

**FACULTY OF SOCIETY AND SCIENCE
STUDY COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Course Title:	MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION LAW				
Course code (LAIS):	KomZ5002				
Study programme:	Media and Information Literacy / Strategic Communication and Governance				
Type of Study Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Master program			
Type of Study course:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compulsory course (Part A)			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional specialization courses (Part B, compulsory)			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional specialization optional courses (Part B, optional)			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elective courses (Part C)			
Course Workload:	Credits	ECTS	Academic hours	Contact hours	Independent work hours
	2	3	80	24	56
Course Author/ Tutor:	Rihards Gulbis				
	Dr.iur.,				
	Rihards.Gulbis@inbox.lv				
	Consultation: according to the schedule for each semester				
Course Form:	Full time studies				
Study year, semester:	Year 1, Semester 1				
Language:	Latvian/ English				
Prerequisites for the Course:					
Course Summary:	<p>Within the course “Media and Communication Law” students will have an opportunity to acquire extensive knowledge on the legal framework regarding media and communications, including such topics as the legal status of media and journalist, specific legal regulation of their work and adaptation of it to the digital realm, as well as issues related to the publication of information online. Students will also be able to develop skills of application of this knowledge.</p> <p>An in-depth legal analysis will be conducted regarding issues of freedom of expression and its interaction with the rights of individual to protect his/her private life.</p> <p>The course covers also the following issues: duty of care for journalists and media, protection of journalistic sources, issues of intellectual property rights related to everyday’s work of journalists and other communication professionals, especially those of copyright and related rights and other relevant legal issues, including protection of trade secrets.</p> <p>The theoretical information will be supplemented by the broad case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), the Constitutional Court of Latvia, other Latvian courts and some national courts of different countries. The practical skills will be developed with the help of case studies, group work etc.</p>				
Course Methods, including description of the organization of students’ individual work and tasks:	<p>Types of classes: lectures, seminars, practical classes, moot court, exam.</p> <p>Course methods and types of study work: literary studies, case studies, role plays</p>				
Assessment:	<p>Exam is a 30-question multiple choice exam test where the students must mark the correct answer from 4 choices to every question. It is a closed-book exam.</p>				
Requirements for Credits and Criteria for Assessing the Course Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All seminars / workshops (including moot court) must be passed. If it is not possible to attend a seminar / workshop for justified reasons, a test on the topic of the seminar / workshop must be passed. - Students must pass the exam successfully (at least with mark 4). - Academic ethics and the ethical principles as well as the academic ethics regulation of the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences must be observed. If the student has not adhered to academic ethics, then the study course is not counted and the student receives an unsuccessful course evaluation or the entry in the progress report is "not allowed", which means that the study course has not been completed. - The examination can only be taken if all the requirements of the study course are fulfilled. 				

