

COMM 3310-001

Communication Law and Ethics Fall 2018

Meeting Days: MWF

Professor: Dr. Kim Pewitt-Jones

Time: 11–11:50 a.m.

Office: FA 2115 (outside second floor balcony)

Room: FA 258

Office hours: MWF 10-10:40 a.m.; Tues 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Faculty Profiles link: <https://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/edit/id/1948/category/1>

Email policy—Before emailing me with a question:

1. Apply the **Three-Before-Me** policy:

- Consult three sources for the question (syllabus, Blackboard, a classmate)
- If you cannot find the answer in those sources, list the three sources you consulted before me when you email the question to me

2. **When you email me:**

- Let me know the topic of the email in the subject line
- You should address me as Professor or Dr. Pewitt-Jones
- You should include your full name and course in closing
- List the three sources you consulted before you emailed the question(s) to me

I will make every effort to respond to student email within 24 hours Monday through Friday, but because of the many students I teach, and my other duties for the Department of Communication or that will not always be possible. I usually do not answer email during the weekend or on holidays.

Read this syllabus CAREFULLY. Ignorance of the policies of the class is not an acceptable excuse.

“The materials used in this class, including but not limited to, the syllabus, assignment materials, presentation materials, all lecture materials, tests, and homework assignments are copyrighted works. Any unauthorized copying of the class materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary actions taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of class materials without the specific, express approval of the instructor may be a violation of the university's Student Code of Conduct and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of sharing or selling those materials with other individuals.”

English Language Written Skill Level required: All students are required to have college-level English-written language grammar, spelling and word usage skills. By the time you reach junior-level, your skills should be well polished. This is crucial for every communication student—clear communication through proper grammar, spelling and word usage is what employers are seeking from communication employees. *These components will be required and graded in each assignment. If you do not possess this level of skills, please seek help immediately.*

Online and other help can be obtained through websites/information listed in Course Materials.

On campus help can be acquired through Student Support Services as detailed below:

Student Support Services Available: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

Please utilize these help centers as soon as you see the need. Waiting until halfway through the semester to seek help will not bring success.

- **The IDEAS Center** (2nd Floor of Central Library): They offer **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.
- **The English Writing Center (411LIBR):** The Writing Center offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. They help with basic English grammar, word usage and assignment organization, but they do not tutor in AP –Associated Press and/or journalistic style writing.
 - Their hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday; and noon-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
 - Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available.
 - Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.
 - **Additional Student Support Help:** The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising

- Services, Transfer UTA, and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation.
<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

Textbook and Materials:

(1) Communication Law: Practical Applications in the Digital Age. Dom Caristi and William Davie

(2) Additional readings will be required as the semester progresses. These will be posted in BB Course Materials under the appropriate chapters.

- ***Note: Material presented in class supersedes material in the book if it contradicts or conflicts with each other. However, you are responsible for chapter and supplemental material listed on the Test Study Guides whether we go through it in class or not.***
- ***Once you have the book begin to read it. It will be hard to pass the class without regularly attending class and reading the assigned readings. Class discussions will not cover everything in the assigned readings. Students are still responsible for reading and learning the material.***

Course Description/Goals: In this course you will study U.S. constitutional, statutory, and administrative regulations as applied to print media, broadcast media, the internet, advertising, and film as well as media rights, responsibilities and ethics.

- Communication law is only one of many branches of American law. To understand it, students must gain a basic knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and the court/justice system that governs all branches of American law.

Communication law definition = A branch of U.S. law that focuses on regulating, protecting and/or deciding legal situations concerning the transfer of information including news in print, online, broadcast; advertising and public relations work through the computer, internet, cable, satellite, telephone and wireless communication. A communication law case **must involve a communication organization i.e. (mentioned above) or an employee of one who is being sued for something the organization or individual did in direct relation to the organization's media duties or focus and/or the individual's direct relation to his or job for the organization he or she works for (exception might involve a media freelancer).**

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the American legal system, its institutions, and some of its terminology.
- Students will be able to demonstrate a broad understanding of First Amendment principles as they relate to mass communication.
- Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws that directly restrict or enhance information gathering and message dissemination in the mass media and an understanding of the rationales behind those laws.

