



Module Specification

Ethics, The Law and You

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Ethics, The Law and You

Module code: UABB4T-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Not in use for Modules

Field: Broadcast and Journalism

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The module details a range of ethical, legal and regulatory frameworks within which journalism and media practitioners work.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: There is a strong focus on the changing legal and judicial environment in which journalists and storytellers work. It will also help develop your

understanding of how to protect yourself and your work by learning about copyright, defamation and privacy law across the range of platforms.

Outline syllabus: In the first instance, you will be asked to consider your own ethics and different conceptual-theoretical perspectives which have been put forward to help deepen your understanding of the issues. Understanding competing ethical frameworks will enable you to contextualise legal and regulatory standards that apply to working in journalism and media production, but also to reflect on these systems to gain a critical awareness that will help you become better and more aware practitioners.

The module also considers the codification of ethics in a range of regulatory and legal tools, focusing on debates around issues such as freedom of expression, censorship, media ownership, media pluralism, online boundaries, reporting courts and the justice system, state security and notions of public interest in national, regional and international context. It also covers the basic functions of government, courts, and the workings of the state.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Teaching will consist of lectures, workshops, role-play and practical work, where skills will be practised and critiqued. There will also be visits to court to observe and report on activity there.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding of competing conceptions of ethics, and how normative conceptions of ethics can be used to critically analyse existing laws and other regulations.

MO2 Analyse and critique ethical challenges to journalists and other public communicators.

MO3 Show detailed knowledge of legal and normative concepts, such as human rights, privacy, defamation, contempt of court.

MO4 Demonstrate a critical awareness of transnational media accountability systems and their role in the relationship between state, citizen and the media.

MO5 Can identify, analyse and communicate knowledge of a range of laws that apply to journalists and media practitioners, how they are applied, and how they impact on journalists and other media workers.

MO6 Demonstrate the ability to apply the above knowledge in practice to produce content which conforms to legal and regulatory standards.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy develops students' understanding of, and critical engagement with, current debates concerning ethics, law and regulation as it applies to journalism and other factual media production. It does this by requiring students to critique the current position and to think about future challenges through academically informed reflection. It also asks students to test out their knowledge and skills in the form of practical journalism exercises both written and in video/audio formats.

The assessments develop both academic and journalist writing skills; critical thinking; report writing; and presentation skills.

These assessment types have been chosen as the programme as a whole seeks to underline and critique theory with practice, as well as provide students with

opportunities to develop a portfolio of work as they progress through the three years. Understanding of ethical, legal and regulatory constraints applies to all aspects of the journalism and media production course.

Plagiarism: In-class assessments will require students to complete tasks under controlled conditions in person. The portfolio of work is based on the individuals' experience and therefore cannot be bought 'off the shelf'. This type of assessment has been used in previous iterations and has proved successful in designing out plagiarism.

For the in-class test there will be an opportunity for a practice run for which students will receive formative feedback. The actual test will require new material but will be in the same format.

Assessment components:**Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: In-class presentation - including written report (10-15 mins)

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: A portfolio of work containing academic reflection on ethical and legal issues and examples of journalism, such as court reports in a number of formats both written and recorded (equivalent to 2,500 words)

Weighting: 70 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Presentation (Resit)

Description: In-class presentation - including written report (10-15 mins)

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: A portfolio of work containing academic reflection on ethical and legal issues and examples of journalism, such as court reports in a number of formats both written and recorded (equivalent to 2,500 words)

Weighting: 70 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Media Production (Journalism) [Bower Ashton] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Media Production {Foundation}[Sep][SW][Bower Ashton][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Media Production (Journalism)[Sep][PT][Bower Ashton][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Media Production (Journalism){Foundation}[Sep][SW][Bower Ashton][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Media Production (Journalism) {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Bower Ashton][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Media Production {Foundation}[Sep][FT][Bower Ashton][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Media Production [Sep][PT][Bower Ashton][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Media Production [HKUSpace] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Media Production [Bower Ashton] BA (Hons) 2022-23