

COMMUNICATIONS LAW

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Goals and Requirements:

This survey course will provide the student with a good working knowledge of the key laws, regulations, and policy issues affecting the communications industry. The communications industry has many facets ranging from wireline and wireless telephony to broadcasting and cable/satellite television, and is in constant flux due to competitive forces, technological changes, and social expectations. We will study the different regulatory regimes affecting these industries, and explore how market and political forces are constantly leading regulators and policy makers to reevaluate these regulations. Current topics such as the promotion of broadband internet access, universal service reform, indecency over the airwaves, and the effect of the internet on communications policy, will be covered.

Textbook:

Students must purchase the textbook, Telecommunications Law and Policy, 2nd Ed., Benjamin, Lichtman, Shelanski, & Weiser, as well as the 2008 Supplement (both published by Carolina Academic Press), from the bookstore. Note that there is a Statutory Appendix, Index and Glossary at the back of the textbook.

Classes:

Consistent with law school policy, regular and punctual class attendance is required (and is necessary for a good understanding of the course materials). Attendance will be taken for each class. If absence is unavoidable, prior arrangements must be made with the professor.

Grading:

A student's grade for the course will consist of his/her performance: i) on the Take Home Midterm Exam (25%); ii) on the three hour in-class Final Exam (65%); and iii) in class participation (10%). Students should take careful note of the Law School's plagiarism policy and Honor Code in the course of completing their exams. Students should also carefully proofread their exams before submission as the presence of a significant number of typographical and/or grammatical errors will result in a lower grade.

Methods of Instruction:

Students will read on average approximately 20-45 pages of text for each class. Class will consist of approximately 50% lecture and 50% interactive discussion. Each class session, students should be prepared to discuss and advocate a viewpoint regarding the assigned reading materials. Active class participation from all students is expected.

Professor:

See Professor Sockett's Bio on TWEN (to be posted).