

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**  
**Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-2012**

**Philosophy 2730F: Media Ethics**

**Autumn Term 2011**  
**Tues 6:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**B&GS-0165**

**Instructor: Katharina Paxman**  
**Office: STH 3137**  
**Office hours: TBA and by appointment**  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

We live in a time of unprecedented media presence and influence. Much of human communication and interaction is facilitated, and even guided by, various forms of media. If we assume that humans have moral duties and responsibilities toward one another, this kind of interaction must be given thorough ethical analysis. This course provides an introduction to some important ethical issues that arise when we take a philosophical look at various forms of media, from journalism and freedom of speech to entertainment and advertising.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The primary objectives of the course are two-fold: first, to introduce students to a wide range of ethical issues arising from the varied forms of information dispersion, communication, entertainment and advertising we encounter in today's world. Second, to help students develop the basic philosophical skills of analyzing, reasoning, and offering well-structured argumentation. Students will be challenged to consider issues from all sides, and produce their own well-reasoned conclusions in written work.

**TEXT**

Custom Coursepack, available at The Bookstore

**REQUIREMENTS**

Mid-term short paper (1000 words): 30%  
Term paper (1500-2000 words): 40%  
Final exam: 30%

**AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus cannot be used as grounds of appeal.