

C - Small Curricular Revisions : Entry # 3474**Today's Date**

03/07/2025

Your Name

Dean Smith

Your Email:dsmith1@highpoint.edu**Department Chair Name**

Bobby Hayes

Email address of your department chairbhayes@highpoint.edu

By checking below I am certifying that my department chair (named above) has seen and approved the courses that are included in this proposal.

Yes

Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:

Communication

Does this proposal correspond to a particular term?

2025-26 and beyond

Course Prefix, Number, & Name

COM3390 Communication Law and Ethics

Does this course currently count towards Gen Ed curriculum?

No

Which category does this change fall under?

- Learning Outcomes Language
- Course description

Learning Outcomes Language

LEARNING OUTCOMES -- The new version contains the same information that was in text form in the old syllabus, but it is now organized as a grid to show Outcome, Objective and Assessment, which reflects the new approach adopted across the university.

The rest of the syllabus remains unchanged.

Changes to course description(s)

C - Small Curricular Revisions : Entry # 3474**Current Course Description (as seen in the UG Bulletin)****Proposed
Revised Course
Description**

Study of law as applied to the mass media with particular emphasis on freedom of information, libel, privacy, contempt and copyright regulations. Includes detailed examination of ethical dilemmas in the media industries and various codes and procedures adopted to address these problems.

Prerequisites: ENG 1102 and Junior Standing." (High Point University Bulletin) This is a Four Credit Course.

Rationale for above changes

The new course description also takes off the prerequisite of ENG1102 and of COM1450, which will no longer exist.

I am cutting and pasting the OLD and the NEW course descriptions here so that they are easier to read.

OLD

"Study of law as applied to the mass media with particular emphasis on freedom of information, libel, privacy, contempt and copyright regulations. Includes detailed examination of ethical dilemmas in the media industries and various codes and procedures adopted to address these problems. Prerequisites: ENG 1102 and Junior Standing." (High Point University Bulletin) This is a Four Credit Course.

NEW

From the macro view to the micro, this course zeroes in on the specific substantive areas of law that affect each major in the School of Communication — copyright and trademark, libel and trade libel, FTC regulation of advertising, the right to privacy and right of publicity, access to government documents and meetings, confidentiality and trade secrets. Within each area, the course will parse out how each major is potentially affected and what students must know to avoid legal pitfalls they might encounter in their future careers. Throughout the course, students will grapple as well with ethical dilemmas that might arise for journalists, advertising professionals, filmmakers, gamers and so on. They will leave the course with a firm understanding that being legal and being right are two different things, that knowing the legal boundaries is not enough in order to become a competent and ethical professional communicator. Four Credits. Prerequisites: COM 1110 (waived for Legal Studies Minor students)

Does this change affect any other departments, schools, or programs besides your own? If so, please describe your consultation process with affected parties in the box below.

I have discussed this change with Rob Powell, chair of the MPE department. His students currently are required only to take one 2-credit course to fulfill their media law requirement. With those 2-credit courses going away, he will have to decide whether to increase the requirement for his students -- a decision he has not yet determined, still thinking about it.

Other majors with COM will continue to require four credits, now fulfilled with this single course rather than two separate courses -- a change that they all have applauded because it makes scheduling easier for their students.

Dean Review

[DEAN] I approve/deny this proposal

Approve

Today's Date

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07-03-2025

Name of Dean (if this is being reviewed by multiple deans, please indicate who approved it first here)

Interim Dean Nahed Eltantawy

Comments

We are basically eliminating the two 2-credit law classes (1450 and 3450) and replacing them with the 4-credit COM 3390, which had already existed and was our main COM Law required course in the past. We tried the 2-credit model, however, it is not working very well, as it is often hard to pair with other courses in the major, and, with one COM Law professor, it is also challenging to offer several sections of both each semester.