

Module: Media Law
Allocation of Marks: 30% Continual Assessment
70% Final Examination

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Demonstrate extensive, up to date knowledge of the principles and rules of media law including regulation of media rights - freedom of expression and freedom of information; and regulation of limitations of media rights: defamation, privacy, media and public morality (obscenity, blasphemy, incitement to hatred), media and administration of justice (reporting the courts; contempt of court; journalistic privilege), regulation of broadcasting and press, copyright)
2. Apply rules and principles to identify, analyse and find solutions to media law problems;
3. Demonstrate a developed awareness of where the principles of media law fit in a philosophical, social, political, humanistic, economic and commercial context;
4. Identify and critically analyse the challenges posed to traditional media law concepts by the development of new media environment (the “Web 2.0” phenomenon)
5. Show detailed critical understanding of the general ethical and professional responsibilities in media law litigation;
6. Exercise judgment and advanced interpersonal skills to facilitate informed decisions on complex media law issues and take responsibility for own learning and development;
7. Research, interpret and apply the various legal rules and principles of media law

Module Objectives

1. To provide a detailed overview of the principles of media law
2. To enable the learner to solve complex media law questions.
3. To develop a political, philosophical and technical understanding of the fundamental principles of media law
4. To provide the learner with the ability to appreciate the challenges posed to traditional media law concepts by the development of new media

Module Curriculum

- Media rights:
 - Freedom of Expression (Article 10 ECHR)
- Limitations of media rights:
 - Defamation
 - Privacy
- The Media and Public Morality (blasphemy; incitement to hatred; religious advertising; taste and decency rules)
- The Media and Politics (requirement of impartiality; ban on political advertising)

- The Media and Administration of Justice (principle of open justice; reporting the courts - contempt of court; journalistic privilege)
- Regulation of Broadcasting and Press (AVMS Directive; Broadcasting Act 2009; Press Council / Ombudsman / Code of Practice)
- Media pluralism
- Copyright and Regulation of New Media environment (liability of ISPs; defamation and privacy on Twitter, Facebook etc.)