



**Course** COMM 3342.001  
**Professor** Maribeth (Betsy) Schlobohm, JD  
**Term** Fall 2017  
**Meetings** MW – check your schedule for class start times

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## Professor's Contact Information

**Office Phone** 972-680-3264 (24/7) Do not call or text after 7:00PM  
**Office Location** JO 3.546  
**Email Address** maribeth.schlobohm@utdallas.edu  
**Office Hours** MW 1:00 – 2:15PM and by appointment

## General Core Area 010 Communication

**Description:** Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

**Core Objectives:**  
**Critical Thinking (CT)**–to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information  
**Communication (COM)**–to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication  
**Teamwork (TW)**–to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal  
**Personal Responsibility (PR)**–to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

## General Course Information

**Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions** RHET 1302 (or equivalent), COMM 1311 (or equivalent), and Junior standing.

**Course Description** Cyberlaw: Privacy, Intellectual Property, and eCommerce is a course for communication professionals familiarizing them with the laws, or lack thereof, governing communication in the modern workplace. Topics include: internet laws, privacy, intellectual property, and eCommerce, specifically block chain technology. Attendance at first class mandatory.

**Required Texts & Materials** Textbook:  
Zelezny, John D., *Communications Law: Liberties, Restraints, and the Modern Media*, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed., Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning (2009).  
[https://www.amazon.com/Communications-Law-Restraints-Communication-Journalism/dp/0495794171/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1499449412&sr=8-1&keywords=John+D.+Zelezny](https://www.amazon.com/Communications-Law-Restraints-Communication-Journalism/dp/0495794171/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1499449412&sr=8-1&keywords=John+D.+Zelezny)  
ISBN-13: 978-0495794172  
ISBN-10: 0495794171

Internet connectivity is a requirement for the course.

**Suggested Texts,  
Readings, &  
Materials**

The course uses eLearning, which you should check frequently. Reliable connectivity is necessary for class preparation and work on group projects.

**Course  
Learning  
Outcomes**

1. Ability to understand and discuss the legal basics of intellectual property and how it is affected by the internet.
2. Ability to understand and discuss the legal basics of privacy and how it is affected by the internet.
3. Ability to understand and discuss eCommerce block chain technologies and laws affecting pseudo currencies.
4. Ability to prepare a legal case brief.
5. Ability to recognize legal issues in communication professional practices.

**Assignments & Academic Calendar**

*[Topics, Reading Assignments, Assignment Due Dates]*

The schedule for class topics, readings, and assignments (aside from low-impact assignments which will be provided in class) is as follows (and please note that all chapter readings are expected to be completed *before* each class on the dates the chapters are assigned.):

<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
8/21/17	Class Introduction/Review Syllabus/Introduce self to class Due: 8/21/17. Bring a signed last page of syllabus to class. Homework: Read Chapter 1	
8/23/17	Lecture: Chapters 1 Homework: Read Chapter 2	
8/28/17	Lecture: Chapter 2 Homework: Read Chapter 3	
8/30/17	Lecture: Chapter 3 AND review how to brief a case Homework: Read Chapter 4 for 9/6/17	
9/4/17	Labor Day – No class.	
9/5/17 – 9/10/17	Chapters 1 – 2 Test Available via eLearning. 50 multiple-choice/true-false questions. READ. Total test time: 3 hours. Test tries: 1 <b>Test Available until 4:59 PM on 9/10/17</b>	Test: 100 points
9/6/17	Lecture: Chapter 4	
9/11/17	No Class. Study for Chapters 3 – 4 Test. Homework <b>Due: 11:59 PM on 9/11/17 via eLearning</b> <i>New York Times v. Sullivan</i> , 376 U.S. 254 (1964). <a href="http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/torts/torts-keyed-to-epstein/defamation/new-york-times-co-v-sullivan/">http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/torts/torts-keyed-to-epstein/defamation/new-york-times-co-v-sullivan/</a> Put this case into the proper format and load to eLearning. We will not discuss this case in class. Hint: this case is likely a test question.	1 Case Brief: 30 points
9/11/17 – 9/15/17	Chapters 3 - 4 Test Available via eLearning. 50 multiple-choice/true-false questions. READ. Total test time: 3 hours.	Test: 100 points

