regulation
Secondary Sources
- Roosevelt University, “The Parts of a Court Decision”
- Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, D.C., “Quick Links and Sources to Court Opinions”

WEEK 2 – Telephone
SEPT 10: Lecture: Spreading and Regulating Communications Technology
SEPT 12: Discussion
Secondary Source
- Robert Horowitz, The Irony of Regulatory Reform, Ch. 5, pp. 126-154

READING QUIZ #1 - HOROWITZ

WEEK 3 – Film/Radio
SEPT 17: Lecture: Film and Regulation of Private Industry
Secondary Source
SEPT 19: Lecture: The Public Airwaves and the Public Interest
ASSIGNMENT – HISTORIAN’S BRIEF PROPOSAL DUE SEPT. 19TH BY 5PM

WEEK 4 – Radio/Television
SEPT 24: Discussion
Primary Source
- FCC, “Obscene, Indecent and Profane Broadcasts,”
Secondary Source
SEPT 26: Lecture: From the Airwaves to Coaxial Cable
Secondary Source
- Allison Perlman, Public Interests: Media Advocacy and Struggles over U.S. Television, Ch. 2

READING QUIZ #2 – PERLMAN

WEEK 5 – Internet/Net Neutrality
OCT 1: Lecture: Who Owns the Internet?
OCT 3: Discussion
Primary Sources

WEEK 6 – Net Neutrality/Monopoly and Media Consolidation
OCT 8: Discussion – The Digital Divide
Secondary Sources
OCT 10: Lecture: News Media Mergers and Consolidation

WEEK 7 – Monopoly and Media Consolidation II – Services, Platforms, and Access Points
OCT 15: Discussion
Secondary Source
- Marjorie Heins and Mark Cooper, “The Legal and Social Bases of Localism are Stronger than Ever”

READING QUIZ #3 – HEINS AND COOPER
OCT 17: Discussion
Primary Source
- T-Mobile/Sprint Merger Documents
Secondary Source

WEEK 8 - First Amendment and the Free Press
OCT. 22: Lecture: First Amendment and the Free Press
OCT 24: Discussion
Secondary Source
- “Wikileaks and the First Amendment,” Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Vol. 65, No. 3 (Spring 2012)

WEEK 9 – Historian’s Brief Workshop
OCT 29: Discussion
OCT 31: Discussion

WEEK 10 - Copyright
NOV 5: Lecture: Sampling and the Legal Aspects of a New Art Form
NOV 7: Discussion
Secondary Sources
- Sarah Jeong, “The Hidden Costs of Streaming Music,” The Verge, March 14, 2018

READING QUIZ #4 - KELLER
WEEK 11 – Piracy
NOV 12: Lecture: Online Piracy from Napster to SOPA/PIPA/CISPA
NOV 14: Discussion
Secondary Source
  • John Alderman, *Sonic Boom: Napster, MP3, and the New Pioneers of Music*, Ch. 9
ASSIGNMENT: HISTORIAN’S BRIEF DRAFT DUE

WEEK 12 – Privacy
NOV 19: Lecture: Surveillance and the Law: COINTELPRO to the Patriot Act
NOV 21: Discussion
Primary Source
  • *The Guardian*, “The NSA Files”
Secondary Source

WEEK 13 – Platforms and Privacy
NOV 26: Discussion
Secondary Sources
  • Tarleton Gillespie, *Custodians of the Internet: Platforms, Content Moderation, and the Hidden Decisions that Shape Social Media*, Ch. 1
  • Virginia Eubanks, *Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor*, Ch. 5
READING QUIZ #5 – EUBANKS
NOV 28: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 14 - Platforms and Privacy/Wrap-UP
DEC 3: Discussion
Secondary Sources
  • Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*, Ch. 5
DEC 5: Wrap-Up
DEC 10: Final Exam Review
ASSIGNMENTS:
  • HISTORIAN’S BRIEF FINAL DRAFT DUE DECEMBER 11TH AT 5PM
  • TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20TH AT 5PM