**JCO 3202 COMMUNICATION POLICY, LAW AND REGULATION**

**COURSE NAME: COMMUNICATION POLICY, LAW AND REGULATION**

**COURSE CODE: JCO 3202**

**CREDIT UNITS: 3**

**CONTACT HOURS: 45**

**TYPE OF COURSE: CORE**

**Course Description:**

This course explores the policy and legal frameworks and instruments (national, regional and global) affecting communication and media operations; freedom of expression; privileges of and constraints on the media; the notion of the public interest; areas of regulation including defamation, sedition, privacy, contempt and public morality; international conventions affecting media and telecommunications; access to information; the changing global and local journalism and communication policy environments; state versus self-regulation debates; the notion of the information society.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To help the student appreciate the legal, policy and regulatory environment in which journalism and communication are practiced.

2. To enable the student understand the limitations imposed on journalism and communication practice by the laws and regulations.

3. To equip the students with skills to navigate the often hostile legal and regulatory environments to practice their profession.

**Course Outline:**

1. Communication policy, law and regulation defined

2. Freedom of expression and freedom of the media

3. International instruments relating to freedom of expression and the media

4. The local context of freedom of expression and the media, including legal instruments

5. Criminal sanctions against freedom of speech and the media

6. Civil offences relating to media

7. Conventions affecting media and telecommunications

8. Access to Information laws and limitations

9. The changing global and local journalism and communication policy environments

10. State versus self-regulation debates

11. Journalists organizations and associations

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, the learner should:

1. Understand the legal, policy and regulatory environment in which journalists and communicators operate.

2. Know the legal limitations on freedom of expression and of the media.

3. Be able to analyze policy and regulatory issues affecting media and communication practice.

**Method of Teaching/Delivery:**

• Lectures

• Tutorials

• Group discussions

• Class presentations

• Guest lectures

**Method of Assessment:**

• Coursework: 40%

• Final exam: 60%

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

• Fourie, P. J. (2008) (ed). Media Studies Volume 2: Policy, Management and Media Representation. Cape Town: Juta & Co.

• McQuail. D. & Siune K. (eds). (1998). Media Policy. SAGE. London.

• Hutchison. P. (1999). Media Policy. London.

• Hyden G. et al (eds.) (2002). Media and Democracy in Africa. Transaction

Publishers. New Brunswick. London.

• Golding P. & Murdock G. (eds.) (1997). The Political Economy of the

Media. Volume 11. Cheltenham. Brookfield.

• ARTICLE 19. (2005). Freedom and Accountability: Safeguarding Free

Expression through Media Self-regulation. London

• ARTICLE 19, (2003). Broadcasting Policy and Practice in Africa. London.

• ARTICLE 19. (2006). Broadcasting Pluralism and Diversity. London.

• Beales I. (2002). Imperfect Freedom: The case for self-regulation in the

Commonwealth Press. CPU. London.

• Marris P. & Thornham S. (eds.) (2004). Media Studies: A Reader. 2nd

Edition. Edinburgh University Press. Edinburgh.