Assignments and Grading: *All assignments must be completed using correct written English-language grammar, word usage and spelling. **It is crucial for communication students to use this correctly—it is the difference between clear communication to reach your audience/clients and chaos.***

THERE IS NOT A FINAL EXAM FOR THIS CLASS

This class will be completed after Test 4 scheduled on Dec. the last day of class.

Individual Assignments: *Due dates are listed in Course Materials along with detailed instructions. Study Guides for Tests will be available once the material covered for that test begins discussion in class. These will also be in Course Materials.*

1. **Tests (4):** Each test will contain 50 multi-choice and true/false questions. Each test is worth 100 points—2 points per question; Total of 400 points for all tests together. **Our last test (Test 4) is scheduled for the last day of class.**
2. **Discussion post and responses:** *There are two parts to this assignment: An original post worth 120 points total, and responses to at least two other classmates' original posts, which are worth 60 points total. No points will be earned if any part of the assignment is missing.*
 - a. **Original Post = Worth 120 points.** Each student will post an original discussion post in his or her own words concerning a current (within two years), accurate **U.S. communication law issue or case.** They **CANNOT** be cases or issues happening now or in the past in other countries. Not following these instructions **will earn you a zero.**
 - These are to be explained in your own words, ***and a link to information about the issue or case is to be included in the post.***
 - No part of the post is to be copied and pasted from any source. Doing so will earn a zero for the assignment. **See plagiarism details –**
<http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

b. *Responses = Worth 60 points total.* Each student will respond to at least two posts from other students.

- *These are to be thoughtful and well-stated in your own words.*
- **No part of the responses is to be copied and pasted from any source. Doing so will earn a zero for the assignment. See plagiarism information =**
<http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>
- Due dates for both parts of this assignment and more instruction details are included in the assignment instructions listed in BB Course Materials. Due dates are also listed in the class schedule at the end of this syllabus.

3. Participation Activity: This will happen 40 class days of the semester. It is worth 120 total points--Three points *per correct answer. These will NOT be listed on the class schedule—they are a type of “pop quiz” class activity:*

- There will be a question **presented within the first THREE-FIVE minutes of class start time** that will require a Yes or No answer.
 - The answer will be recorded with a check mark by each student next to your name on the attendance sheet.
 - **You are not to use any electronic device or ask a classmate to get the answer.** *You will need to read the chapter assignments and be present in class to know the answers*
 - The question **WILL NOT BE REPEATED**—*if you are late, you will miss the points for that day.*
 - The attendance sheet **WILL NOT BE HELD** during class or after class ends for you to mark your answer on it.
 - You may **ONLY SIGN YOUR NAME** on the attendance sheet at the end of class.
 - **There WILL NOT BE ANY MAKEUPS AVAILABLE** for the participation points *no matter what the reason for the absence.*

Group assignment; 300 points total: includes preparation assignment and LB document

1. Students will work together in groups to compose an accurate, well-stated and well-communicated legal brief concerning a U.S. communication law case to be chosen from only cases provided by the instructor.

- There will be a group and an individual grade for this assignment.
- It will be in two parts both about the same case chosen by the group:

a. Legal Brief Preparation assignment = worth 100 points total

- **40 points for individual work**—must include two screen shots **NOT LINKS** of each individual's participation; **60 for group work**—all questions must be answered correctly; spelling and grammar must be correct.
- **You may use Google or GroupMe to work online as a group, but the screenshots of your conversations/work are to be posted in BB with the assignment.**

b. Legal Brief Document = Worth 200 points total

- **60 points for individual work**--must include the group evaluation form and at least two screen shots **NOT LINKS** of each individual's participation.

- The mandatory template must be followed correctly, and as with every assignment, correct word usage, grammar and spelling are required.
- **140 points for group work/cooperation**—document must be written communicating clear, well-explained, accurate information concerning the case. Any plagiarism will earn a zero for the entire group.
- **You may use Google or GroupMe to work online as a group, but the screenshots of your conversations/work are to be posted in BB with the assignment.**

Grading method and recording: *This class is based on 1,000 points.* Each score students earn on an assignment will be added together simply, and the total at the end of the semester will be the student's final grade.