	Test tries: 1 <b>Test Available until 4:59 PM on 9/16/17</b>	
9/13/17	Lecture: Chapter 5	
9/17/17	Homework <b>Due: 11:59 PM on 9/17/17 via eLearning</b> <b>Brief 2 cases as follows:</b> <i>Cain v. Hearst Corp.</i> , 878 S.W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 577 (Tex. 1994) <a href="https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/cases/458">https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/cases/458</a> ; <a href="http://www.ffllp.com/texas-false-light/">http://www.ffllp.com/texas-false-light/</a> <i>Hustler Magazine v. Falwell</i> , 485 U.S. 46 (1988). <a href="http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/torts/torts-keyed-to-epstein/privacy/hustler-magazine-v-falwell/">http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/torts/torts-keyed-to-epstein/privacy/hustler-magazine-v-falwell/</a> Put these 2 case briefs into the proper format and be prepared to discuss the case in class on 9/18/17.	2 case briefs: 30 pts/brief Total: 60 points
9/18/17	Chapter 5 in class discussion of: <i>Cain v. Hearst Corp.</i> , 878 S.W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 577 (Tex. 1994) <a href="https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/cases/458">https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/cases/458</a> ; <a href="http://www.ffllp.com/texas-false-light/">http://www.ffllp.com/texas-false-light/</a> <i>Hustler Magazine v. Falwell</i> , 485 U.S. 46 (1988). <a href="http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/torts/torts-keyed-to-epstein/privacy/hustler-magazine-v-falwell/">http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/torts/torts-keyed-to-epstein/privacy/hustler-magazine-v-falwell/</a>	
9/20/17	Lecture: Chapter 6	
9/24/17	Brief 1 case for Chapter 6 <b>Due: 11:59 PM on 9/24/17 via eLearning</b> <i>State v. Lashinsky</i> , 404 A. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1121 (1979). <a href="http://law.justia.com/cases/new-jersey/supreme-court/1979/81-n-j-1-0.html">http://law.justia.com/cases/new-jersey/supreme-court/1979/81-n-j-1-0.html</a> Put this case into the proper format and be prepared to discuss it in class on 9/25/17.	1 case brief: 30 points
9/25/17	Chapter 6 in class discussion of: <i>State v. Lashinsky</i> , 404 A. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1121 (1979). <a href="http://law.justia.com/cases/new-jersey/supreme-court/1979/81-n-j-1-0.html">http://law.justia.com/cases/new-jersey/supreme-court/1979/81-n-j-1-0.html</a>	
9/27/17	No Class. Study for Chapters 5 – 6 Test.	
9/27/17 - 10/1/17	Chapters 5 - 6 Test Available via eLearning. 50 multiple-choice/true-false questions. READ. Total test time: 3 hours. Test tries: 1 <b>Test Available until 4:59 PM on 10/1/17</b>	Test: 100 points
10/2/17	Lecture: Chapter 7	
10/3/17	Brief 1 case for Chapter 7 <b>Due: 11:59 PM on 10/3/17</b> <i>Sheppard v. Maxwell</i> , 384 U.S. 333 (1966). <a href="https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/384/333/case.html">https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/384/333/case.html</a> ; <a href="https://www.oyez.org/cases/1965/490">https://www.oyez.org/cases/1965/490</a> Put this case into the proper format and be prepared to discuss it in class on 10/4/17.	1 case brief: 30 points
10/4/17	Chapter 7 in class discussion of: <i>Sheppard v. Maxwell</i> , 384 U.S. 333 (1966). <a href="https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/384/333/case.html">https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/384/333/case.html</a> ; <a href="https://www.oyez.org/cases/1965/490">https://www.oyez.org/cases/1965/490</a>	

