**JCO 2102 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION LAW COURSE**

**COURSE NAME: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION LAW COURSE CODE: JCO 2102**

**CREDIT UNITS: 3**

**CONTACT HOURS: 45**

**TYPE OF COURSE: CORE**

**Course Description:**

This course considers the range of laws, national and international, that affect journalists and the media. It explores the national justice and legal systems including the court structure; the democratic principles of freedom of expression, freedom of the press/media, accountability, transparency, and the public’s right to know; regulatory mechanisms for the media and the various laws and international instruments that limit or enable journalists’ freedom of expression; regulation of journalistic practice and the media industry; and the legal implications of state versus self-regulation.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To equip students with knowledge of key legal practices and concepts.

2. To enable students become aware of the constitutional and legal regime governing the media in Uganda.

3. To assist students to gain an appreciation of the various media law offenses and their defenses and how they affect investigative journalism.

4. To enable students become familiar with Uganda’s international obligations and their implications for national media laws.

**Course Outline:**

1. Introduction to basic legal theories, concepts and principles.

2. The democratic and constitutional principles of openness and freedom of expression.

3. Legal limitations to protect national security and public order.

4. Rules and principles which govern the relations of nations with each other.

5. Access to information laws and procedures.

6. Legal limitations to protect the judicial process, including contempt of court, and publication bans.

7. Legal limitations protecting social and moral values and social groups, including blasphemy, hate speech, racism, obscenity/pornography, sectarianism, children, and vulnerable groups, violence and brutality, etc.

8. Constitutional provisions affecting the media.

9. Legal limitations arising from private rights, including defamation and privacy.

10. International human rights instruments, including the Geneva Convention on Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War.

11. Conventions and statutes governing war crimes and crimes against humanity, including genocide.

12. Legislation with direct and indirect implications for journalistic practice, including laws on whistleblowers, interception of private communications, terrorism, elections, etc.

13. Rules of court reporting.

14. Debates about whether freedom of expression includes the freedom to offend.

15. Legal issues in the protection of sources.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Understand the laws that govern journalism and media practice in

Uganda.

2. Engage in informed debates about the impact of media laws on journalistic freedoms.

3. Defend his/her position about the legitimacy of various media laws and regulations.

4. Apply international standards to Uganda’s media laws and regulations.

**Methods of Teaching/Delivery:**

• Interactive lectures

• Seminars and discussions

• Case studies

• Guest lecturers/speakers

**Assessment Method:**

• Coursework 40%

• Final examination 60%

**Readings/Reference Materials/Learning Resources:**

• Constitution of Uganda.

• The Laws of Uganda: The Access to Information Act

• The Laws of Uganda: The Penal Code Act

• Article 19 (2006) Defamation ABC. A Simple Introduction to Key Concepts of Defamation Law. London: Article 19.

• Article 19 (2007) The Freedom of Expression Handbook. London: Article

19.

• Cram, I (2006) Contested Words: Legal Restrictions on Freedom of

Speech in Liberal Democracies. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing.

• Rozenberg, J. (2004) Privacy and the Press. New York: Oxford University

Press.

• Walden, R.C. (ed.) (2000) Insult Laws: An Insult to Press Freedom.

Reston, VA: World Press Freedom Committee.