

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 36614
Name: Communication Law
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

| Degree | Center | Acad. year | Period |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|---------------|
| 1334 - Degree in Journalism | Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació | 2 | First quarter |

SUBJECT-MATTER

| Degree | Subject-matter | Character |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1334 - Degree in Journalism | Derecho | BASIC |

COORDINATION

MARTIN PASTOR JOSE

SUMMARY

This course is part of the basic training module and is taught in the second year of the Journalism Degree. Through a theoretical-practical approach, it aims to train students in the legal framework governing information and mass communication, both regarding content and the media themselves. Particular attention is given to the current constitutional legal system in Spain, which regulates all forms of communicative expression and is grounded in the principle of freedom of expression.

Therefore, it is a key subject within the curricular development of the degree, as it provides students with the essential legal knowledge required for professional journalism. Throughout their career, journalists will face numerous situations where understanding the legal framework of their activity is crucial to avoid conflicts and manage them effectively.

In addition, this course is closely aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, as it establishes essential connections between equitable access to knowledge and the safeguarding of fundamental rights in democratic contexts.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE



RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No prerequisites are specified in the Verifica report for taking this course.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to reasonably propose ideas from the basics of rhetoric, as well as to communicate through the techniques of persuasion.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students should be able to express themselves fluently and effectively in their own languages, as well as in a third language (preferably English), taking advantage of the linguistic and literary resources that are most appropriate for the different forms of media.

Students should be able to search for, select, read, interpret and analyse both written and audiovisual texts and documents (analytically, synthetically and critically).

Students should be able to work as a team, communicate their own ideas and integrate themselves into group projects aimed at achieving results.

Students should have an understanding of own and other social, historical, economic and cultural aspects within their relevant contexts.

Students should show solidarity with people across the planet, as well as knowledge of the main cultural currents in relation to individual and collective values and respect for human life.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights

The rule of law. The Spanish Constitution of 1978. Background
Axiological foundation of the Spanish legal system: fundamental rights and the system of



guarantees.

Informative freedoms in Spanish constitutional and legislative history: their configuration based on a communication and information model rooted in the written press
Development and regulation of cinematography in Spain.
Beginnings and regulatory development of radio broadcasting in Spain.
Origins and regulatory framework of television in Spain.

Information, the Media and the Constitutional Framework

International regulatory instruments.
International organisations.
Communication policies and regulations in Europe.

The Constitution as the general framework for communication regulation.
Communication, fundamental rights and public freedoms.
The rights and freedoms of expression, information and communication.
Personality rights as limits to communication.
Civil and criminal liability.
Collective rights in mass communication.
Guarantees and suspension of communicative rights and freedoms.

Organisation and Legal Framework of Spanish Media

The free creation of enterprises.
Access to radio and television activities. Services of general interest.
Broadcasting and signal transport systems: regulation and liberalisation.
Communication service providers.
Administrative control through independent authorities.
Competition in the Spanish communication sector. Funding, transparency and pluralism.

General legal framework and structure of public media.
State-level public radio and television.
Regional public radio and television.
Local public radio and television.

General legal framework and structure of private television.
State-level private television.
Regional private television.
Local private television.
Television service providers through fully liberalised communication services: cable, satellite and internet.



General legal framework of cinema.
Promotion of cinematographic and audiovisual production.
Regulatory norms regarding distribution and exhibition.

General legal framework of the written press.
The Press and Printing Law.
Regulation of distribution, credits and subsidies.

Constitutional framework and regional competences over media.
Development of competences and radio and television concessions.
Regulation of the RTVE Advisory Council in the Valencian Community.
Creation and legal framework of Radiotelevisión Valenciana (RTVV).
Regulation of the Valencian audiovisual sector.
Reform of the 2006 Statute of Autonomy of the Valencian Community and the Audiovisual Council.

Freedom of Expression and Information, and Their Limits

Legal framework regarding content.
Main areas of regulation under the General Audiovisual Law.
Self-regulation regarding content.
Complaints and actions to defend audience rights.
Right of reply.
The conscience clause and professional secrecy of journalists.
Codes of ethics, professional statutes and stylebooks.

The Right to Information and Journalistic Participation in the Informative Process

General legal framework and principles of programming.
Information for users.
Regulation of programming related to children and youth, and the protection of human dignity.
Regulation of the broadcasting of cinematographic works and European audiovisual production.
Public interest and regulation of the broadcasting of sporting events and competitions.
Electoral processes in the media.

General legal framework and principles for the broadcasting of advertising.
Regulation of presentation and advertising insertions.
Content regulation.
Advertising, teleshopping and sponsorship aimed at minors.
Advertising, teleshopping and sponsorship of certain products.

Legal protection of journalistic and audiovisual production.



Division of competences and regulatory evolution.

Scope of intellectual property: authors; rights and legal limits.

Management of intellectual property rights through collective management entities.

Protection of intellectual property: registration and civil, administrative and criminal legal safeguards of copyright.

Content on the internet.

