

JOUR 2603 - Media Ethics and Social Responsibilities

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41422,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Trevor Ivan

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor Trevor Ivan

Instructor Professional Qualifications: B.S., Newspaper Journalism, Kent State University; M.A., Journalism Education, Kent State University

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Course Description

2603. Media Ethics and Social Responsibilities. Examination of ethical standards and moral theories and their practical application in professional mass communication through case studies. Students will learn to become active critics of media professionals. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
No textbook required in this course			

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25	Course introduction, policies and expectations; making everyday decisions	
Thu	8/27	Modern information environment	
Tue	9/1	Free speech and press principles	
Thu	9/3	Qualities of ethical news and information	
Tue	9/8	History of ethical thought and reasoning	
Thu	9/10	Ethical principles and reasoning in a communication and media setting	
Tue	9/15	Facts & accuracy (Unit 1)	
Thu	9/17	Unit 1 case study discussion	Written case brief due from each group. Journal 1 due Sunday, September 20 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard (individual assignment)
Tue	9/22	Privacy issues (Unit 2)	
Thu	9/24	Unit 2 case study discussion	Written case brief due from each group.
Tue	9/29	Anonymity vs the right to know (Unit 3)	
Thu	10/1	Unit 3 case study discussion	Written case brief due from each group.
Tue	10/6	Conflicts of interest (Unit 4)	
Thu	10/8	Unit 4 case study discussion	Written case brief due from each group. Journal 2 due Sunday, October 11 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard (individual assignment)



Tue	10/13	Review for midterm	
Thu	10/15	Midterm Exam during class (closed book and closed note)	
Tue	10/20	Introduce final project	
Thu	10/22	Final project planning and work day	
Tue	10/27	Coverage of anti-social behavior & offensive content (Unit 5)	
Thu	10/29	Unit 5 case study discussion	Written case brief due from each group.
Tue	11/3	Minors as the subject and viewers of news coverage (Unit 6)	
Thu	11/5	Unit 6 case study discussion	Written case brief due from each group. Journal 3 due Sunday, November 8 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard (individual assignment)
Tue	11/10	Responsible Coverage (Unit 7)	
Thu	11/12	Unit 7 case study discussion	Written case brief due from each group.
Tue	11/17	Final project work day	
Thu	11/19	Final project work day	
Tue	11/24	Final project work day	
Thu	11/26	Thanksgiving Day~No class	
Tue	12/1	Final project group presentations	
Thu	12/3	Final project group presentations	
Tue	12/8	No formal meeting during the final exam period.	Final Exam (take-home) due by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.