- **There is not any grade averaging in this class.**
- Although you will see individual assignment grades on BB throughout the semester, **BB is not the official system for final grades.**
- **Final official grades will be posted in BB after being checked at least twice for accuracy by the instructor.**

The grading scale is as follows:

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
0-599	F

Discussion & Note-taking Policies: **Class instructional lessons are comprised of material from many sources, not just the textbook and missing instructional time prohibits a student's success.**

- Learning to take good notes is crucial for all areas of media/communication work.
- **Visuals used during class are not necessarily notes for students—you will need to take notes from the class discussions, book chapters, supplemental material and explanations.**
- I strongly suggest you take hand written notes—it assists learning better than taking notes via an electronic device. **The many studies that provide evidence of this are listed in BB Course materials under Study Guides.**

College-level work requires college-level responsibility, so you must keep up with assignment due dates, instructions and your grades.

- **College instructors are NOT responsible for compiling a list of missed and/or due assignments for any student—that is each student's responsibility—including students with excused absences. We are also not responsible for knowing and/or issuing missed discussion notes and handouts.**
- You must contact the instructor immediately about what you missed to discuss a makeup date for assignments available for late turn-in.

- **If you miss a class, get notes and any handouts from your classmates. Grades in this class are based mainly on performance on the exams, discussions and the legal briefs.** *Attendance is important as well to obtain information not located in the textbook or explanations of material in the textbook.*

Attendance—is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance.

- a. As the instructor of this section, I do take regular attendance, and I strongly encourage you to come regularly as experience shows those who attend regularly tend to do better in class than those who do not.
- b. The U.S. Department of Education requires that the university have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance and stop attendance (if that occurs before the semester ends) in a course as part of the final grading process.
- c. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Additional University and Department Classroom Policies:

We will have many lively discussions where students are required to respect others' opinions that may be different. You are not required to agree, but you are required to show respect for others' as they state their opinions.

- *Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UTA.*
- *Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom.*

Disruptive behavior includes the below list and is not tolerated:

- Students will be held accountable through disciplinary action for any intentional damages they cause in classrooms. (e.g., writing on tables, marring/destroying electronic equipment).
- Disrespect in any form
- Arriving late often
- Leaving early often
- Sleeping
- Talking on the phone
- Texting or game playing
- Surfing through FB, websites or any other social media venue
- Making inappropriate comments
- Ringing of cellular phones/beepers
- Dressing inappropriately

Class Policies:

- *If UTA closes for any reason, including inclement weather, you will be responsible for completing any assignments due that are posted on those sites unless the UTA system goes down across the entire system on the due date.*
- *There will be some material covered in class that is not in the textbook that will be on the tests.*
- *In addition, at times I will present some information that is different from the material in the textbook, and I will expect you to know that for the tests and for use in other assignments.*

- You may lose the points for any tests or other assignments that you miss because of absence or tardiness. **Deadlines are crucial in every communication career field.**
Students are expected to be on time for class and for tests.
- Making up missed work, **excluding certain in-class activities,** will only be allowed in the case of documented illness, family emergency or official UTA functions.
 - Documentation for an illness is a note from a doctor or nurse that states explicitly that the student was too ill to attend class.
- Documentation for a family emergency could be an official note from an appropriate official on official letterhead explaining the emergency and should include a phone number, so administrators can verify the note.
- Notes from employers about late **WORK ARE NOT EXCUSED ABSENCES OR REASONS** for late work—turn in your assignments before you go to work.
 - *You are responsible for turning in the appropriate documentation on the day you return to class.*
 - **Late assignments for students with official documentation as detailed above are due within one week of his or her return to class. Students will not be allowed to make up missed work, including tests, if you miss this deadline.**
 - **As a reminder, university, department and class policies do not allow students to surf the Web, text, use a cellphone, read email, send tweets, post on Facebook/social media sites** (these should not be open) or do any computer activity not related to the current work given during discussion time, class work time, guest speaker presentations or class discussions.
 - **Instructors have the authority to ask students who are engaging in any of the practices listed above or other practices that are disruptive or not part of the class assignments to leave the class.**

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav **from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period.**

- It is the student's responsibility to drop or add the class—faculty cannot drop students from classes. *After the late registration period, students must see their academic adviser to drop a class or withdraw.*
- *Undeclared students must see an adviser in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through the deadlines set for each term or session.*
- *It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering.*
- **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.**
- Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the university may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing.
- For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>). ***The last day to drop a class is Nov. .***

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. So, beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional nine hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Academic Integrity: *All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code: I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will*

submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

- It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of **conduct and will not be tolerated in any form.** *All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.*
"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

As communicators, your professional reputation is your greatest strength.

