

“I do not agree with what you have to say, but I’ll defend to the death your right to say it.”

—Voltaire

”

News is what someone wants suppressed. Everything else is advertising. The power is to set the agenda. What we print and what we don’t print matter a lot.”

— Katharine Graham

JOUR 4620-001
Fall 2017

Mass Communication Law & Ethics

Instructor: Mark Donald
Class Meets: Mon. 3:30 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.
Location: Terrill Hall Room 121

TA: Alex Copeland
Email: williamacopeland2@my.unt.edu
Cell: 817.980.5694

Textbook and Required Reading

- ✓ “The Ethical Journalist: Making Responsible Decisions in the Digital Age” by Gene Foreman, Wiley-Blackwell, 2016, Second Edition (paperback bought on the cheap is fine).
- ✓ Communications Law: Liberties, Restraints and the Modern Media, Sixth Edition by John D. Zelezný
- ✓ “Associated Press Stylebook 2016.” Even lawyers and ethicists can’t throw caution, and grammar, to the wind.

UNT Library Resources:

- ✓ West Publishing:
<http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=e1000156~S12>
- ✓ LexisNexis Academic:
<http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=e1000025~S12>

Course Description:

Welcome to Mass Communication Law & Ethics a/k/a Media Law & Ethics where we will seek to embody the spirit of the First Amendment by promoting an open, thoughtful and provocative discourse on freedom of the press, freedom of speech and the ethical imperatives that journalists must apply if they are doing their jobs with integrity. Some of you will find this course intellectually stimulating, inspired by its message of journalistic freedom and independence. Others of you will find this course intellectually challenging as I ask you to play lawyer and ethicist as well as journalist, and you rightly question why. The law cases and ethics case studies that we will examine can be dense and daunting, and the search for just the right answer may be

Let’s talk!

Office: Sycamore 217

Office hours:

Monday:

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday:

- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday:

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

By appointment

- Virtual office is always open. Just give me 24 hours to respond to your email.

Cell phone: 214-402-6518

elusive and gray. But the journey is in getting there and if you stick with me, you will see a relevant light at the end of the legal/ethical tunnel, one that gives real-world guideposts to entry-level journalists who soon will be faced with navigating such murky legal issues as First Amendment law, libel and privacy, and such ethical issues as media bias, journalistic independence and media transparency. Because the media landscape in which journalists now operate is fraught with more ethical traps and journalists seem under attack from many sectors of society, the relevance of these topics are even more apparent. Because the media landscape is changing digitally and daily, no study of media law and ethics would be complete without understanding legal and ethical implications wrought by technology. We will deal with these issues, thorny and otherwise, as we dive deep into the statutes, case law and ethical codes which, when taken together, make up much of the fabric of American mass communication law and ethics. Particular emphasis will be given to Texas law, because Texas is the jurisdiction in which we reside.

The course is reading-intensive and you must stay current in your reading assignments if you hope to survive the class. You should learn to apply the concepts we discuss in class to hypothetical fact situations that will be given to you in class and on tests. I encourage study group work both in class and out.

Course Objectives:

The course should enable students to:

1. Understand First Amendment principles, and apply the law to professional practice
2. Understand and appreciate the critical role journalists play in American society
3. Explore and understand the ethical decision-making process in a news environment
4. Learn the structure and operation of America's judicial systems
5. Survey salient cases, statutes, and agencies that impact reporting and publishing, so that you may protect yourself and your media employer from libel and privacy suits, appreciate your right to attend meetings and trials, and access documents
6. Communicate accurately, effectively, truthfully
7. Think critically, creatively, independently
8. Demonstrate personal and social responsibility in evaluating facts
9. Work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity

Policies:

1. *Attendance:* You will need a near-perfect record of attendance to succeed in this course. One absence in the course is the limit without penalty toward your final grade, unless you have communicated with me from the beginning about an extraordinary problem. Coming to class late or leaving early may constitute an absence for that day. This is a large seminar course, and it requires your attendance and participation each class meeting. Skipping class will mean you will not get a grade on quizzes (10 percent of your grade) and it will harm your discussion grade. I will also lecture on materials not assigned in our textbooks, for which you will be responsible. All things considered, you will do better if you come to class. Swear.
1. *Participation:* This class only works with maximum class participation, which is why it is necessary to read your textbook assignments before class and perform any other assignments required for class.

