



Universitat de Lleida

# DEGREE CURRICULUM

# **LAW AND ETHICS OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION**

Coordination: SANCHEZ MEZA, METZERI

Academic year 2023-24

## Subject's general information

Subject name	LAW AND ETHICS OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION			
Code	101971			
Semester	2nd Q(SEMESTER) CONTINUED EVALUATION			
Typology	Degree	Course	Character	Modality
	Bachelor's Degree in Audiovisual Communication and Journalism	3	COMPULSORY	Attendance-based
Course number of credits (ECTS)	6			
Type of activity, credits, and groups	Activity type	PRAULA		TEORIA
	Number of credits	3		3
	Number of groups	1		1
Coordination	SANCHEZ MEZA, METZERI			
Department	PHILOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION			
Teaching load distribution between lectures and independent student work	150 hours: 60 hours on-site lessons (HP); 100 hours autonomous work (TA).			
Important information on data processing	Consult <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.			
Language	Catalan			

Teaching staff	E-mail addresses	Credits taught by teacher	Office and hour of attention
CLUET VALL, ADRIÀ	adria.cluet@udl.cat	3	
SANCHEZ MEZA, METZERI	metzeri.sanchez@udl.cat	3	

## Subject's extra information

It is necessary to pass the exam in order to pass the subject. The evaluation is continuous. Apart from the final exam and project, a midterm test will be taken and the participation in other activities during the course (see the Evaluation section) will count in the final grade.

Students must commit to the UdL Code of Ethics.

If academic fraud or spontaneous copying is detected, we will apply what is established in the Regulations for the Assessment and Grading of Student Learning in UdL Bachelor's and Master's Degrees.

## Learning objectives

- To identify the concepts, ethical principles and deontological norms that allow the student to build a properly formed professional conscience, in the reflection, understanding and resolution of ethical conflicts that arise from the exercise of their informative-communicative activity.
- To apply self-regulation codes and professional ethical codes to the production of communicative content.
- To detect the main ethical problems generated by professional practice in the field of social media.
- To demonstrate knowledge of legislation in the field of social communication, and specifically in terms of freedom of expression and information.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the legal regime of the media.

## Competences

### Basic

CB5. Knowing how to develop the learning skills needed to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy.

### General

CG3. Applying theoretical knowledge to practical activity.

### Specific

CE6. Developing an adequate knowledge of media policies and legislation in the field of media.

CE7. Identifying and applying the ethical foundations and professional ethics in the exercise of activities related to the media.

CE10. Identifying contemporary traditions in the creation of informative and non-informative speeches

CE14. Identifying and applying the narrative and exposition logic and specific skills of informative and non-informative audiovisual and interactive contents.

## Subject contents

Journalism and, more generally, the professions related to media, have a significant political, economic, social and cultural impact, which makes it essential to question the responsibility of media professionals and the ethical principles that inspire their work. This is the aim of the subject "Rights and Ethics of Communication and Information", which addresses the ethical principles that affect the profession of journalism and communication, as well as the different regulations that derive from them. The course combines theoretical reflection on ethics in general and journalism and communication ethics in particular, with the analysis of the main regulations affecting the profession, and the analysis of cases where conflicts arise between the journalistic-communicative practice and the ethical, deontological and legal principles that affect these professions.

### Contents:

#### 1.- Introduction: philosophy, ethics and law

Classical Ethics: Plato and Aristotle. Kant and the categorical imperative. Mill: Freedom of Speech and the Role of the State. Habermas: discursive ethics, legitimacy and legality. Bauman: Postmodern Ethics.

#### 2.- Ethics and professional responsibility in the field of communication

The values of the communication professions. Freedom of information, journalism and democracy. Creative freedom, audiovisual and culture. ICT, hacker ethics and new ethical conflicts. Personal rights and limits to freedom of information and communication.

#### 3.- Self-regulation

What is self-regulation? The deontological codes of journalism. Other codes and recommendations: company codes and newsroom statutes; recommendations for the treatment of personal tragedies; the treatment of immigration and others. The self-regulatory bodies of journalism. Self-regulation in audiovisual activities. Self-regulation of digital platforms.

#### 4.- State regulation: laws in the field of information and communication

The sources of law. Constitutional principles. The professional secret. The conscience clause. Information and propaganda in election periods. Transparency and access to information. Personal rights. Citizen security and state security. Hate speech. Child protection. Regulation of audiovisual activities. Copyright.

### 1. Introduction: philosophy, ethics and law.

Moral philosophy, classical ethics and modern ethics. Introduction to the sources of law. Introduction to ethical codes.

### 2.- Ethics and professional responsibility in the field of communication

The values of the communication professions. Freedom of press, journalism and democracy. Creative freedom, audiovisual and culture. ICT and new ethical conflicts. Personal rights and limits to freedom of information and communication.

### 3.- Self-regulation

The ethical codes of journalism. Other codes and recommendations: company codes and drafting statutes; recommendations for dealing with personal tragedies; the treatment of immigration and others. Journalism self-regulatory bodies. Self-regulation in audiovisual activities. The self-regulation of digital platforms.

### 4.- State regulation: laws in the field of information and communication

The sources of law. Constitutional principles. The professional secret. The conscience clause. Information and

propaganda during electoral periods. Transparency and access to information. Personal rights. Citizen security and State security. The Hate speech. Child protection. Audiovisual regulation. Regulation of information society services.