10/9/17	Lecture: Chapter 8	
10/10/17	<p>Brief 1 case for Chapter 8  <b>Due: 11:59 PM on 10/10/17</b>  <i>Playboy Enterprises v. Frena</i>, 839 F. Supp 1552, 1556 (M.D. Fla. 1993).  <a href="https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/cases/4474">https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/cases/4474</a>;  <a href="https://www.quimbee.com/cases/playboy-enterprises-inc-v-frena">https://www.quimbee.com/cases/playboy-enterprises-inc-v-frena</a>  Put this case into the proper format and be prepared to discuss it in class on 10/11/17.</p>	1 case brief: 30 points
10/11/17	<p>Chapter 8 in class discussion of:  <i>Playboy Enterprises v. Frena</i>, 839 F. Supp 1552, 1556 (M.D. Fla. 1993).  <a href="https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/cases/4474">https://h2o.law.harvard.edu/cases/4474</a>;  <a href="https://www.quimbee.com/cases/playboy-enterprises-inc-v-frena">https://www.quimbee.com/cases/playboy-enterprises-inc-v-frena</a></p>	
10/14/17	Mid-term grades.	
10/16/17	No Class. Study for Chapters 7 – 8 Test.	
10/18/17	No Class. Continue studying for Chapters 7 – 8 Test.	
10/16/17 – 10/23/17	<p>Chapters 7 – 8 Test Available via eLearning.  50 multiple-choice/true-false questions. READ.  Total test time: 3 hours.  Test tries: 1  <b>Test Available until 4:59 PM on 10/23/17</b></p>	Test: 100 points
10/23/17	Lecture: Chapter 9	
10/24/17	<p><b>Due: 11:59 PM on 10/24/17</b>  Brief 1 case for Chapter 9  <i>Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. FCC</i>, 395 U.S. 367 (1969)  <a href="http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-stone/freedom-of-expression/red-lion-broadcasting-co-v-fcc/">http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-stone/freedom-of-expression/red-lion-broadcasting-co-v-fcc/</a>  Put this case into the proper format and be prepared to discuss it in class on 10/25/17.</p>	1 case brief: 30 points
10/25/17	<p>Chapter 9 in class discussion of:  <i>Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. FCC</i>, 395 U.S. 367 (1969)  <a href="http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-stone/freedom-of-expression/red-lion-broadcasting-co-v-fcc/">http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-stone/freedom-of-expression/red-lion-broadcasting-co-v-fcc/</a></p>	
10/30/17	Lecture: Chapter 10	
10/31/17	<p>Brief 1 case for Chapter 10  <b>Due: 11:59 PM on 10/31/17</b>  <i>CBS, Inc. v. FCC</i>, 453 U.S. 367 (1981).  <a href="https://www.oyez.org/cases/1980/80-207">https://www.oyez.org/cases/1980/80-207</a>;  Put this case into the proper format and be prepared to discuss it in class on 11/1/17.  Additional homework: Read only the article for <i>FCC v. CBS, Inc.</i>, 567 U.S. ____ (2012). (“wardrobe malfunction” case) for comparison found at:  <a href="http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/11-1240.html">http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/11-1240.html</a></p>	1 case brief: 30 points
11/1/17	Chapter 10 in class discussion of 1 case brief	
11/6/17	No Class. Study for Chapters 9 – 10 Test.	
11/8/17 –	Chapters 9 – 10 Test Available via eLearning.	Test: 150 points

11/12/17	50 multiple-choice/true-false questions. READ. Total test time: 3 hours. Test tries: 1 <b>Test Available until 4:59 PM on 11/12/17</b>	
11/8/17	Lecture: Chapter 11	
11/12/17	Brief 1 case for Chapter 11 <b>Due: 11:59 PM on 11/12/17</b> <i>Miller v. California</i> , 413 U.S. 15 (1973). <a href="https://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-73">https://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-73</a> ; <a href="http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Miller+v.+California">http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Miller+v.+California</a> Put this case into the proper format and be prepared to discuss it in class on 11/13/17.	
11/13/17	Chapter 11 in class discussion of: <i>Miller v. California</i> , 413 U.S. 15 (1973). <a href="https://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-73">https://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-73</a> ; <a href="http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Miller+v.+California">http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Miller+v.+California</a>	1 case brief: 30 points
11/15/17	No Class.	
11/20/17 – 11/26/17	No Class. Thanksgiving/Fall Break	
11/27/17	Lecture: Chapter 12	
11/28/17	Brief 1 case for Chapter 12 <b>Due: 11:59 PM on 11/28/17</b> <i>Central Hudson Gas &amp; Electric Corp v. Public Service Comm’n. Of New York</i> , 447 U.S. 557 (1980). <a href="https://www.oyez.org/cases/1979/79-565">https://www.oyez.org/cases/1979/79-565</a> ; <a href="http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-cohen/governmental-control-of-the-content-of-expression/central-hudson-gas-and-electric-corp-v-public-service-commission/">http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-cohen/governmental-control-of-the-content-of-expression/central-hudson-gas-and-electric-corp-v-public-service-commission/</a> Put this case into the proper format and be prepared to discuss it in class on 11/29/17.	1 case brief: 30 points
11/29/17	Chapter 12 in class discussion of: <i>Central Hudson Gas &amp; Electric Corp v. Public Service Comm’n. Of New York</i> , 447 U.S. 557 (1980). <a href="https://www.oyez.org/cases/1979/79-565">https://www.oyez.org/cases/1979/79-565</a> ; <a href="http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-cohen/governmental-control-of-the-content-of-expression/central-hudson-gas-and-electric-corp-v-public-service-commission/">http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-cohen/governmental-control-of-the-content-of-expression/central-hudson-gas-and-electric-corp-v-public-service-commission/</a>	
12/4/17	No Class. Study for Chapters 11 – 12 Test.	
12/6/17	No Class. Study for Chapters 11 – 12 Test.	
11/30/17 – 12/6/17	Chapters 11 – 12 Test Available via eLearning. 50 multiple-choice/true-false questions. READ. Total test time: 3 hours. Test tries: 1 <b>Test Available until 4:59 PM on 12/6/17</b>	Test: 150 points
	<b>No Final Exam</b>	
	<b>Total Points</b>	1,000 points