2. *Make-up tests/assignments:* You may make up a graded assignment only with a documented and persuasive explanation of your absence by a third party such as a doctor. No minor quizzes, however, can be made up, even with a documented excuse. Your quiz average will just be figured based on the total number of quizzes you have taken.
3. *Course Management:*
 - a. WordPress: This semester we will be using **markrdonald.wordpress.com** as our class website. The site itself is entitled Mass Communication Law & Ethics (kinda catchy, huh). The website will be public (unless otherwise indicated), and I will use it to post the class agenda, assignments, readings and resources. If there is a conflict between the Tentative Schedule in this syllabus and the class website, please follow the postings on the class website. Make sure to check it several times a week.
 - b. Dropbox: We will use the file hosting system Dropbox to share notes, PowerPoints, lectures and assignments. Within the first week of class, you will receive an email from Dropbox inviting you to the JOUR 4620 folder. If you already have a Dropbox account, simply join the folder.
 - c. Blackboard: To aid transparency, I will maintain your grades on Blackboard, which allows me to record your grades while maintaining privacy and allows you “24/7 real-time online access.”
4. *Revisions:* The syllabus is a blueprint that we may need to tweak during the semester.
5. *Class Note-takers.* Not everyone is a great note-taker, but for those who are, you might wish to take advantage of an opportunity to earn extra credit. I am looking for three volunteers who will take notes for every class session. These notes then will be shared with the rest of the class by being placed in Dropbox on the Friday (at 5 p.m.) following each Monday’s class. They must be typed, double-spaced and comprehensible. Please email me after the first class if you feel you have the stuff of a good note-taker. I will take the first three volunteers but you risk losing your Class Note-Taker status if you fail to timely record your notes more than twice during the semester. These notes will serve as a study guide for the three (3) Major Tests, however students should rely on them at their own risk and must be personally responsible for their own learning. The weight given to this extra credit will depend on the quality of the notes taken, but in no event will it add more than 2 points to your final grade (*see Grading*).
6. *Preparing for class:* Please read the agenda for every class meeting and the relevant assigned readings before coming to class (see assignments page on website). The agenda is contained in the syllabus but is subject to change via the class website, email, or other means of communication including assignments I make in class. The

class will be primarily lecture, discussion and student presentations. You should focus on the materials covered in class lectures. Unlike other classes, I employ a bit of the Socratic Method whereby you will be called on to participate. Unlike the Socratic Method employed in law school, you will not be asked to stand before delivering your responses. Nonetheless you should still be able to discuss a legal case or ethical situation when called upon. And if you need help with the answer, I encourage you to chat with a neighbor nearby to help you formulate your answer (i.e., lifeline).

7. *Case presentations:* You will be assigned to a team that will participate in either a moot court presentation (law) or case study presentation (ethics).
 - a. *Moot Court presentation:* I anticipate two teams, pairing off against each other and representing the appellant (in some cases called the petitioner) or the appellee (in some cases called the respondent) in a landmark or important case in media law. Each team will make arguments supporting its side before a panel of five student justices who will ask questions and rule for one side or the other. All students will be required to be justices (in a different case) or serve on an ethics panel (see below). Advocates will prepare a 2 to 3 -page appellate brief stating the issue (s) of the case, the parties involved, the competing constitutional interests involved, why the lower courts got it right or wrong, case precedent and reasoning each is relying on to make its argument, why their team should win, the implications on future cases and behavior. The justices will each prepare a list of questions to ask advocates and subsequent to their decision will be required to write a 1-2-page opinion, giving the reasons for their ruling. *More to come.*
 - b. *Ethics Case Study Presentation:* I anticipate a team of student journalists who will present an ethical case study to the class. There will be no battle against advocates holding an opposing point view, but the team will argue its position before an ethics panel of five student members who will decide whether the team will be allowed to publish (broadcast) or whether the journalist should be disciplined for his or her actions. Because I will not provide you with a specific case study, but only a general topic such as conflict of interest or revealing the name of a confidential source, I will stagger the presentations, scheduling the law presentations during the first half of the semester and the ethics presentations during the last half. It will be up to each ethics team to find a real-world case study taken from news reports based on that topic and build a presentation around it. *More to come.*
8. *Major Tests:* This class will have three Major Tests but **no comprehensive exam will be given**. Rather, each Major Test will encapsulate several units of the media law and ethics we have studied. Questions will be True/False, Multiple Choice, Essay, and I