These contents will be reflected in the following learning outcomes:

- Classify and access available economic, political, legal, historical and sociological information and learn to manage it correctly.
- Produce communication materials and journalistic documents related to economic, sociological, legal and historical issues.
- Reorganise the communicative dimension of societies, as well as their connections with political, cultural, social and technological dimensions, prioritising the various explanatory factors of historical continuity and change.
- Evaluate fundamental rights and the freedoms of expression and information, as well as the rights and duties of those practicing journalism.
- Identify the legal regulatory frameworks of the media.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

| Activity | Hours |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Theory | 60,00 |
| Total hours | 60,00 |

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

| Activity | Hours |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Attendance at other activities | 0,00 |
| Individual or group project | 60,00 |
| Independent study and work | 30,00 |
| Preparation of lessons | 0,00 |
| Preparation for assessment activities | 0,00 |
| Resolution of case studies | 0,00 |
| Total hours | 90,00 |

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

MD5 - Seminars and workshops



MD7 - Problem solving classes and case studiesç

MD8 - Study and individual autonomous work

MD9 - Study and autonomous group work

MD1 - Theoretical classes (lectures or expository with presentation of the students)

MD2 - Practical classes

Given the availability of excellent manuals and reference books, the syllabus will not be developed exhaustively in class. Instead, face-to-face sessions will be used to illustrate controversial issues, reflect on the most current and relevant topics, explore complex content, and encourage critical analysis based on the interests expressed by students.

The syllabus will structure the sessions chronologically, allowing the discussion of real cases and news events to be aligned with the planned sequence. The instructor will guide the studentsç activities and assignments in a way that promotes a gradual, though not strictly formal, understanding of the course content.

Class preparation

Due to the courseçs methodological approach, students are expected to prepare each session in advance by reading the materials included in the basic and complementary bibliography. This preparation is essential for fully benefiting from lectures and practical classes.

It is the studentçs responsibility to keep up with the course through individual work and continuous study. To facilitate this, the instructor will announce weekly which topics will be covered in upcoming sessions.

Activities, assignments, and practical work

Each week, students will be assigned theoretical-practical activities to complete individually or in groups, depending on the task. These assignments will be shared and discussed in class and will be part of the continuous assessment. While based on the syllabus, these tasks will also take into account current events and student interests.

In addition, three written assignments must be submitted during the course:

- 1. Analysis of a legal news story**

Students will choose a legal news item published in the media and carry out a critical analysis. They must identify the key legal issues, assess the implications, and, if applicable, highlight any



inaccuracies or misrepresentations in how the issue is covered.

2. **Analysis of a court ruling**

Students will select a relevant court ruling (from Spain or Europe) related to the course content. The full ruling must be attached as an appendix, and the analysis should evaluate the court's reasoning and legal arguments, offering a reasoned critique of the decision.

3. **Group project on a current topic**

In groups of 3 to 5, students will choose a current issue involving the media and conduct a comprehensive legal analysis. The project will be submitted in writing and presented orally in class. Topics must be approved in advance by the instructor and the group's progress will be supervised.

Current affairs and communication law

Throughout the course, special attention will be paid to current legal, social, economic, and political developments related to Communication Law. In addition to instructor-provided resources, students are expected to stay informed, bring in relevant news items, and explain their significance during class discussions.

Additional bibliography

Beyond the essential manuals listed in the basic bibliography, students are encouraged to read specialized monographs on key areas of Spanish communication law. A short list is provided at the end of this guide. Student-suggested readings are welcome.

Students may submit notes or reflections on their readings to the instructor for discussion in class.

Practical sessions

Given the integrated nature of the course, practical exercises will be introduced throughout the semester. These will be based on real cases, judicial decisions, or fictional scenarios and will be resolved and analyzed collectively in class, forming an essential part of active learning.

EVALUATION

The general grading system will follow the regulations of the University of Valencia approved by the Governing Council on May 30, 2017. ACGUV 108/2017.

First call

Learning will be assessed through theoretical exams and evaluation of practical assignments. The final



grade will result from the sum of:

- Theoretical test(s) (60% of the final grade)
- Completion of individual or group assignments (40% of the final grade)

Second call

If one of the parts is passed, the grade will be retained for the second sitting. Both parts are recoverable.

Academic Honesty

Intellectual honesty is essential in academic communities and for the fair assessment of students' work. All assignments submitted in this course must be original and authored by the student. Submissions involving fraudulent collaboration using artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT or others) will not be accepted. If plagiarism is detected in any assessed work, it may receive a numerical grade of zero and lead to failure of the assessment call, regardless of any disciplinary proceedings that may be initiated and, if applicable, any sanctions in accordance with current legislation.

Serious offenses will also include, and may therefore result in immediate failure of the call: copying or enabling copying of work between students; irregular access to or premature appropriation of the content of a test or exam; enabling or attempting the appropriation, alteration, or destruction of the content or results of an evaluable activity; and impersonation during exams. When any of the serious offenses described above are detected, the teacher must report them to the Degree Coordinator.

The submission of assignments and/or exams with spelling, typographical, syntactic, coherence, or writing errors will be penalized and may result in failing the test.

REFERENCES

Basics

Boix Palop, A., & López García, G. (Eds.). (2006). *La autoría en la era digital: Industria cultural y medios de comunicación*. Tirant lo Blanch.

Català i Bas, A. H. (2001). *La libertad de expresión e información: La jurisprudencia del TEDH y su recepción por el Tribunal Constitucional*. Ediciones Revista General de Derecho.

De Carreras, L. (2008). *Derecho español de la información*. UOC.



Guichot, E. (Ed.). (2011). *Derecho de la comunicación*. Iustel.

Linde, E., & Vidal, J. M. (2010). *Derecho audiovisual*. Colex.

López García, G. (Ed.). (2010). *El ecosistema comunicativo valenciano*. Tirant lo Blanch.