## Course Policies

### Grading

#### Assignment and Grade Values

Grading is based on the UTD Undergraduate Catalog and a 1000-point cumulative scale for points earned from assignments. Grades are awarded as follows:

Grade	Cumulative Credit Points
A	930-1000
A-	900-929
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
F	0-599

Credit points are awarded based upon point values set forth in the detailed assignments list above.

### Additional Course Policies

<b>Make-up Exams</b>	There are no make-up exams. Exams are available via eLearning for several days. Tests are 50 multiple-choice and multiple choice/multiple answer. READ carefully before making your responses. Students will have 3 hours cumulative to take each test. Students may use their books while taking their tests. All tests are assumed to be open book/open note/open resource tests.
<b>Extra Credit</b>	There are no credit assignments.
<b>Late Work</b>	<b>No late work is accepted.</b> All written assignments and tests are due at the time posted via eLearning and in your syllabus. If you fail to get an assignment in on time or fail to take a test on time, there will be no acceptance of late work. The due dates and times are clearly set forth in the syllabus and on each assignment and test.
<b>Assignment Submission</b>	Assignments are submitted via eLearning. Make sure you do your assignments on time. Read above regarding Late Work.
<b>Class Attendance</b>	<p>You are expected to attend all classes, read assigned material, perform all assignments, and contribute to the class. Although I expect you to attend all classes, you may miss one class without explanation or penalty. Additional absences will be reflected in your Communication Competency grade. Absences are also likely to adversely affect your grades in additional ways, as assignments conducted in class cannot be made up outside of class.</p> <p>Just as in a business, I encourage you to let me know in advance if you know when you are going to miss a class and explain your absence if you have missed a class for which you did not give me advanced notice. More than three unexcused absences could result in a failure of the course (grade of "F").</p> <p>Out of respect for your fellow class members and your instructor, you are also expected to be on time for class. Each set of three tardy arrivals is treated as one absence.</p>
<b>Personal Circumstances</b>	If personal circumstances impact your performance, please address the circumstances with me as soon as possible. It is possible that we will be able to work around your

	situation if we can address the circumstance when it arises. Initiating the conversation late in the semester or well after the situation has arisen will limit the likelihood of us finding alternatives or any opportunity to work around your personal circumstances.
<b>Deadlines</b>	In industry, deadlines are a reality. Failure to meet deadlines leads to issues such as costly delays in product releases, breaking of contracts, lost current or future business, and inconvenienced co-workers. Consequently, this class will focus on the need to meet deadlines. Late or incomplete assignments will be penalized as set forth in the Late Work paragraph set forth above.
<b>Classroom Citizenship</b>	Students are expected to operate in the classroom in a civil and professional way. Similarly, when working with classmates on projects outside the classroom, students are expected to work with fellow students in a cooperative manner.
<b>Sharing Confidential Information</b>	Students considering sharing personal information in email, in person, or within assignments or exams should be aware that faculty members and teaching/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-883-2527 or after hours 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), the Women's Center (972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), the clergyperson (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (i.e., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-2218. Additional information and resources may be found at <a href="http://www.utdallas.edu/oiec/title-ix/resources">http://www.utdallas.edu/oiec/title-ix/resources</a> .
<b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b>	<p><i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i></p> <p><i>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.</i></p>

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***

**PRINT THIS SYLLABUS.**  
**SIGN IT.**  
**BRING YOUR SIGNED SYLLABUS TO THE FIRST CLASS.**

**Comet Creed**

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Please acknowledge that you have reviewed this syllabus and will abide by the Comet Creed.

Signed:

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Student

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Date

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Student's Printed Name