

<b>Module Code:</b>	MCT0516		
<b>Module Title:</b>	MEDIA LAW		
<b>Module Tutor:</b>	DUNCAN BLOY	<input type="text"/>	
<b>SEMESTER:</b>	AUTUMN AND SPRING	<b>CREDIT VALUE:</b>	10

**Scheme of study for which this module is compulsory:**  
**Title of Scheme:** MA Journalism

**Aims Of The Module:**  
 TO PROVIDE AN APPRECIATION OF THE ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM AS THE CONTEXTUAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE MEDIA OPERATES. STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED TO IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS JURISPRUDENCE. RELEVANT STATUTORY AND CASE LAW MATERIAL WILL BE EXPLAINED AND STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT BASIC RESEARCH TO ACCESS THIS INFORMATION.

**Learning Outcomes Of The Module:**  
 ON COMPLETION OF THE MODULE A STUDENT SHOULD HAVE:

1. Knowledge and understanding: knowledge of the legal context in which the media has to operate
2. Intellectual skills: enhanced analytical, research and communications skills.
3. Discipline specific skills: increased confidence to challenge assumptions particularly about freedom of expression. Ability to weigh legal risks when working as a journalist.
4. Transferable skills: Increased interpersonal and communication skills.

**Methods Of Teaching And Learning:**  
 THE MODULE WILL BE CONDUCTED ON A 'WORKSHOP' BASIS IN PREFERENCE TO A FORMAL LECTURE STYLE. THE SESSIONS WILL BE INTERACTIVE AND STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS AND ANALYSIS OF LEGAL AND JOURNALISTIC/BROADCASTING ISSUES. WORKSHOPS ARE PLATFORM SPECIFIC, TAILORED TO NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE AND BROADCAST JOURNALISTS.

**Assessment:**  
 ONE PIECE OF ASSESSED COURSEWORK WITH A WORD LIMIT OF 2,000 TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE END OF THE MODULE. A CHOICE OF TOPICS WILL BE GIVEN AND WILL REFLECT CURRENT ISSUES FACING JOURNALISTS. THE COURSEWORK IS DESIGNED TO ASSESS RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS AND ABILITY TO IDENTIFY CORRECTLY THE LEGAL ISSUES THAT MAY EITHER ENHANCE OR RESTRICT JOURNALISTS' ABILITY TO CARRY OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS. COURSEWORK AND EXAMS ARE TAILORED TO THE RANGE OF JOURNALISM PLATFORMS COVERED WITH APPROPRIATE CHOICES FOR NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE AND BROADCAST STUDENTS.  
 To work as a journalist, a student needs to have retained this legal information and be able to apply it in live situations. An exam format is well suited for testing the scope of the student's knowledge and powers of critical analysis to apply this to a range of issues and scenarios.

**Methods of Summative Assessment:**

Type	% Contribution	Title	Deadline	Word Length
CW	30	Essay on topical legal issue relevant to working journalists	April 2012	2,000
Exam	70	Media Law	May 2012	2 hours

**Syllabus Content:**

- 1) Introduction to the legal system
- 2) Freedom of expression and the public interest
- 3) Law relating to defamation
- 4) Criminal and Civil Reporting restrictions and their consequences
- 5) Contempt of Court
- 6) Human Rights: Article 8 v Article 10.
- 7) Privacy
- 8) Media regulation
- 9) Protection of journalists' sources.
- 10) Intellectual Property: Copyright, Image Rights and Trademarks.
- 11) Reflections: The future relationship between the legal process and the journalist

***There will undoubtedly be new issues for discussion raised by court decisions or new legislation and in the interests of topicality, time will be found to integrate them into the course.***

**Indicative Reading List:**

Hadwin, Sara & Bloy, Duncan (2011) **Law and the Media**, Sweet & Maxwell (Second Edition).

Carey, Peter et al (2010) **Media Law**, Sweet & Maxwell

Greenwood, Walter; Welsh, Tom and Banks, David (2011) **MacNae's Essential Law for Journalists (21st edition)**, Oxford University Press.

Robertson & Nicol (2008) **Media Law (5th Edition)**, Penguin.

**Personal Development Planning:**

PROGRESS ON ALL MODULES IS DISCUSSED IN FORTNIGHTLY ONE-TO-ONE TUTORIALS WITH PERSONAL TUTORS.

Students are made aware that the understanding and application of media law are key to employability.