may provide you with hypothetical situations to which you will have to apply your knowledge of law and ethics.

Grading:

1. Quizzes: *10 percent*
2. Discussion: *10 percent*
3. Major Tests (3 @ 20 percent): *60 percent*
4. Law/Ethics case presentations

Either

- a. Moot Court Presentation and Written Brief: *15 percent*
- b. Moot Court Justice Questioning and Written Opinion: *5 percent*

Or

- a. Ethical Case Study Presentation: *15 percent*
- b. Ethical Case Study Panel: *5 percent*

Extra Credit—

- Note-taking: *up to 2 points may be added to your final grade for three note-takers.*
- Extra credit opportunities may evolve for the entire class during the course of the semester.

Your letter grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- *90-100% will receive an A*
- *80-89% will receive a B*
- *70-79% will receive a C*
- *60-69% will receive a D*
- *59% and below will receive an F*


How to find court cases

1. Go to <http://library.unt.edu/> → Electronic Resources → Search for “law” → Choose “LexisNexis Academic” → “Legal” → “Federal and State Cases” → Search by citation
2. Search for case by citation or by name at FindLaw’s site, <http://www.findlaw.com/cascode/supreme.html>
3. Find case by name at professors Thomas L. Tedford and Dale A. Herbeck’s site, http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/comm/free_speech/decisions.html

TENTATIVE CLASS AGENDA

Key Dates	MEDIA LAW (ML)	MEDIA ETHICS (ME)	Readings Reading Assignments should be completed before attending class; textbook references are: CL: "Communications Law" EJ: "The Ethical Journalist" Additional readings will be assigned as the course progresses.	Case Presentations (CP) Law: Moot Court Ethics: Case Study
WEEK 1 Aug. 28	<i>Course Introduction Sources of Law, American Legal System</i>	Why Ethics Matter (more than ever)	CL: Ch. 1 "The U.S Legal System" p. 1-14 EJ: Ch.1, 2, Ch. 3, p. 23-26, 34-35 (aspirational)	
WEEK 2 Sept. 4	Labor Day No class	Labor Day No class	Labor Day No class	
WEEK 3 Sept. 11	<i>Continuing discussion of the American Legal System</i>	<i>Love/Hate: Serving the public, whether it wants us to or not. Classical Ethical theories.</i>	CL: Ch. 1 "The U.S Legal System" p. 14-33 EJ: Ch. 4, 5, 6	
WEEK 4 Sept. 18	<i>First Amendment/History/Meaning/Application</i>	<i>Discussion of Ethical framework and decision making -- SPJ code; 10 questions to guide ethical decision making.</i>	CL: Ch. 2 "The First Amendment p. 34-70; Ch. 3 "Risks to Public Safety" p. 86-98 EJ: Ch. 7, 8 <i>SPJ Code of Ethics Theory and Practice</i>	
WEEK 5 Sept. 25	<i>Libel: Establishing a Case</i>	<i>Seek the Truth and Report It</i> Accuracy, fairness, objectivity, neutrality, bias	CL: Ch. 4 "Damage to Reputation" p. 116-155 EJ: Ch. 12 "Getting the Story Right and Fair"	<i>CPL1</i>

WEEK 6 Oct. 2	<i>Libel: Defenses; Defamation On the Web</i>	<i>Seek the Truth and Report It</i> Fabrication, deception, distortion, staging the news	CL: Ch. 4 "Damage to reputation" p. 156-171 EJ: Ch. 16 "Deception: A Controversial Reporting Tool"	CPL2
Week 7 Oct. 9	Major Test 1			
WEEK 8 Oct. 16	<i>Privacy: Appropriation, Intrusion Private Facts and False Light</i>	<i>Minimize Harm</i> Privacy: balancing public need vs. private harm; undue intrusiveness	CL: Ch. 5 "Invasion of Privacy" p. 176-200 EJ: Ch. 14 "Making News decisions about privacy."	CPL3
WEEK 9 Oct. 23	<i>Privacy continued: False Light, Intrusion, Companion Torts</i>	<i>Minimize Harm</i> More on privacy: visual journalism ethics (showing gruesome photos etc.)	CL: Ch. 5 "Invasion of Privacy" p. 200-218 (top only) EJ: Ch. 19 "Ethics Issues Specific to Visual Journalism"	CP L4
WEEK 10 Oct. 30	<i>Balancing of Interests: First Amendment v. Sixth Amendment Free Press v. Fair Trial</i>	<i>Seek the Truth and Report It</i> Guardians of Diversity; Reporting with sensitivity	CL: Ch. 7. "Media and the Justice System" p.268-290 (top) EJ: Ch. 17: "Covering a Diverse, Multicultural Society"	CP L5
WEEK 11 Nov. 6	<i>Balancing of Interests: First Amendment v. Sixth Amendment Free Press v. Fair Trial (continued)</i>	<i>Seek the Truth and Report it</i> Making promises, granting anonymity; reader transparency regarding anonymity.	CL: Ch. 7. "Media and the Justice System" p. 290-317 EJ: Ch. 13 "Dealing with Sources of Information"	CP E1

WEEK 12 Nov. 13	Major Test 2			CP E2 (Pizza will be served)
WEEK 13 Nov. 20	<i>Gathering Information, Access, FOIA, Open Meetings</i>	<i>Act Independently</i> Divided loyalties: Serving the public while making money, sponsored content, conflicts of interest <i>Be Transparent</i> Exposing unethical conduct	CL: Ch. 6 “Access to Places and Information” EJ: Ch. 10 “Conflict of Interest, Divided Loyalties”	CP E3
WEEK 14 Nov. 27	<i>Copyright</i>	<i>Seek Truth and Report It</i> Plagiarism (stealing words), fabrication (making stuff up) and other career killers	CP: Ch. 9 “Copyright” p. 319-360 EJ: Ch. 9 “Stolen Words, Invented Facts”	CP E4
WEEK 15 Dec. 4	<i>Regulation of Telecommunications/ Indecency</i>	<i>Be Accountable and Transparent</i> Respecting the sensibilities of your audience	CL: Ch. 9 “The FCC and Broadcast Licensing” p. 379-390; Ch.11 “Obscenity and Indecency” p 473-487 EJ: Ch. 15 “Making Decisions about Taste”	CP E5
WEEK 16 Dec. 11 1:30-3:30	Major Test 3			

JOURNALISM REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

JOURNALISM COURSE REGISTRATION

- Registration will begin on the dates noted in the schedule of classes each semester. The system is a live, first come/first serve program.
- By registering for this course, you are stating that you have taken the required prerequisites according to your catalog year and major/minor status. If the instructor later determines that you haven't taken and passed these requirements, then you may be dropped at any point in the semester. If you have questions about your prerequisites, please see an advisor.
- A journalism major enrolled in any restricted 3000 and 4000 level classes must have taken and passed the GSP test, all foundational courses, and Math 1680/1681. Students must earn and maintain a 2.5 UNT and/or overall GPA (depending upon catalog year) to be eligible for major-level courses.