- Honesty and ethical behavior build a positive professional reputation. You are expected to model the ethical behavior in this course that you would be expected to follow as a professional communicator.
- Examples of cheating, plagiarism and collusion are provided in your student handbook.

The following behaviors also constitute academic dishonesty:

- Making up sources, information or quotes except as explicitly specified class assignments.
- Failing to properly attribute quotes and ideas to sources.
- Asking someone to say you interviewed him or her when you did not.
- Getting other people to write or edit class assignments for you.
- Lying to a source or misrepresenting yourself to get information.
- Copying a story or any part of a story from a published news account, Web page or press release.
- Using information from any sources without proper attribution.
- Turning in a story you've already written or published for another class.
- Surfing the Web or using any sources not allowed at the time by the instructor during quizzes and tests.
- Collusion— without authorization, collaborating with another when preparing an assignment.

I take academic honesty seriously. At the very minimum, violating the university or class standards for academic honesty will result in a zero on any class assignment, quiz or exam. Depending on the severity of the violation, I may assign an "F" for the course. I will report any violations to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and will pursue hearings there if necessary. Anyone receiving a zero for violating academic honesty policies will not be eligible for any extra credit points offered.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*.

- All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate based on disability.
- Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**.
- Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting **The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)** www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364, and/or **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.
- Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at 817-272-3364.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on gender in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Michelle Willbanks, Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-4585 or titleix@uta.edu*

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc.

- All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox daily. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation.
- Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.
- **New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington.**
- **I am required to accept student email through the UTA email system only. I will use it regularly to communicate with students concerning updates, changes in assignments and/or class calendar and tips to help with assignments. Email sent to faculty from outside IPs is usually placed in a quarantine file — instructors don’t get regular notification of quarantined items.**
- **UTA email must be activated by the end of the first week of class.**

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the university establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS).

Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations.

- During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*.
- During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10 percent or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations.
- In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled.
- Instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered. They may introduce new concepts as appropriate

Emergency Exit Procedures:

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at the front of the room. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Library & Research Assistance: University-level research requires university-level sources. Appropriate sources include scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, and credible news magazines and newspapers. The UTA Library <http://library.uta.edu/> offers a plethora of resources and subject specialists to help you select and locate appropriate sources. Find library staff at the Service Zone on the first floor of the UTA Central Library, by phone at (817) 272-3395, by text at (817) 727-8395, email at AskUs@uta.edu, or the chat widget on the library's homepage, <http://library.uta.edu/>. For a list of useful guides to help you start your research, visit: <http://libguides.uta.edu/>.

Your librarian is **Diane Shepelwich**, dianec@uta.edu. Diane is available through email, individual or group meetings, or phone appointments. If you need help getting started with your research or course assignment or have questions along the way, please contact Diane for personalized research assistance.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the **UT Arlington Police Department** at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone).

You may also dial 911, but the Arlington Police first responders don't know the campus, so they call the UTA police for assistance—saves time to call them yourself.

Non-emergency number 817-272-3381-- *I suggest you put these numbers in your phone contacts.*

Stop. Think. Protect Yourself. You Have Choices.

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor.

This graphic provides each member of the UTA community with information and options for responding to an active threat. These options are not chronological, but are designed to address dynamic situations. Assess the situation (your location, the location of the threat, type of threat, etc.), identify and weigh your options, develop a plan of action and commit to it.

YOUR OPTIONS TO AN ACTIVE THREAT

You Have Choices!

A V O I D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVOID the situation. <u>Stay away</u> from the area and campus. • If you can safely leave the area, RUN. • Get others to leave the area, if possible. • Prevent others from entering the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know your exit and escape options. • If in a parking lot, get to your car and leave. • If in an unaffected area, stay where you are. • When you are safe, call UTA PD at 817.272.3003 or 911 with information you have.
D E N Y	<p>If you can't leave the area safely, DENY or slow entry to the intruder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lock/barricade doors with heavy items. • Turn off lights/projectors/equipment. • Close blinds and block windows. • Stay away from doors and windows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silence phones and remain quiet. <u>Don't let your phone give you away.</u> • HIDE and take cover to protect yourself. • Be prepared to run or defend yourself.
D E F E N D	<p>If you can't AVOID or DENY entry to the intruder, DEFEND your location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a last resort, <u>FIGHT for your life.</u> • Use physical force and any weapons available - fire extinguishers, books, chairs, belts, umbrellas, pens/scissors, hot coffee/drinks, trash cans, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the element of surprise. • Work together as a team. Develop a plan. Commit to your actions. Your life depends on it. • Be aggressive, loud, and determined in your actions.