	<p>- The final grade consists of: an exam mark (60%) and a mark for the seminar and class work (40%).</p> <p>- The course is completed if the student has passed all the seminars and successfully completed the exam.</p> <p>The exam will be scored on a 10-point scale and the student will receive a positive assessment if more than 50% of the exam question is answered. Other types of independent work will be assessed on pass/fail basis.</p>																							
Abiding by the Academic Ethics	<p>Students must abide by the academic and research ethics, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences Ethics Regulations, incl.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - study papers must be independently developed; - the study work should reference all statements, ideas and data used that have been authored by someone else; - appropriate data acquisition methods should be used in the acquisition of data, the research ethics must be respected, empirical data must be collected independently and cannot be distorted or falsified; - the examination must be carried out by the student independently, without the use of supporting materials and/or consultations with other students, unless the lecturer states otherwise. <p>In the event of non-compliance with the academic and research ethics, punishment is imposed in accordance with the ViA Ethics Regulations and the study course must be re-taken, unless the punishment is extramarital.</p>																							
Learning Outcomes; the evaluation methods and criteria	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="555 911 1021 943">Learning Outcomes</th> <th data-bbox="1027 911 1439 943">The evaluation methods and criteria</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="555 943 1439 974">Knowledge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 974 1021 1095">Students will acquire knowledge on the legal framework of media and communications, the rights and duties of the journalist, and his/her legal responsibility.</td> <td data-bbox="1027 974 1439 1095">Work at seminars, exam.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1095 1021 1283">Students will have in-depth understanding as to the rights to freedom of expression and the admissibility of its restrictions, and about the relevance of intellectual property rights in media work and work of communication professionals.</td> <td data-bbox="1027 1095 1439 1283">Work at seminars, exam.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="555 1283 1439 1314">Skills</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1314 1021 1471">Students will be able to assess whether information provided to public by media or published online does not, in certain cases, unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of other persons.</td> <td data-bbox="1027 1314 1439 1471">Work at seminars, exam.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1471 1021 1695">Students will be able to assess independently whether specific intellectual property rights requirements and right to protection of trade secrets are observed in specific cases related to media work and work of communication professionals, as well as effectively enforce their rights as intellectual property creators.</td> <td data-bbox="1027 1471 1439 1695">Work at seminars, exam.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1695 1021 1852">Students will be able to extend independently the necessary knowledge on the legal framework regulating media and communications and its application in practice.</td> <td data-bbox="1027 1695 1439 1852">Work at seminars, exam.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="555 1852 1439 1883">Competency</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1883 1021 2004">Students will be able to analyse and formulate views on the complex tensions between the right to freedom of expression and the human rights of other individuals.</td> <td data-bbox="1027 1883 1439 2004">Work at seminars, exam.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 2004 1021 2040">Students will be able to prepare the</td> <td data-bbox="1027 2004 1439 2040">Work at seminars, exam.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Learning Outcomes	The evaluation methods and criteria	Knowledge		Students will acquire knowledge on the legal framework of media and communications, the rights and duties of the journalist, and his/her legal responsibility.	Work at seminars, exam.	Students will have in-depth understanding as to the rights to freedom of expression and the admissibility of its restrictions, and about the relevance of intellectual property rights in media work and work of communication professionals.	Work at seminars, exam.	Skills		Students will be able to assess whether information provided to public by media or published online does not, in certain cases, unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of other persons.	Work at seminars, exam.	Students will be able to assess independently whether specific intellectual property rights requirements and right to protection of trade secrets are observed in specific cases related to media work and work of communication professionals, as well as effectively enforce their rights as intellectual property creators.	Work at seminars, exam.	Students will be able to extend independently the necessary knowledge on the legal framework regulating media and communications and its application in practice.	Work at seminars, exam.	Competency		Students will be able to analyse and formulate views on the complex tensions between the right to freedom of expression and the human rights of other individuals.	Work at seminars, exam.	Students will be able to prepare the	Work at seminars, exam.	
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	information about court cases, criminal proceedings and the legislative process.	
	Students will be able to engage in discussions on issues of freedom of the press in a democratic society.	Work at seminars, exam.
Course Compulsory literature:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grudulis, M. Ievads autortiesībās. Rīga: Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2006. Rozenfelds, J. Intelektuālais īpašums. Otrais, labotais un papildinātais izdevums. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2008. Internet site of the Ministry of Culture, Copyright Section (www.km.gov.lv/lv/kultura/autortiesibas). Latvijas Republikas Satversmes komentāri. VIII nodaļa. Cilvēka pamattiesības. Rudevskis, J., Levits, E., Briede, J. u.c., R.Baloža zin.vad. Rīga: Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2011. Internet site of the Latvian Patent Office (www.lrpv.gov.lv/). Internet site of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) (www.wipo.int). Vernuša, E. Aktualitātes prasībās pret medijiem par goda un cieņas aizskārumu: Augstākās tiesas Civillietu departamenta tiesu prakse // Augstākās tiesa Bīļetens. Nr. 11, 2015. Rulings of the ECHR, the Supreme Court of Latvia and other courts (provided by the teacher). Course slides and other materials provided by the teacher. 	
Course additional literature:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ricketson, S. WIPO Study on Limitations and Exceptions of Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Environment, 2003. Pieejams: http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/copyright/en/sccr_9/sccr_9_7.pdf. Internet site of the Supreme Court of Latvia: www.at.gov.lv Internet site of the Association of Latvian Journalists: www.latvijaszurnalisti.lv Internet site of the Constitutional Court of Latvia: http://www.satv.tiesa.gov.lv 	
Course confirmation date:	December 11, 2019.	
Date of course description update:		

Study Course Plan:

Date	Theme	Academic hours		Study Form/ Organization of independent work of students and task description
		Contact hours	Independent work hours	
<i>The date is specified before the implementation of the course</i>	Introduction to communication law (development of media and communication technologies and legal framework; legal regulation related to the media activities and communications)	2	-	Lecture
	The concept, types and functions of the media. The notion and status of journalist, duty of care and other duties of journalist. Privileges of journalists.	2	4	Lecture
	Status of journalist, duty of care and privileges.	2	10	Seminar (case study)
	Constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression and general principles to be followed when setting restrictions to the freedom of the press	2	4	Lecture
	The interaction of protection of private life, including protection of the honour and dignity, with the freedom of expression	4	4	Lecture
	The interaction of protection of private life, including protection of the honour and dignity,	2	10	Seminar (case study)

	with the freedom of expression			
	Copyright, trademark law and other intellectual property rights in media work	4	8	Lecture and practical class
	Legal protection of trade secrets	2	4	Lecture
	Provision of information on judicial matters (cooperation with the courts) and participation in court proceedings	2	6	Lecture
	Exam	2	6	Exam
	Hours total:	24	56	