RE-TAKING FAILED JOURNALISM CLASSES

Students will not be allowed to automatically take a failed journalism course more than two times. Once you have failed a journalism course twice, you will not be allowed to enroll in that course for one calendar year after the date you received the second failing grade. Once a student has waited one calendar year after failing a course twice, the student may submit a written appeal to the director to be approved to enroll a third time. Students will not be allowed to re-take a failed journalism course more than three times.

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) UNDERGRADUATES

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per semester. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so has the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility.

Please visit <http://financial.aid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with your MSOJ academic advisor or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

All first-time-in-college students at UNT are required to schedule an appointment with their Academic Advisor and receive an advising code to register for classes both fall and spring semesters of the first year in college. ALL students should meet with their Academic Advisor at least one time per long semester (Fall & Spring). It is important to update your degree plan on a regular basis to ensure that you are on track for a timely graduation.

- It is imperative that students have paid for all enrolled classes. **Please check your online schedule daily through late registration to ensure you have not been**

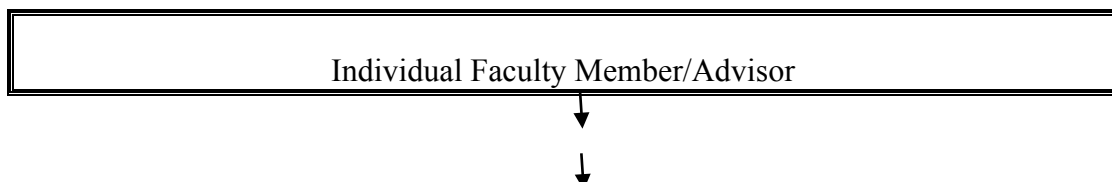
dropped for non-payment of any amount. Students unknowingly have been dropped from classes for various reasons such as financial aid, schedule change fees, parking fees, etc. MSOJ will not be able to reinstate students for any reason after late registration, regardless of situation. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all payments have been made.

Fall 2017 Important Dates

Deadline	Regular Academic Session	8W1	8W2
Classes Begin.	Aug 28	Aug 28	Oct 23
Labor Day (no classes; university closed).	Sept 4	Sept 4	Sept 4
Census.	Sept 11	Sept 5	Oct 30
Beginning this date a student who wishes to drop a course must first receive written consent of the instructor.	Sept 12	Sept 6	Oct 31
Last day for student to receive automatic grade of W for nonattendance.			
Last day for change in pass/no pass status.			
Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the semester with a grade of W for courses that the student is not passing. After this date, a grade of WF may be recorded.	Oct 6	Sept 15	Nov 10
Beginning this date instructors may drop students with a grade of WF for nonattendance.	Oct 7	Sept 16	Nov 11
Last day to drop with either W or WF.			
Last day for a student to drop a course with consent of the instructor.	Nov 6	Oct 2	Nov 27
Beginning this date, a student who qualifies may request an Incomplete, with a grade of I.	Nov 13	Oct 2	Nov 27
Last day for an instructor to drop a student with a grade of WF for nonattendance.			
Last day to withdraw (drop all classes).	Nov 22	Oct 6 Nov	Dec 1 Nov
Thanksgiving Break (no classes, university closed).	Nov 23-26	23-26	23-26
Last Regular Class Meeting.	Dec 7	Oct 19	Dec 14
Reading Day (no classes).	Dec 8	N/A	Dec 8
Final Exams.	Dec 9-15	Oct 20	Dec 15
End of term.	Dec 15	Dec 15	Dec 15

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Understanding the academic organizational structure and appropriate Chain of Command is important when resolving class-related or advising issues. When you need problems resolved, please follow the step outlined below:



Director, Mayborn School of Journalism

Dean, Mayborn School of Journalism

OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of North Texas and the Mayborn School of Journalism make reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

