

Dr. Jasmine McNealy

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3062 WEIMER HALL
OFFICE HOURS: THUR. 9:30-
11:30AM



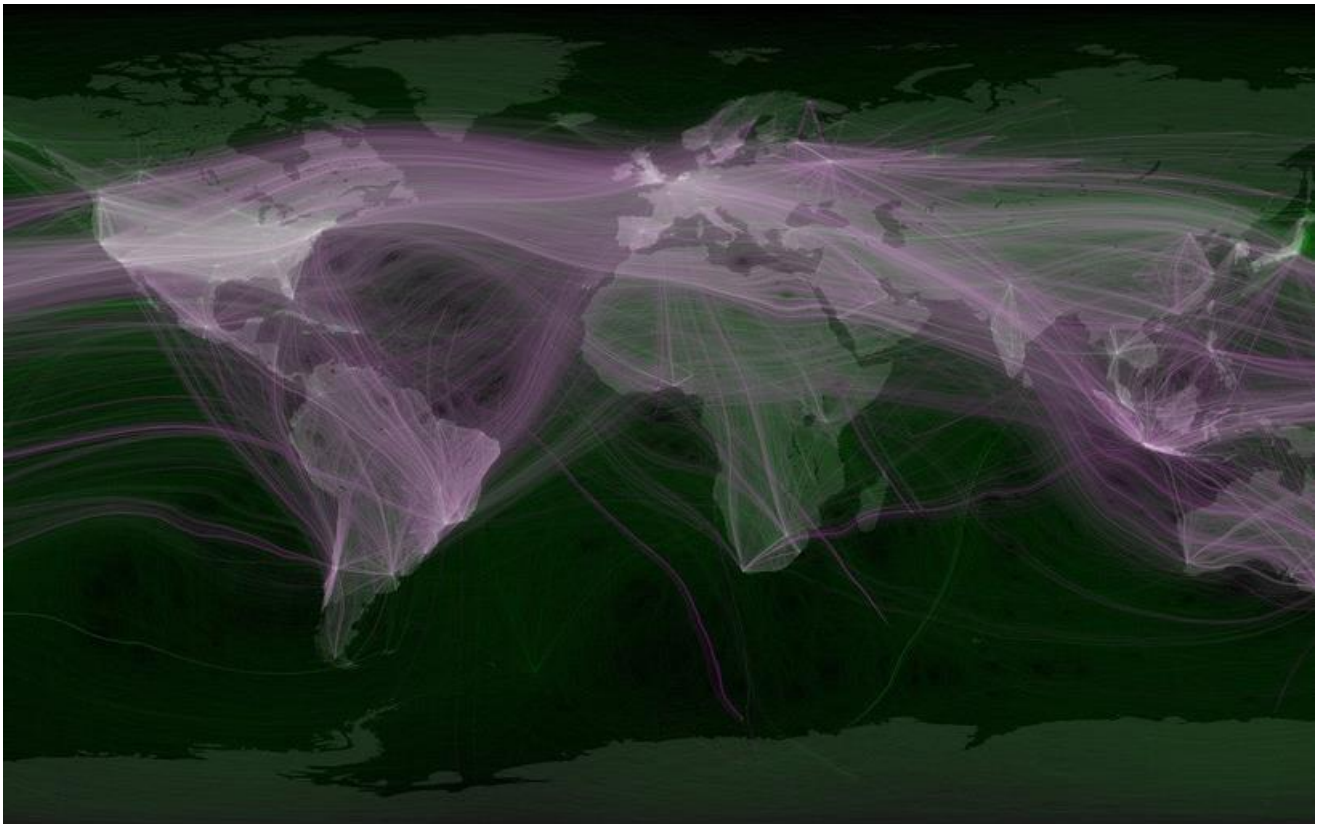
MEETING TIMES:
T: 8:30-10:25AM
TH: 8:30-9:20AM



LOCATION
FLG 0269

REQUIRED TEXT:
KENNETH C. CREECH,
*ELECTRONIC MEDIA LAW
AND REGULATION (2013)*
(6TH ED.)

RTV 4700



[Eric Fisher - Flickr](#)

Telecommunications Law and Regulation

Welcome to RTV 4700! This course provides an introduction the laws and policies affecting the past, present, and future of various forms of communication that use technology to exchange information.

Digital media are posing pressing questions for legislatures and regulators. This class examines both the modern and historic policies related to telecommunications with an emphasis on the laws and policies of the United States. Students will examine issues relevant to their possible careers as professional communicators and as individuals who use technology to communication.

Course Objectives

This course covers a blend of technological, social, economic and legal issues in the creation of public telecommunication policy. The goals of this class are as follows:

- That students demonstrate an understanding of relevant laws and regulations affecting telecommunication, as well as the process for the creation and challenging of these laws.
- That students demonstrate a basic understanding of basic economics as related to telecommunication.
- That students understand basic telecommunications technology and how it affects policy.
- That students demonstrate an understanding of U.S. constitutional principles relevant to telecommunication.
- That students demonstrate an understanding of the power of regulatory agencies and judicial bodies as they relate to telecommunications policy.
- That students recognize current issues in telecommunication policy and the effects on the use, access, and creation of new communications technology.

