

## Module Specification

### Module Summary Information

<b>1</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	Journalism Law and Ethics
<b>2</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	20
<b>3</b>	<b>Module Level</b>	4
<b>4</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	MED4162

<b>5</b>	<b>Module Overview</b>
<p>This module is designed to help you to develop an understanding of Freedom of Expression and the way it is balanced by the legal, regulatory and ethical constraints on news reporting and the media in general. It is specifically designed for journalists and other media professionals in that it approaches law and ethics from a journalistic perspective rather than that of a lawyer.</p> <p>The module also provides information about the regulatory bodies responsible for providing print and broadcast journalists with a professional code of conduct, such as Ofcom and the new regulatory bodies which have replaced the Press Complaints Commission.</p>	

<b>6</b>	<b>Indicative Content</b>
<p>The course concentrates on the judgements journalists need to make in order to operate effectively within the current framework of legislation and codes of practice. It also asks students to consider what it means to behave ethically in processes of news gathering and distribution.</p> <p>This will include the restrictions that apply to reporting crimes, particularly contempt of court, legal and ethical restraints on reporting about young people or about sexual offences, defamation, protection of sources, and official secrets. It will also cover the incorporation into UK law of the European Convention of Human Rights, which established new legal rights including freedom of expression, and respect for privacy and implications of Brexit on these rights. Students will also look at the aftermath of the hacking scandal and the Leveson Inquiry which has resulted in the establishment of a new regime overseeing press regulation.</p> <p>Current issues that arise in the press and through the broadcast media will be discussed and students will be encouraged to think critically about the balance between freedom of expression and other rights of individuals and society in general. The module aims to provide students with the knowledge to help protect them from legal action over published or broadcast items and to challenge legal restraints where necessary.</p>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Module Learning Outcomes</b>
<b>On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:</b>	
<b>1</b>	Explain the role of Freedom of Expression in a democratic society and what this means for journalists and media producers.
<b>2</b>	Explain how laws and regulations limit freedom of expression for journalists and media producers and strike a balance with other competing rights.

	<b>3</b>	Show how principles of media ethics has been applied to the process of news gathering and distribution.
	<b>4</b>	Apply laws and regulations to actual or realistic situations by writing news stories suitable for publication that are legally safe.

<b>8</b>	<b>Module Assessment</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>			
	<b>Coursework</b>	<b>Exam</b>	<b>In-Person</b>
<b>1, 2, 3, 4</b>	<b>X</b>		

<b>9</b>	<b>Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities</b>	
<b>Learning Activities</b>	<b>Hours</b>	
<b>Scheduled Learning (SL)</b> includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	30	
<b>Directed Learning (DL)</b> includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	130	
<b>Private Study (PS)</b> includes preparation for exams	40	
<b>Total Study Hours:</b>	200	