1.0  Course Description

Communication practitioners must understand how law matters in everyday communication and be cognizant of the principles, institutions and practices that regulate communication in a range of media and contexts. In this case and theory-based course, students explore the intersections of communication and law through the study of semiotics and legal discourse; the social and technological contexts of communication that provoke and challenge legal regulation; freedom of expression; and the legal frameworks for the protection of consumers, individual privacy, and intellectual property in the digital age. **Lab: 3 hours.**

**Prerequisite:** LAW 122 and (CMN 100 or CMN 114 or CMN 124 or CMN 200 or CMN 201 or CMN 207 or CMN 279 or CMN 300 or CMN 373)

2.0  Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- To critically evaluate the intersections of law and communication in democratic societies
- To apply communication theory to communicating law
- To describe and analyze the legal regulation of communication

3.0  Topics Covered

3.1 Introduction to communication law in Canada
3.2 Legal discourse and semiotics, including plain language legal writing
3.3 Justifications for and restrictions on freedom of expression, including libel
3.4 Privacy and the protection of personal data
3.5 Intellectual property
3.6 Issues in e-Commerce, including authentication, consumer protection and online fraud
3.7 Truth in advertising and public relations
3.8 Law and social media
4.0 Course Management

4.1 Teaching Methods
Teaching will be conducted by lecture, discussion and workshops. Students will be expected to contribute to the in-class dialogue.

4.2 Graded Assignments
Evaluation will be based on a combination of take-home and in-class assignments and class participation. Students will prepare a minimum of four written assignments, including a major report, and deliver a collaborative oral presentation. The weighting of each assignment will be announced by the instructor.

5.0 Course Materials

5.1 Textbook
1. Communication and Law Custom Reader, Ryerson University, 2014 (available at the Ryerson University Bookstore).


5.2 Additional Reference
Additional readings in D2L Brightspace-Area e-Reserve (See the Course Readings tab in the left menu in your CMN 447 D2L Brightspace course)

6.0 Course Policies

6.1 Students must adhere to university policies; see http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies. The most relevant policies are the following:

- Policy #46 Policy on Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing ("GPA Policy")
- Policy #60 Academic Integrity
- Policy #61 Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct
- Policy #134 Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals
- Policy #135 Examination Policy
- Policy #145 Course Management Policy
- Policy #150 Accommodation of Student Religious, Aboriginal and Spiritual Observance
- Policy #157 Establishment and Use of Ryerson Student E-Mail Accounts For Official University Communication
- Policy #159 Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities
6.2 Print and Digital Copying Guidelines

Ryerson University complies with Canada’s Copyright Act which protects both creators/owners and users of copyrighted materials. Students should familiarize themselves with Ryerson’s Copyright policies and procedures, and contact the Copyright and Scholarly Engagement Librarian at copyrt@ryerson.ca for questions, concerns and clarification of the copyright rules.

6.3 Turnitin.com

By taking this course, students agree that all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with the instructor to make alternative arrangements.

Please note the following from Policy 145 Course Management Policy:

4.3.1.2 Even when an instructor has not indicated that a plagiarism detection service will be used, or when a student has opted out of the plagiarism detection service, if an instructor has reason to suspect that an individual piece of work has been plagiarized, the instructor is permitted to submit that work in a non-identifying way to any plagiarism detection service.

6.4 Electronic Communication

Ryerson requires that any official or formal electronic communication from students be sent from their official Ryerson e-mail accounts.

6.5 Video and Audio Recording

No video or audio recording is permitted in class without the express permission of the instructor.

7.0 Ryerson’s Learning Management System

Ryerson University supports Brightspace by D2L as its official Learning Management System. University Policies governing Brightspace have been documented at the Courses @ Ryerson Privacy and Security website.