Assignments and Grading

The final grade for this class is calculated based upon three (3) exams, three (3) briefs, and class participation. The weights of each category are as follows:

EXAMS (3)	50%
QUIZZES (WEEKLY)	20%
BRIEFS (3)	20%
CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%

Exams: Students will be responsible for all of the information contained in the readings, lectures and other presentations. Examinations generally will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions in which it will be necessary for students to spot the issue in the facts provided and, using what we have discussed in class, analyze and answer the question. The professor reserves the right to alter the examination format. Exams are worth 50% of your grade. Students are expected to be present and on time for each scheduled examination. Only in instances where there is an excused absence will a make-up be given. A student seeking to be excused must present to the professor written evidence of an excusable absence such as personal illness or death in the family. Other excuses must be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Except during periods of extreme weather conditions, no extra time will be given to examination latecomers.

Quizzes: Students will take weekly quizzes based on the reading for the week. Quizzes must be completed before class time Tuesday morning (8:30AM). Students will have 10 minutes to complete the quizzes. Students are advised to read the material before attempting the quizzes, and to take the quiz well before it is due using a good wifi or wired Internet connection. There are no make-up for these weekly quizzes.

Briefs: Three times during the semester, each student will be required to complete and submit a case brief of an assigned case reading. The case for briefing will be indicated on the weekly assignment list. Briefs must be submitted before class time on the due date. Case briefs are worth 20% of your grade.

Class Participation will be determined using in class quizzes based on the readings, as well as actual participation in class discussion (answering questions), and other in-class activities that will occur throughout the semester. Please come to class having read the assignments and to ask any questions that you may have about what you have read, or what you may have heard about on tv, the internet, etc., relevant to class discussion. Class participation is worth 10% of your grade.

The grade scale is as follows:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	LESS THAN 60

I reserve the right to round all grades with .5 and above up to the nearest whole number. Information on current University of Florida grading policies can be found at:

[HTTP://WWW.REGISTRAR.UFL.EDU/CATALOG/POLICIES/REGULATIONGRADES.HTML](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

Other Important Information

Classroom Behavior and Course Policies

Students are expected to arrive on time, turn cell phones off, silence other electronic devices, and stay for the duration of the class period. Laptops are permitted but should be used for note-taking and in-class assignment purposes. All grades are final after one week. No exceptions. If a student wishes to challenge a grade, they must contact me 48 hours after receiving their grade. In an email, the student should provide a detailed description of the substantive issue with their grade. **When you email me, please put “RTV 4700” followed by the subject of your email IN THE SUBJECT LINE. In addition, please include your full name and UFID number at the end of the email.**

Academic Honesty

Students are required to be honest in all of their university class work. Faculty members have a duty to promote ethical behavior and avoid practices and environments that foster cheating. I encourage you to bring incidents of dishonesty to my attention.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Cheating and other academic dishonesty issues will result in an automatic E for the course.

Absences in General

Students should make every effort to attend each class as scheduled. If a student misses class, they may not make up any quiz or other in-class activity that they missed for credit. The student should contact a classmate for any substantive information they may have missed while away from class. If a student misses an exam, without proper notification to the instructor, he/she will not be given an alternative time to take the exam.

Religious Holidays

The university calendar does not include observance of any religious holidays. The Florida Board of Governors and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays. Students shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith with prior notification to the instructor. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

Student Illness

Students who are absent from classes or examinations because of illness should contact the instructor. The [Student Health Care Center \(SHCC\)](#) can provide a medical excuse note only if their providers are involved in the medical care of a student who must be absent from class for three or more days for medical reasons. A student who has a medical reason that results in fewer than three days of absence from class should talk with his/her professor rather than ask for an excuse note from the SHCC.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Looking forward to a fun and interesting semester!

Thumbnail 1: Pascal Charest (Flickr)

Thumbnail 2: Hans Põlodoja (Flickr)

Tentative Course Schedule*

- ▶ Week 1 – Foundations
 Read: Chapter 1
- ▶ Week 2 – The First Amendment and Content
 Read: Chapter 2, Chapter 5
- ▶ Week 3 – Broadcast Regulation, Cable and Satellite
 Read: Chapter 3, Chapter 4
- ▶ Week 4 – The Internet
 Read: Chapter 14 (Brief #1 Due before class)
- ▶ Week 5 – Review/**Exam1**
- ▶ Week 6 – Commercial Practices

Read: Chapter 6

- ▶ Week 7 – Intellectual Property

Read: Chapter 8

- ▶ Week 8 – Privacy

Read: Chapter 9

- ▶ Week 9 – Right of Publicity

Read: Chapter 10 (**Brief #2! Due by class time**)

- ▶ Week 10 – Review/**Exam2**

- ▶ Week 11 – Defamation

Read: Chapter 11

- ▶ Week 12 – Fair Trial/Free Press

Read: Chapter 12

- ▶ Week 13 – Information Gathering

Read: Chapter 13

- ▶ Week 14 – TBD

Read: (**Brief #3 Due by class time**)

- ▶ Week 15 – TBD

- ▶ Week 16 – Dec. 7/9 – Review/**Exam3**

Important UF Dates

*Schedule subject to change.