1. **KentVision Code and Title of the module**

JOUR5110 (JN511) Freedom of Expression, the Law, and the Media

1. **Division School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Division for the Study of Law, Society and Social Justice (Centre for Journalism)

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 6

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

30 credits (15 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn term (term 1) and Spring term (term 2)

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or module restrictions**

None

1. **The Courses s of study to which the module contributes**

Compulsory to the following courses: BA (Hons) Journalism

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. Understand, in detail, those elements of the English legal system within which the law relating to freedom of expression and the media is administered.
3. Identify the main literature and sources relevant to the law relating to freedom of expression and the regulation of the media, and to use key research techniques in locating and using those materials.
4. Identify the main functions and principles of law relating to freedom of expression and the media.
5. Understand, critically, the ethical principles underlying the notion of freedom of expression, its promotion by the state and also the restrictions placed upon it by the law in England and Wales.
6. Critically assess the tensions between the state’s support of freedom of expression and the legal restrictions placed upon it.
7. Critically examine the role of a free media in a democracy.
8. Understand and critically examine the efficacy of the restrictions place upon the media by the law.
9. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
10. Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of ideas and information.
11. Engage in meaningful debate about issues faced by media professionals.
12. Use primary and secondary source material to present accurate and reasoned arguments.
13. Correctly apply the law to complex scenarios.
14. Consider and evaluate their work with reference to professional standards.
15. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

Basic Introduction to the English legal system. Introduction to the theory of, and law relating to, Freedom of Expression. Defamation. Breach of confidence and privacy. Contempt of Court. Reporting – courts and current events. Protection of journalists and their sources. Censorship. Copyright. Freedom of Information and Data Protection. Official Secrets.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Barendt E (2005), *Freedom of Speech,* 2nd edn, OUP, Oxford.

Barendt E et al (2014), *Media Law: Text, Cases and Materials,* 2nd edn, Pearson education, Harlow.

Fenwick H and Phillipson G (2006), *Media Freedom under the Human Rights Act,* OUP, Oxford.

Hanna M and Dodds M (2020), *McNae’s Essential Law for Journalists,* 25th edn, OUP, Oxford.

Quinn F (2018), *Law for Journalists,* (6th edn, Pearson Education, Harlow.

The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

1. **Contact hours**

Total Contact Hours: 42

Private Study Hours: 258

Total Study Hours: 300

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

Coursework – essay (2500 words) - 30%

Coursework – essay (4000 words) - 70%

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment instrument: 100% coursework

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

**Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| **Private Study** | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |  | x | x | x |
| **Lectures** | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |  | x | x | x |
| **Seminars** | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| **Essay (30%)** | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | X |
| **Essay (70%)** | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The Division/School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Medway

1. **Internationalisation**

While the module focuses primarily on English media law, material from other jurisdictions (e.g. the United States, Germany, France) is used to inform discussion of alternative approaches to law and regulation. Students also study the laws applicable across European jurisdictions (both the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights). Students are encouraged to contribute to discussions with their knowledge or research of attitudes to media regulation elsewhere in the world.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| EPA | Major | 2021-22 | 11, 13.1, 14 | No |
| 11/02/2022 | Minor | 2022-23 | 13.1, 13.2, 14 | No |

Revised FSO Feb 2018