

This course provides journalism students with a basic knowledge of those areas of the law affecting the working reporter* The most important of these are the areas of libel and slander, contempt of court, copyright and censorship,,

The course is based on class lectures, discussions and assigned readings. Students will be evaluated on their performance on tests, a major essay, and on a final examination based on the entire semester. -

Outline

Topics covered in the course include:

- 1) DEFAMATION. Definition of libel and slander, intention, innuendo, picture^ malicious falsehoods, special cases of slander, damages, role of judge and jury.
- 2) DEFENCES. Justification, absolute privilege, qu^ified privilege, fair comment, malice, public interest, time limits, res judicata, consent, mitigation of damages, (Students examine the Ontario Libel and Slander Act although significant difference in other provinces will also be discussed. Criminal Code)

- 3) CONTEMPT OF COURT To Definition, rights of the media, restrictions in law (S.go' preliminary hearings, divorce proceedings, 3 juvenile and family court, confessions, pre-trial publicity), obstructing justice, refusal to comply with the order of a court. (Criminal Code)
- 4) CENSORSHIP* Official (operation of the press-censors during " WWII), and unofficial (closed meetings, control of news sources), obscenity,
- 5) OTHER LEGAL RESTRICTIONS. Blasphemy, sedition, official secrets, War Measures Act, Income Tax Act and Canadian ^Content.
- 6) ADVERTISING. False and misleading advertising, provincial legislation, children's advertising, CRTC.
- 7) COPYRIGHT. Definition, protection, plagiarism, news stories, pictures.
- 8) CANADIAN LEGAL SYSTEM. KM) CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, General review of the Canadian legal system, types of criminal cases which are heard at each level, criminal procedure, bail, summary and indictable offences, grand jury, appeals.
- 9) LEGISLATION. How laws are passed in parliament, committees.
- 10) PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. The conduct of meetings, motions, voting.