# Law on Information

## Prof. Ruben Razzante

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

To develop the concept of freedom of expression in all its dimensions. To teach students about the legal regulations and ethical and deontological principles controlling the practice of journalism in Italy and Europe, and to indicate the new frontiers of web journalism and of the protection of rights on the Net. At the end of the course, students will be able to critically evaluate information and recognise legal and deontological violations by information operators.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Freedom of speech and its historical evolution. The universal declarations and the European treaties. Right to information and pluralism of information. Conflict of interest and relationship between economic democracy and information democracy in the Constitution of Italy and the existing laws. Declaration of Internet rights. The *fake news* phenomenon: legal, cultural and technological remedies.

2. Association of journalists and access to the profession in Italy and Europe. Deontological foundations for the Journalistic profession and Charter of duties of journalists: essentiality and protection of people in the right to report. Protection of journalistic sources. Social networks and journalists’ responsibilities.

3. The basis of the right to privacy and its balancing with freedom of the press. Journalists’ codes of conduct and their application. Publication of wiretaps in Italy and other countries.

4. Press Law No. 47/48. Exercise of freedom of the press and protection of personality. Libel by newspaper article. The journalist’s golden rules. Interviews. Right to report, right to criticise and right of satire.

5. *Web journalism* and protection of rights. The Right to be forgotten and obligation to update the news. *Copyright,* the economic value of journalism products and the role of Net giants.

***READING LIST***

R. Razzante, *Manuale di diritto dell’informazione e della comunicazione,* Cedam, Padua, 2022 (9th edition).

It is compulsory to buy the new edition of the textbook. Other editions are not valid. Photocopying textbooks is forbidden by law.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lecture notes. Further study on set topics also through talks by guest speakers and experts in the field.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examinations. Students will be assessed through a series of questions aimed to verify understanding of media ecosystem phenomena and of the main regulatory and deontological categories applicable to the media ecosystem. Students’ mastery of juridical and specialised terminology will also be evaluated. Students will be required to apply the notions acquired throughout the course to practical cases. Marks of 28/30 or over will only be awarded to students who can critically apply the legal and deontological regulations learned on the course to concrete examples.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Non-attending students are requested to contact the lecturer at the beginning of the academic year to explain the reason for their absence (a valid reason is required) and agree on a supplementary syllabus. Students are expected to be interested in law and the ethical and deontological aspects of the media system.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.