UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Media Law

2627-4-A5810043

Learning objectives

1. Knowledge and understanding
   By the end of the course, students will have acquired in-depth knowledge of the constitutional and supranational foundations of the right to information, with particular attention to freedom of expression and its role in pluralist democracies. They will understand the legal framework governing traditional media (press, radio, television, cinema) and digital media (internet and social platforms), as well as the functioning of regulatory and supervisory authorities within the communications system. Students will also be able to understand the key legal challenges emerging at the intersection of information, technology, and fundamental rights.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding
   Students will be able to critically analyse legal issues relating to information and media law by interpreting national and supranational legislation, as well as decisions issued by competent authorities. They will know how to apply constitutional principles and relevant legal sources to assess the legitimacy of conduct, legislative or regulatory acts, and to address problems involving freedom of the press, protection of privacy, judicial reporting, opinion-related offences, and the legal regulation of digital communication.

3. Making judgements
   Students will develop the ability to formulate independent and well-reasoned legal assessments on issues concerning freedom of information, media pluralism, platform regulation, and the limits of public communication. They will be able to balance constitutionally relevant interests (freedom vs dignity, security, privacy, public order) and critically evaluate the effectiveness and proportionality of existing or proposed legal instruments.

4. Communication skills
   Students will be able to clearly and rigorously express legal arguments related to information and media law, using appropriate legal terminology. They will be able to present, both orally and in writing, cases, opinions, and normative proposals in a coherent and persuasive manner, including in academic or professional contexts requiring interdisciplinary communication.

5. Learning skills
   Students will develop the ability to independently update their knowledge in a legal field subject to rapid regulatory and technological evolution. They will be able to critically consult legal sources, case law, and scholarship, and to explore emerging legal issues in depth, also in preparation for research activities or careers in institutional, journalistic, regulatory, or publishing environments.

Contents

Information and communication law is a classical subject of the schools of law, which is enriched over time new themes and new issues crucial to democracies.
The introduction will be devoted to the discipline and limits of the freedom of speech in the Italian Constitution, in the International Declarations of Rights and in the European Union.
It will then be analyzed the law regulating mass-media (press, radio, television, cinema, theater, new media and internet) and the regulation of bodies operating in the communications system.
Special attention will be devoted to some current issues: freedom of the press, criticism and satire, the judicial information, data protection and personal identity, right to oblivion, the journalistic profession and the protection of sources, the social networks, the television pluralism and political propaganda , internet, the commercial speech, copyright.

The course takes place in the first semester in a period of 42hours. It is monographic and then directs students to attend the lectures. There are, in addition to academic lessons, research and readings by students and conferences with experts.
At the beginning of the course the teacher will inform the participants the commitment required. The evaluation will be done also on the basis of the work done within the course, taking into account in particular the written work and active participation in the discussion. Special attention will be given to legal cases taken by Italian and ECHR jurisprudence.

Students who do not attend the course may also take the exam by studying the textbook indicated.

Detailed program

Information and democracy

The freedom of speech

The right to inform

The right to satire

Seizure and the Internet

The right to privacy and to personal identity

Responsibility on the internet

Defamation

The responsibility of the editor

Constitutional principles of broadcasting

The public service media

Technological convergence and informative pluralism

Hate speech

Copyright

Internet and the boundaries of law

Prerequisites

It is useful a basic knowledge of the criminal law and of the criminal trial.

Teaching methods

21 lectures of 2 hours each conducted in face-to-face delivery mode.

Assessment methods

At the beginning of the course the teacher will inform the participants the commitment required. The evaluation will be done primarily on the basis of the work done within the course, taking into account in particular the written work and active participation in the discussion. Special attention will be given to legal cases taken by Italian and ECHR jurisprudence.

Students who do not attend the course may also take the exam by studying the textbook indicated.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

G.E. Vigevani, O. Pollicino, C. Melzi d'Eril, M. Cuniberti, M. Bassini, *Diritto dell'informazione e dei media*, Torino, Giappichelli, II ed., 2022.

Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS