

AEM 261 – Legal and Ethical Issues in Entertainment



Instructor – Ryan Jackson
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Room- MA 269
Days- MWF
Time- 2:00pm – 2:50pm

Course Description

Prerequisites: None

This course examines legal and ethical issues in the music, film, media arts, and other entertainment sectors pertaining to consumers as well as those who participate in the creation of such media including digital/copyright issues; publishing, licensing and distribution; the role of attorneys, managers, agents, and music unions; ethical issues in the manufacture of "talent," cultural appropriation and exploitation, and popular entertainment issues of censorship, race, and misogyny.

Sample Course Topics

This course will focus on providing students with an insight into the legal and ethical issues confronted by professionals in the entertainment industry.

- Study of copyright law, fair use and artists rights
- Historical study of specific cases of copyright infringement
- Censorship
- Consumer awareness regarding ownership and intellectual property rights
- Understanding Unions and Non-Profit organizations
- Effective communication of personal, ethical views regarding the entertainment industries
- Discuss the cultural impact of entertainment, and the legal system
- The distribution of power within entertainment regarding social, racial and gender biases
- The ethical dilemma of contracts in practice: Moral ethics vs. legal ethics

RECOMMENDED TEXT –

Ethics and Entertainment – Essays on Media Culture and Media Morality – Good and Borden

Additional articles and materials will be provided within the course site in D2L Brightspace under their corresponding assignment folders. Please note that **all instructional materials** (readings, videos, etc.) assigned in this course are **required** unless specifically indicated as optional.

Grading Scale

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 97 = A + | 87 = B+ | 77 = C+ | 67 = D+ | 59 = F |
| 93 = A | 83 = B | 73 = C | 63 = D- | |
| 90 = A- | 80 = B | 70 = C- | 60 = D | |

Course Policies

Assignment and Exam Policy

Any late assignments will lose 1 letter grade per day (not per class day). There will be NO makeup exams, except in cases explained in the attendance policy below. *Acceptance of late work is at the sole discretion of the instructor.*

- Since there is no textbook required, assignments and context for research topics will be given during class. It is your responsibility to have this done PRIOR to the next class period for our discussion.
- Your assignments will be based largely on our in-class discussions and research. Lack of context for the in-class piece will make success in this course difficult.
- Assignments and quizzes will be in response form and will be handed in through Turn-It-In within D2L.
- There will be days built in for individual research, projects or exams throughout the semester. These days will be announced in class and/or uploaded to D2L announcements. We will not meet in person or online during these days.

Synchronous Course Delivery, Attendance and Online Attendance Policy

The preferred method of delivery for this course is in person, however, there is an option to attend in-person and online lectures at the scheduled class time. Here is a summary of what to expect:

- When online, lectures will be delivered live and online simultaneously during the scheduled class time.
- I will leave the online Zoom room open for the first 5 minutes of class. If there are no online attendees, I will close the room and focus on the in-class delivery.
- I will not be recording lectures and uploading them to be viewed around an alternate schedule.
- There *may* be days that we meet 100% online. These will be announced no later than an hour prior to class via D2L announcements or announced in class at least one class period prior.
- As a courtesy and to enhance discussion, please have your camera on during class as you are able or comfortable.
- If you have technical difficulties (slow internet, etc.) you are responsible for letting me know ahead of time so we can try to work out a solution for you.

Students are expected to be present at the lectures or online unless there are legitimate reasons not to attend. These include:

- Illness
- Technical difficulties beyond your control (internet went out, etc.)
- *Work schedules or side hustle opportunities are not an excused absence*

Please let me know ahead of time if you are unable to attend and I will work with you to be able to keep up with the material. Any prolonged illness will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

While I will not be taking regular attendance, it is GREATLY beneficial to be present during class time. Please do not rely solely on D2L for assignments. I reserve the right to give assignments or change assignment requirements during lectures. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you are keeping up.

***This syllabus, course outline or course requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be announced in class and/or by regular electronic correspondence or announcements.**

Course Communications

Students should access [MSUM email](#) and the course site in [D2L Brightspace](#) on a regular basis for class related updates and announcements.

Instructor Response Time

I check email frequently Mon-Fri; I strive to reply within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours (about 2 days) on weekends or official holidays; although, in most cases, I will answer you even before. If I plan to be out of town without internet access, I will post a note in the course site Announcements area, send an e-mail, or announce during class. If you do not hear from me within this time, feel free to reach out again to make sure that I have seen your e-mail. Unfortunately, sometimes things can get lost, filtered, or otherwise overlooked.

Because I teach multiple courses, it would be helpful for me if you include identifying information in any email you send to me:

- Include the course name in each subject line
- Identify your first and last name at the bottom of each email

I will host **Online Office Hours** on a regular schedule (listed at beginning of Syllabus). The link to join these sessions is posted in the Course Information Module in Content. Please take advantage of these opportunities to ask me questions directly.

Professional Conduct / Netiquette/Student E-mail Guidelines

In this course we will be communicating online with each other on a regular basis. Because written communications are “heard” differently than verbal, please be sure to follow commonly accepted rules of netiquette (online etiquette). It is important that all participants in online courses be aware of proper online behavior and respect for each other.

Use appropriate language for an educational environment:

- Do not use obscene or threatening language
- Avoid slang and uncommon abbreviations
- Use proper spelling and grammar
- Avoid overuse of ALL CAPS
- Use complete sentences

Professional Ethics & Academic Honesty

The University expects all students to represent themselves in an honest fashion. In academic work, students are expected to present original ideas and give credit for the ideas of others. The value of a college degree depends on the integrity of the work completed by the student.

Work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with the Minnesota State University [Student Academic Honesty Policy](#). For a complete listing of student policies, the [MSUM Student Handbook](#) is available online.

Academic dishonesty may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or dismissal from the College. The following areas are violations and subject to the dishonesty charge:

1. Cheating on tests, papers, etc.
2. Plagiarism, i.e., using words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit (Plagiarism is copying someone else's work or something they have said and using it as your own. This may be copying something word for word or copying someone else's ideas without citing their name).
3. Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments specified as group projects by the instructor.

When an instructor has convincing evidence of cheating or plagiarism, a failing grade may be assigned for the course in which the student cheated. Instructors also may choose to report the offense, the evidence, and their action to the Dean of their college or the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. If the instructor (or any other person) feels the seriousness of the offense warrants additional action, the incident may be reported to the Director of Student Conduct and Resolution. The Director of Student Conduct and Resolution will follow procedures set out in the Student Conduct Code.

After the review of the case and a fair, unbiased hearing, the Director of Student Conduct and Resolution may take disciplinary action if the student is found responsible (see [Student Conduct Code](#) for details). A student who has a course grade reduced by an instructor because of cheating or plagiarism, and who disputes the instructor's finding, may appeal the grade, but only by using the Grade Appeal Policy, which states that the student must prove the grade was arbitrary, prejudicial, or in error.

This Academic Honesty Statement is also published in the [MSUM Student Handbook](#). (mnstate.edu/student-handbook/)

Turnitin: Students enrolled in this course acknowledge and agree to the requirement of submitting course assignments to Turnitin via the course Assignment folders in D2L Brightspace. Students are responsible for adhering to the expectations within the [Academic Honesty Policy](#). Students' use of this tool during drafting and prior to assignment submission will allow students to review their effective paraphrasing, fair use of sources, and proper citations. Faculty will use this tool in evaluation of student's work.

Use the [Turnitin Student Support Guide](#) to learn more about plagiarism prevention and detection.

University Policies

As a student of MSUM, you are expected to be familiar with all University policies. These can be found in the Policies & Procedures section of the [Student Handbook](#).

Accessibility & Accommodations Services

Minnesota State University Moorhead is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students and strives to make courses inclusive and accessible in accordance with sections 508, 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The University will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Accessibility Resources (AR) is the campus office that collaborates with students in need of accommodations and assists in arranging reasonable accommodations.

If you have or think you may have a disability or are currently registered and have questions/concerns, please contact the Director of Accessibility Resources at: Charles.Eade@mnstate.edu. Additional information is available on the AR website: <http://www.mnstate.edu/accessibility>.

The ADA Coordinator for students and ADA compliance issues is Chuck Eade, Director of Accessibility Resources, charles.eade@mnstate.edu.

Technical Support

In any online course, certain minimum technical skills are expected. In this course I expect you to be able to:

- Navigate the course site hosted in D2L Brightspace to locate materials and participate in course activities.
 - Complete a [computer check](#) prior to the start of the course to ensure your computer software is compatible with D2L Brightspace.
 - [D2L Brightspace Tutorials](#) are available for students.
- Create written assignments in MS Word and presentation material via MS PowerPoint.
 - Make sure you have access to Word & PPT via [Microsoft 365](#).
- Join virtual meetings via Zoom.
 - [Join a test Zoom meeting](#) prior to our first scheduled meeting to ensure you system is compatible and you understand how to connect your audio and video for the meeting.

Should you need technical assistance, the [IT Help Desk](#) is available for by phone 218.477.2603, email support@mnstate.edu, or drop-in at their desk in the Library, room 122.

Technology Accessibility & Privacy Statements

Accessibility of course technologies and privacy of your personal information and data is important to us. All the technologies that require you to sign in with your StarID have been vetted by the Minnesota State System Office for security and 508 compliance.

Links to the privacy policies and accessibility statements for the course software are available on the [Technical Requirements & Support](#) page.

Additional Student Support Services

MSUM provides multiple student support services to help you through your academic career here.

- See the [Academic & Student Support Services](#) page for a list of available student services and contact information.
- See the [Technical Requirements & Support](#) page for a list of campus supported technologies and details about how/where to find tech help. Links to the privacy policies and accessibility statements for the course software are also available on this page.

Links to student support services are also available to you on the course navigation bar under **Resources/Help**.

Safety & Procedural Information

Sexual Violence Prevention Statement

Acts of sexual violence are intolerable. MSUM expects all members of the campus community to act in a manner that does not infringe on the rights of others. We are committed to eliminating all acts of sexual violence.

MSUM faculty and staff are concerned about the well-being and development of our students. We are obligated to share information with the MSUM Title IX Coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the students' safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking.

If you have experienced or know someone who has experienced sexual violence, services and resources are available. You may also choose to file a report. For further information, contact Lynn Peterson, Title IX Coordinator, petrsnly@mnstate.edu; 218-477-2967, or Ashley Atteberry, Director of Student Conduct & Resolution, ashley.atteberry@mnstate.edu 218-477-2174; both located in Flora Frick 153. Additional information is available online mnstate.edu/titleix.

Bias Incident Statement

A bias incident is an act of bigotry, harassment, or intimidation that is motivated in whole or in part by bias based on an individual's or group's actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, or familial status.

If you are a student who has experienced or witnessed a hate or bias incident, we want to address the incident and provide you with resources. Contact the Campus Diversity Officer, Jered Pigeon (jered.pigeon@mnstate.edu, 218-477-2047, 114 CMU) or the Dean of Students, Kara Gravley-Stack (kara.gravleystack@mnstate.edu, 218-477-4222, 153 Flora Frick Hall).

Additional information is available at: <https://www2.mnstate.edu/oscar/>.

Student Grievance/Complaint Process

This general procedure is applicable only to those administrative actions for which no special grievance procedure has been established. Special procedures have been established for certain academic (e.g., graduation, grades), student conduct, discrimination/harassment, and employment related matters. Students desiring to appeal actions or procedures of University administrative offices must meet with the following officials, continuing up the hierarchy as necessary to resolve the issues.

Academic Affairs

1. Department Chair of the academic discipline in which the problem arose
2. Dean of that college discipline
3. Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
4. President

Administrative Affairs

1. Director of specific area
2. Vice President for Administrative Affairs
3. President

Student Affairs

1. Director of specific area
2. Vice President for Student Affairs

3. President

This process can also be found in the Policies and Procedures section of the [Student Handbook](#) (p. 12)

Building Emergency Plans

Whether taking your courses online, hybrid, Hyflex, or face-to-face, you may find yourself on campus at some point, so best to be prepared and aware. Building floor plans showing emergency exit routes, fire extinguisher locations and fire alarm pull stations are conspicuously located in classrooms, labs, conference rooms, departmental main offices and residence halls. The Emergency Preparedness Guides (flip style booklets) are located with the maps. Please review the floor plans as well as the guide so you know how to respond in an emergency to help protect yourself and others. If you have questions, please contact Ryan Nelson, Director of [Public Safety](#), at ryan.nelson@mnstate.edu or 218-477-5869. (mnstate.edu/public-safety/).