# European Information and Communication Law

## Prof. Monica Spatti; Prof. Ruben Razzante

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

The course will analyse the legal framework for information and communication, with special reference to the role played by the Council of Europe and the European Union in giving concrete effect to the fundamental right to information and freedom of expression and the consequences for the Italian legal system.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to grasp the basic elements of the studied legal systems and to understand the content of the analysed documents.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to critically analyse media phenomena from a legal and deontological point of view.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Following some lectures introducing legal concepts which are essential to the course, particularly for illustrating international law and European law sources, *Module One* will focus on the fundamental principle of freedom of expression and information as guaranteed by the major international legal instruments to protect human rights. Through the study of relevant case-law, the topics related to the protection of press freedom, the right to criticise, privacy and personal data protection, the prohibition of *hate speech*, and the responsibility of social media for the contents published by users will be explored.

*Module Two* will focus on topics linked to the development of a new profile for the information and communication sectors as well as the concepts as the right to information and the pluralism of information to be found on the Web.

Particular attention will be given to the concepts of *fake news*, the quality of online information, the balance between *privacy* and press freedom, the right to be forgotten, defamation, the access to journalism, professional ethics, press laws, online broadcasting and publishing, *copyright* laws, *and* the protection of rights in the world of information. In addition, the course will explore the topics related to public administration communication and the regulations on *lobbying*.

***READING LIST***

Students who have the opportunity to attend the course will prepare for the exam through lecture notes supplemented by the study of the parts indicated in class, of the following volumes:

M. Castellaneta, *La libertà di stampa nel diritto internazionale ed europeo,* Cacucci Editore, Bari, 2012.

A. Gioia, *Diritto internazionale*, Giuffré, Milan, 2019 6th edition (only chapters I, II, paragraphs 1-5, IV, paragraphs 1-5, XIX, paragraphs 1-5 and 10-12, XX, paragraphs 6-8, and XXIII).).

R. Razzante, *Manuale di diritto dell’informazione e della comunicazione,* Cedam-Wolters Kluwer, Padova, 2022 (9th ed.) (previous editions are not allowed).

Lecture summaries and further supplemental readings will be made available on the course area on *Blackboard*.

Students who do not attend the course, will prepare for the exam by studying the textbooks indicated above.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, during which case studies of topics will be preferred as far as possible, as well as students’ active participation.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students attending lectures may sit the examination in two parts, one at the end of the first part of the course and the second one at the end of the entire course. The partial test will be written while the final test at the end of the course will be oral.

For students not attending lectures there will just be an oral exam at the end of the course based on the above reading list. Assessment will be based on a series of questions focused on checking students' understanding of the phenomena of media ecosystem and the main regulatory and ethic categories applicable to it. Students shall also prove command of law specialised vocabulary. Students will be asked to apply the notions gained during the course on practical examples.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Any changes in schedule and information on exams will be published on the *Blackboard* platform. Therefore, all students are invited to register on the *Blackboard* page of the course.

Students who wish to do their degree thesis in this subject must know English.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to 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.