Welcome to RTD 308! This course is designed to provide an introduction to the laws and policies affecting the past, present, and future of various forms of communication that use technology to exchange information. This class examines both modern and historical policies related to mass communications, with an emphasis on the laws and policies of the United States. Students will examine issues relevant to their possible careers as professional in the communications industry and as individuals who use technology to communicate.

Please read this syllabus carefully. There are many administrative details that will be important for you to keep in mind in order to do well in this course.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1) To develop the student’s knowledge and understanding of the key laws and regulations which affect the electronic media industries.
2) To develop the ability of the student to understand the process of legal reasoning as it applies to the electronic media.
3) To understand the legal framework that guide the practices of electronic media companies.

3. REQUIRED TEXT

The main textbook for the course is Electronic Media Law and Regulation, 6th edition, by Kenneth C. Creech (2014), Boston: Focal Press, Inc. In addition to the main text book,
additional required readings will be distributed in hardcopy or electronic versions throughout the semester. The lecture slides will be posted on D2L before each lecture.

4. CLASS FORMAT

The course work will consist of lectures, class discussions, case study presentations, screenings, and readings. Note: Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to class.

5. REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

A. Mid-term and final examinations: 100 + 100 points
There will be mid-term and final examinations, worth 100 points each. Two examinations will be based upon lectures, class discussions, case studies, reading assignments, and screenings. Make-up examinations will be given only in the event of extenuating circumstances, such as severe illness, death in the family, and university-recognized religious holidays. Students will be asked to provide documentation to provide evidence of the existence of such circumstances. Oversleeping, a dentist appointment, a medical check-up, tickets to a concert, plane/train tickets home, belligerent roommates or dogs, family travel, overwhelming assignments in other classes, etc. are not acceptable reasons for missing an examination, as such circumstances are controllable.

B. Case study group presentation: 150 points
Details of the group project will be announced later.

C. Quizzes: 50 points
Students will take several pop quizzes based on the readings for the week at the end of the class. Students will have 10 minutes to complete the quizzes. There is no make-up for these quizzes.

D. Class participation: 50 points
You will be asked questions relating to the reading assignments. Also, attendance is mandatory and will be taken every day, at the beginning and at the end of each session.

DO NOT ASK FOR EXTRA CREDIT! Any possible extra credit opportunities will be assigned to the entire class at the discretion of the instructor.

There is a total of 450 possible points for the course. Grades will be assigned as follows:

90% or more of total points: “A”  
80% - 89.9%: “B”  
70% - 79.9%: “C”  
60% - 69.9%: “D”  
59.9% or below: “F”