## Methodology

Master classes: Presentation of the contents orally by the teacher.

Seminar: Working sessions in small groups that research a topic through dialogue and discussion, to study in depth monographic topics based on the information provided before by the teacher.

Lectures: Conferences by professionals and scholars who develop some aspect of the subject.

Group work: Learning activity through collaboration between group members.

Case study: Method used to study an institution, a problem, etc., in a contextual and detailed way.

Readings: Individual work of students to prepare the subject

## Development plan

Activity	On-Site Hours	Autonomous Work Hours
Lectures	24	
Workshops, debates, others	24	10
Readings		20
Assignments preparation	4	10
Course Project	4	30
Exam	4	20
OVERALL	60	90

## Evaluation

### Continuous evaluation system

#### Block 1: Theoretical activities

- Midterm exam (20%)
- Final exam (30%)

It is necessary to pass this block in order to pass de subject.

### Block 2: Practical activities

- Course Project (in group) (30%)
- Class activities-Participation (20%)

*Students who want to ask for alternative assessment must submit an employment contract or justify, in a letter addressed to the dean, the reasons that make it impossible for him/her to carry out the continuous assessment within five (5) days after the beginning of the semester. For information, please send an e-mail to [lletres.secretariacentre@udl.cat](mailto:lletres.secretariacentre@udl.cat) or ask for information at the Faculty's academic office (Secretaria Acadèmica de la Facultat de Lletres).*

### Alternative evaluation system

#### Block 1: Theoretical activities

- Exam (50%)

It is necessary to pass this block in order to pass de subject.

#### Block 2: Practical activities

- Final Project (50%)

## Bibliography

Alsius, Salvador (1998) *Ètica i periodisme*. Barcelona: Pòrtic.

Alsius, Salvador i Francesc Salgado (2014) *La ética informativa vista por los ciudadanos*. Barcelona: Editorial UOC.

Aristotil (1995) *Ética nicomáquea; Ética eudemia*. Madrid: Gredos

Azurmendi, Ana. (2011) *Derecho de la comunicación*. Barcelona: Bosch.

Balaguer, Maria Luisa (2013) *Derecho de la información y de la comunicación*. Madrid: Tecnos

Bauman, Zygmunt (2009) *Ética posmoderna*. Madrid: Siglo XXI

Beker, Marilyn (2003) *Screenwriting With a Conscience: Ethics for Screenwriters*, New York: Routledge.

Bilbeny, Norbert (2012) *Ètica del periodisme*. Barcelona: Ed. Universitat de Barcelona.

Carreres, Lluís de (2008) *Las normas jurídicas de los periodistas*. Barcelona: UOC.

Couldry, Nick, Mirca Madianou, and Amit Pinchevski (2000). *Ethics of media: An introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2013.

Habermas, Jürgen (2008) *Conciencia moral y acción comunicativa*. Madrid: Trotta.

Himanen, Pekka (2004) *La ética hacker y el espíritu de la Sociedad de la información*. Madrid: Destino.

Kant, Immanuel (1984) *Fonamentació de la metafísica dels costums*. Barcelona: Laia.

Levi, Simona (2019) *#Fake You: fake news y desinformación*. Barcelona: Rayo Verde

López Talavera, Maria del Mar (2013) *Ética en los medios de comunicación: Prensa, radio, TV y cine*. Barcelona: UOC

McBride, Kelly and Tom Rosenstiel (2013) *The new ethics of journalism. Principles for the 21st century*. Thousand Oaks: Sage

Mill, Stuart (1983) *Sobre la llibertat*. Barcelona: Laia.

Müller, Denis (2014) *Journalist ethics for the digital age*. London: Caribe Publications

Pérez Fuentes, Juan Carlos (comp.) (2004) *Ética periodística. Principios, códigos deontológicos y normas complementarias*. Bilbao: UPV.

Platón (2008) *Diálogos: Protágoras, Gorgias, Menón*. Madrid: Edaf.

## SOURCES OF LAW:

- UNESCO. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

[https://www.un.org/es/documents/udhr/UDHR\\_booklet\\_SP\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/es/documents/udhr/UDHR_booklet_SP_web.pdf)

- Spanish Constitution (BOE, 1978)

[https://www.congreso.es/docu/constituciones/1978/1978\\_cd.pdf](https://www.congreso.es/docu/constituciones/1978/1978_cd.pdf)

- General Law on Audiovisual Communication (BOE, 2022)

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2022/BOE-A-2022-11311-consolidado.pdf>

## DEONTOLOGICAL CODES:

- UNESCO. International Principles of Professional Journalism Ethics (1983)

<https://research.tuni.fi/ethicnet/country/international-principles-of-professional-ethics-in-journalism/>

- International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists (2019)

<https://www.ifj.org/es/quien/reglas-y-politica/carta-mundial-de-etica-para-periodistas.html>

- European Council. European Code of Journalism Ethics (1993)

<https://periodistasandalucia.es/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/CodigoEuropeo.pdf>

- Federation of Associations of Journalists of Spain (FAPE). Code of ethics of the journalistic profession (1993)

<https://fape.es/home/codigo-deontologico/>

- Association of Journalists of Catalonia. Declaration of Principles of the Journalistic Profession (1992)

<https://www.periodistes.cat/codi-deontologic>