

Student Media Law

SPRING 2010 • JRN 809 • THREE CREDITS

LOCATION:

Online

DATES:

Jan. 25–May 7, 2010

INSTRUCTOR:

Adam Goldstein, Attorney Advocate, Student Press Law Center

DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES:

This course provides an introduction to the most common legal issues faced by scholastic journalism teachers/ advisers, their students and school administrators. While some time will be spent discussing the history, rationale and developing theory behind such issues, the course's primary goal will be to help scholastic journalism teachers, with a limited legal background, understand, identify and avoid legal "hotspots" for working, student journalists. The course will also provide some assistance to teachers/advisers in developing plans to better educate their students about the role of a free press in society and common media law issues.

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of laws affecting scholastic media.
- Develop lesson plans, activities and a unit plan for educating students about media law
- Empower advisers and their students to make wise content decisions.
- Access to up-to-date resources for media law and ethics, advising and writing/reporting.
- Demonstrate through lessons and activities an understanding that journalism is a keystone of democracy and that it is impossible for democracy to exist without journalism that begins at the scholastic levels.

GRADING:

Grades will be based on forum discussions, a case study analyses, test/quizzes and a final project.

TEXTBOOK:

Law of the Student Press, 3d Ed., published by the Student Press Law Center (2008) ISBN 0-97806152295-1-5. Available directly from the Student Press Law Center (www.splc.org)

To register, please contact Cheryl Pell at pell@msu.edu or go to www.mipamsu.org/advisers.