

# LAWS 3049 MEDIA LAW

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 200661

**Coordinator** Sarah Hook ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Sarah Hook/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Sarah%20Hook/))

**Description** This unit examines various aspects of the laws that regulate the media. The central content of the Unit consists of defamation, contempt, privacy and surveillance and a selection of other laws impacting upon this industry. Throughout the unit we will also explore two key themes. The first is whether, as a question of policy, current legal restrictions to media freedom appropriately balance the protection of free speech with various other interests, including protection of reputation, personal privacy and the effective administration of justice. The second theme asks whether media laws that were developed to regulate traditional mass-media organisations apply to individuals who publish their own content online, particularly via social media, and, if so, whether this application is appropriately balanced. Analysis of the application of existing media law principles to a range of new technologies will be featured throughout the unit.

**School** Law

**Discipline** Law, Not Elsewhere Classified.

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your HECS Band contribution amount via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

**Pre-requisite(s)** LAWS 2013 AND LAWS 2008

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Accurately explain the principles, statutes, case law and selected policy aspects in each of the main areas of study, being defamation, contempt, privacy and prohibited publications
2. Analyse the impact of new technologies on traditional concepts of media law and policy
3. Demonstrate enhanced legal writing and reasoning skills, effective research strategies and an appreciation of current issues in media law
4. Apply media law concepts covered in the subject to analysing and solving practical problems
5. Use oral persuasion and legal reasoning skills as well as drafting skills for court documents and courtroom etiquette.

## Subject Content

Defamation  
Contempt of Court  
Privacy  
Offensive publications  
Media and National Security  
Regulation and Media

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are

regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/Group Task
Reflection	On-going	20	N	Individual
Simulation	1 hour group oral presentation	35	N	Both (Individual & Group)
End-of-session Exam	48 hours	45	N	Individual

Prescribed Texts

- Sharon Rodrick et al, *Australian Media Law* (6th ed, Thomson Reuters, 2021)

Teaching Periods

## Summer A

**Parramatta - Victoria Rd**

**Evening**

**Subject Contact** Sarah Hook ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Sarah Hook/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Sarah%20Hook/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=LAWS3049\\_22-SUA\\_PS\\_E#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS3049_22-SUA_PS_E#subjects))