COURSE SAFETY STATEMENTS

Students in the Mayborn School of Journalism are urged to use proper safety procedures and guidelines. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use property safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the University of North Texas is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance for this insurance program. Brochures for this insurance are available in the UNT Health and Wellness Center on campus. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the UNT Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If you have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, please be sure that your plan covers treatment at this facility. If you choose not to go to the UNT Health and Wellness Center, you may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. You are responsible for expenses incurred there.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or exams; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor, the acquisition of tests or other material belonging to a faculty member, dual submission of a paper or project, resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructors, or any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Plagiarism includes the paraphrase or direct quotation of published or unpublished works *without* full and clear acknowledgment of the author/source. Academic dishonesty will bring about disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the university. This is explained

in the UNT Student Handbook. If you are caught engaged in conduct deemed academically dishonest, I reserve the right to give you an F for the course, drop you from the class or give you a “0” for the assignment. The severity of the punishment will depend on the severity of the conduct.

The Mayborn School of Journalism requires that students respect and maintain all university property. Students will be held accountable through disciplinary action for any intentional damages they cause in classrooms. (e.g., writing on tables). Disruptive behavior is not tolerated (e.g., arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, talking on the phone, texting or game playing, making inappropriate comments, ringing cellular phones/beepers, dressing inappropriately).

FINAL EXAM POLICY

Final exams will be administered at the designated times during the final week of each long semester and during the specified day of each summer term. Please check the course calendar early in the semester to avoid any schedule conflicts.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

As you know, your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs within the my.unt.edu site www.my.unt.edu. If you do not regularly check EagleConnect or link it to your favorite e-mail account, please so do, as this is where you learn about job and internship opportunities, MSOJ events, scholarships, and other important information. The website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward your email: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

COURSES IN A BOX

Any MSOJ equivalent course from another university must receive prior approval from the MSOJ academic advisor to insure that all MSOJ degree plan requirements are met. For example, courses that are taken online or from a program that offers course material via CD, booklet, or other manner of correspondence must have prior advisor approval.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR F-1 STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in multiple on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Advising Office. The UNT International Advising Office has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, students should contact the UNT International Advising Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email international@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

DROPPING AN ONLINE COURSE

A student needing to drop an online course should send their instructor an email with their name, student ID#, reason for dropping a course, and date you are sending the email. This *must be done prior to the UNT deadline to drop a course*.

If approved, the instructor will contact the MSOJ Undergraduate Office in GAB 102 where you may obtain a signed drop form. **It is your responsibility to turn in the completed drop slip to the UNT Registrar's office before the deadline to make sure you have been dropped from the course with a "W".** If you are taking only online courses and your instructor approves the drop, please contact the MSOJ head advisor for instructions.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in an event of emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at www.my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) ensuring you know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas, determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, your instructor will communicate with you through Blackboard regarding assignments, exams, field trips, and other items that may be impacted by the closure.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available **Apr. 17 – May 4** to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the fall 2016 semester you will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional

forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT& ASSAULT

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs:

http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

Statement of Student Learning Outcomes, UNT Mayborn School of Journalism

Since 1969, the UNT Department of Journalism (Mayborn School of Journalism effective September 1, 2009) has been accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. This national accreditation also extends to the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, the only accredited professional master's program in Texas. About one-fourth of all journalism and mass communication programs in the United States are accredited by ACEJMC. National accreditation enhances your education here, because it certifies that the department and graduate institute adhere to many standards established by the council. Among these standards are student learning outcomes, covered by journalism courses in all sequences.

This course, JOUR 4620, will help to meet the student learning outcomes that have been checked by your professor, Mark Donald.

Each graduate must:

- ☐ Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances
- ☐ Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications

- ☐ Demonstrate an understanding of diversity in domestic and global societies in relation to mass communications
- ☐ Learn the structure and operation of America's judicial systems
- ☐ Survey salient cases, statutes, and agencies that impact reporting and publishing, so that you may protect yourself and your media employer from libel and privacy suits, appreciate your right to attend meetings and trials, and access documents
- ☐ Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity
- ☐ Think critically, creatively and independently
- ☐ Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve
- ☐ Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness