

PHIL 3315/ COMM 3200: Communication Ethics
Syllabus, Spring 2013

Professor Saam Trivedi
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Class Meets: Tu and Thu 9:30 – 10:45 am in 4113 Boylan
Office Hours: Thu 12:30 - 1:25 pm

This class will explore philosophical and ethical issues in journalism, broadcasting, advertising, public relations, entertainment, and media. Issues to be discussed include those concerning business pressures, truth-telling, reporters and sources, social justice and responsibility, invasion of privacy, what to advertise, violence in the media, censorship, and so on. The focus of the class will be on moral reasoning and contemporary cases.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- (1) Clifford Christians, Mark Fackler et al (eds.), *Media Ethics*, 9th edn. (Allyn & Bacon)
- (2) Matthew Kieran, *Media Ethics* (Praeger)

REQUIREMENTS:

Two in-class exams, each worth approx. 25% of your overall grade.
One final 3-5 page paper, worth approx. 30% of your overall grade.
Class attendance and participation, worth approx. 20% of your overall grade.

Extra credit may be given for class participation, esp. in borderline cases. Please also note exam and paper-dates.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

1/29: Course-Introduction and Welcome.

1/31: Kieran, Ch. 1

2/5: Christians, Fackler et al, Introduction (pp. 1-27)

2/7: Kieran, Ch. 2

2/12: College Closed – Lincoln's Birthday

2/14: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 1

2/19: Kieran, Ch. 3

2/21: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 2

2/26: **Exam I**

2/28: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 11

3/5: Kieran, Ch. 4

3/7: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 5

3/12: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 3

3/14: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 4

3/19: Kieran, Ch. 5

3/21: **Exam II**

3/26: Spring Recess

3/28: “

4/2: “

4/4: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 6

4/9: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 7

4/11: Kieran, Ch. 6

4/16: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 14

4/18: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 8

4/23: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 9

4/25: Kieran, Ch. 7

4/30: **Paper-Topics Given Out**. Also Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 17

5/2: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 10

5/7: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 12

5/9: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 13

5/14: Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 15

5/16: **Papers Due**. Also Christians, Fackler et al, Ch. 16