Follow ALL instructions.

For more information, go to: police.uta.edu/activeshooter



Emergency: 817.272.3003

Non-Emergency: 817.272.3381

police.uta.edu

Additional information for active threat and other emergency situations can be found through the links below:

police.uta.edu/activeshooter

police.uta.edu/em

Tentative Class Schedule

This syllabus including the calendar is not a contract, expressed or implied, and may be amended by the instructor as deemed necessary. As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this calendar in any way that best serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course—Dr. Kim Pewitt-Jones.

Date		Chapter (s)	<u>Title and Tentative Schedule</u>
August			
Wed.	22		Introduction
Fri.	24	Syllabus/BB	Communication law definition; case examples Legal Brief assignment discussion
Mon.	27	1,2	Sources of Law and Systems of Justice The First Amendment in Principle and Practice Discussion Post and Responses assignment discussion
Wed.	29	1, 2	Sources of Law and Systems of Justice The First Amendment in Principle and Practice
Fri.	31	1, 2	Sources of Law and Systems of Justice The First Amendment in Principle and Practice
September			
Mon.	3	Holiday	No Class --Labor Day
Wed.	5	1, 2, 3, 4	Forums of Freedom; Sedition and Censorship
Fri.	7	3, 4	Forums of Freedom; Sedition and Censorship
Mon.	10	3, 4	Forums of Freedom; Sedition and Censorship
Wed.	12	3, 4	Forums of Freedom; Sedition and Censorship
Fri.	14	3, 4	Forums of Freedom; Sedition and Censorship Complete Chapters 3, 4
Mon.	17	3, 4	Possible Test 1 Review (see policies on the Study Guide) Legal Brief Preparation Assignment Due in BB
Wed.	19	Test 1	Test 1

September continued...

Fri.	21	5	Libel
Mon.	24	5	Libel
Wed.	26	5	Libel
Fri.	28		Group Legal Brief work—no formal class meeting

October

Mon.	1	5, 6	Libel The Right to Privacy
Wed.	3	6	The Right to Privacy
Fri.	5	6	The Right to Privacy Initial Discussion Board post due
Mon.	8	6	Complete Right to Privacy Possible Test 2 Review
Wed.	10		Test 2
Fri.	12	8	Media and the Courts
Mon.	15	8	Media and the Courts
Wed.	17	8	Media and the Courts
Fri.	19	9	Freedom of Access
Mon.	22	9	Freedom of Access
Wed.	24	14	Intellectual Property
Fri.	26	14	Intellectual Property
Mon.	29	14	Intellectual Property
Wed.	31	14	Complete Intellectual Property Possible Test 3 Review

November

Fri.	2	12	Regulation of Advertising
Mon.	5	12	Regulation of Advertising
Wed.	7	12	Regulation of Advertising
Fri.	9	12, 13	Regulation of Advertising Media Business Law
Mon.	12	7	Obscenity and Indecency
Wed.	14	7	Obscenity and Indecency
Fri.	16	7	Obscenity and Indecency <i>Legal Brief Document due in BB; Group evaluations due in Google</i>
Mon.	19	BB Readings	Media Ethics
Wed.	21	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>No class meeting– Thanksgiving holiday</i>
Fri.	23	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>No class meeting—Thanksgiving holiday</i>
Mon.	26	10, 11	Telecommunication Regulation
Wed.	28	10, 11	Telecommunication Regulation <i>Discussion board responses due in BB</i>
Fri.	30	10, 11	Complete Telecommunication Regulation Possible Test 4 Review

December

<i>Mon.</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Last Day of Class</i>	<i>Test 4 –Last Test</i>
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***There is NOT a Final Exam—Class ends Dec. 3 with Test 4
Have a great holiday and semester break***