

## **MODULE:**

## **MEDIA LAW & ETHICS**

Semester:	II (Spring)
Stage:	II - Development & Integration
Theme:	Structure of the Media
Assessment Weighting:	Exam 60% Assignment 40%
Number of Credits:	4 semester credits/6 quarter units

### **INTRODUCTION**

This course will provide an overview of the Irish legal system whilst focusing in detail on areas of the law particularly relevant to journalists. Thus, the law of copyright and defamation will be taught in a comprehensive but practical manner. Students will also be introduced to the law of contempt of court and the emerging law of privacy. An overview of contract and company law will also be provided. This course will also introduce students to the ethical considerations that apply to the discipline of journalism.

### **MODULE AIMS**

This module aims to ensure that the graduate should have acquired a competent level of literacy in common legal doctrines, concepts, processes and terms so that, inter alia, they will recognise these occasions when professional legal opinion must be sought. It aims to ensure that students will have knowledge of what they legally can do and what they ethically should or should not do.

### **MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**This module delivers / supports the following programme learning outcomes:**

- Competently identify and apply the knowledge, concepts and perspectives relevant to their work in media related employment.
- Demonstrate independent critical judgement and analytical skills.
- Apply ethical standards to their work.
- Identify and have the confidence to exploit opportunities for new media products / services as they emerge.

**It does this by specifically ensuring that on module completion, students will be in a position to:**

- Recognise the legal and professional implications for their own and their employers' interests of dubious or questionable copy, news reports, etc.
- Act appropriately on the legal significance, when relevant, of current events, proposed legislation, court and tribunal decisions, public issues and controversies, news items, etc.
- Build on this general foundation, which may confer on them a specialist status and so advance their career opportunities.

## **ASSESSMENT METHODS**

This module will be taught through a mixture of formal and participative lectures, allowing student interaction and questioning. Case studies will be presented to the class in order to highlight the practical ramifications of the subject matter. The course will be examined by an exam (60%), which will test the students' understanding of the Irish legal system and how it relates to the media and an assignment (40%), which will measure the students' ability to comprehend and analyse ethical dilemmas which may emerge.