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

JOUR5200 / JOUR5201 (JN520) Introduction to Media Law

1. **Division and 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 5

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

15 credits (7.5 ECTS)

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

Spring term (term 2)

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

None

1. **The courses of study to which the module contributes**

Optional to the following courses: BA (Joint Honours) One Other Subject WITH Journalism; BA (Joint Honours) One Other Subject AND Journalism

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. Understand the key legal principles relevant to the production of multimedia journalism in England and Wales
3. Identify key reference literature and sources used in newsrooms and be able to apply them to common news situations
4. Critically examine how media law in England and Wales upholds the right to privacy and protects from reputational damage
5. Critically examine how media law in England and Wales upholds the right to a fair trial and the protections offered to victims and witnesses of crime
6. Understand how copyright law applies in the production of multimedia journalism
7. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
8. Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of ideas and information
9. Engage in meaningful debate about issues faced by media professionals
10. Use primary and secondary source material to present accurate and reasoned arguments
11. Correctly apply the law to simple scenarios
12. Consider and evaluate their work with reference to professional standards
13. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

Journalists wield an extraordinary power in society. A single review can boost the career of an entertainer or end it. A single crime report can destroy the reputation of the accused, even if they are later found innocent. This module offers a basic introduction to the law as it applies to journalists in England and Wales. Topics covered will include: copyright and how it applies to newspapers, broadcasters and internet publishers; the rules governing crime reporters and how they guarantee a defendant’s right to a fair trial; defamation and how the law protects people’s reputations, and under what circumstances journalists can publish potentially harmful facts and opinions; the legal protection offered to private and confidential information.

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

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

Hanna, M. and Dodd, 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**

Contact Hours: 22

Private Study Hours: 128

Total Study Hours: 150

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

Coursework – presentation (10 minutes) – 30%

Coursework – essay (3000 words) - 70%

13.2 Reassessment methods

Like-for-like

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 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| **Private Study** | **x** | x | x | x | x | x |  | x | x | x |
| **Lectures** | **x** | x | x | x | x | x |  | x | x | x |
| **Seminars** | **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 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| **Presentation (10 minutes)** | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| **Essay (3,000 words)** | 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 (eg 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) |
| 09-2021 | Major | 2021-22 | 7, 11, 13.1, 14 | No |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Revised FSO Feb 2018