COMM360 Digital Media Ethics
SPRING 2023

DAYS: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30-12:20
ROOM: Corboy Law Center – Room 422
INSTRUCTOR: Killian Heilsberg

E-mail: kheilsberg@luc.edu   best way to communicate
Telephone: Email is best
Office hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course is a deep-dive into the digital ethics issues of our time--of which there is a constant and steady stream of examples that affect our everyday lives through policy, storytelling, entertainment, and law. Notions of privacy and identity are constantly shifting, and yet everything about us from the biological to the social may be collected and housed in digital formats at any point, and in perpetuity.

Students will leave this course having engaged with numerous critical analytical perspectives, formulating their own toolkit for handling emergent issues in digital ethics, and contribute their knowledge towards creating a more just society amidst a changing world.

The class will not always agree, and sometimes the topics will hit close to some very tightly held values. With respect, consideration, and the utmost kindness, this class will examine all topics brought up.

Course Objectives:
Throughout the semester, students will:
1. Build their understanding of current issues in digital ethics and communication.
2. Learn best practices for how to weave theory and practice when going between media
and policymaking worlds.
3. Create a toolkit for discussing digital ethics in everyday contexts.
4. Critically assess their own communication, thinking and writing as means of expression
and persuasion.
5. Present research results to a public audience using multiple contexts and platforms.

Assignments and Grading:
1. Digital Ethics Inventory (10%)
2. Wiki Project (10%)
3. Blog (20%)
4. Social Media Project (10%)
5. Multimedia Group Project (20%)
6. Podcast - Individual (10%)
7. Final Exam – Digital Ethics Inventory Part Two (10%)
8. Participation and Professionalism (10%)

Attendance/Participation/Professionalism

This course covers a wide range of material and we have a lot of work to do together.
First off (and so important), attendance is foundational. Making it to class on time and
being present for the lectures, assignments, and discussions is essential to your success in
COMM 360 and a sign of mutual respect. Second, teamwork is a central aspect of our
daily class life, so please come prepared to talk about the readings and issues of the day.

Attendance counts as part of professionalism. It is your responsibility to ask classmates
for announcements you may have missed by arriving late. Documentation for **university authorized** absences
must be cleared with the professor in advance. It allows your
instructor to find better ways to help you as the course progresses.

Participation

As mentioned above, it is crucial to make your voice heard in this course. There will be
plenty of different settings (lecture, the discussions, your presentations, online) to
contribute to our evolving discussion over the semester.

Deadlines/Professionalism

Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the syllabus schedule and on Sakai. Sometimes there are mistakes,
so please let the instructor know as soon as possible if there are conflicts. It is the responsibility of the student to
manage any scheduling conflicts with the course or missed time.
Missed deadlines will be assessed a deduction of one third of a letter grade per day (e.g. from A- to B+ for 1 day
late). The penalty for lateness begins midnight on the due date.

Academic Integrity

The School of Communication is committed to the highest standards of academic
excellence and ethical support. The School expects that the grades in this course will bear
some reasonable relation to established university-wide practices with respect to both
levels and distributions of grades.

Please consult the Loyola School of Communication statement on "Academic Integrity"
for information and guidelines.
http://www.luc.edu/soc/Policy.shtml

Special Accommodations

While the instructor will accommodate student needs in the best way possible given the
constraints of the course content and processes, it is the student's responsibility to plan in
advance in order to meet their own needs and assignment due dates. This includes
relaying any documentation needed for accommodations from University Athletics or the
Student Accessibility Center (https://www.luc.edu/sac/) to the instructor and following up
as needed.

Managing Life Crises and Finding Support

Should you encounter an unexpected crisis during the semester (e.g., securing food or housing, addressing mental health
concerns, managing a financial crisis, and/or dealing with a family emergency, etc.), I strongly encourage you to contact the
Office of the Dean of Students by submitting a CARE referral (LUC.edu/csaa) for yourself or a peer in need of support. If
you are uncomfortable doing so on your own, please know that I can submit a referral on your behalf – just email me or
schedule a meeting with me during office hours. To learn more about the Office of the Dean of Students, please find their
websites here: LUC.edu/dos or LUC.edu/csaa.
Phone number: 773-508-8840.   Email : deanofstudents@luc.edu.)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is subject to change to better fit the goals and needs of the course.
Any changes will be announced in class as soon as possible.

PART 1 – What is Digital Media? What is Ethics?
WEEK 1

16 January   Martin Luther King Jr   NO CLASS

18 January   Syllabus Review & an Etymology of Digital Media

20 January   What is Critical Thinking and a look at Ethics
WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

PART 2 – Leadership and Abuse of Power
WEEK 2

23 January   DISCUSSION   (DIGITAL ETHICAL INVENTORY PART ONE DUE))

25 January   CASE STUDIES

27 January   CASE STUDIES
WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

PART 3 – Intellectual Property
WEEK 3

30 January   DISCUSSION

1 February   CASE STUDIES

3 February   CASE STUDIES
WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

PART 4 – Health and Safety
WEEK 4

6 February   DISCUSSION

8 February   CASE STUDIES

10 February   CASE STUDIES   WIKI PROJECT DUE

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

Part 5 – Digital Divide
WEEK 5

13 February   DISCUSSION

15 February   CASE STUDIES

17 February   CASE STUDIES

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

PART 6 – Discrimination
WEEK 6

20 February   DISCUSSION

22 February   CASE STUDIES

24 February   CASE STUDIES

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

WEEK 7
27 February   DISCUSSION

1 March   CASE STUDIES

3 March   CASE STUDIES

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

WEEK 8
6 March   SPRING BREAK

8 March   SPRING BREAK

10 March   SPRING BREAK
WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

WEEK 9
13 March   PODCASTS

15 March   PODCASTS

17 March   PODCASTS

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

PART 7 – Sex and Privacy

WEEK 10
20 March   DISCUSSION

22 March   CASE STUDIES

24 March   CASE STUDIES

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

WEEK 11
27 March   DISCUSSION

29 March   CASE STUDIES

31 March   CASE STUDIES   SOCIAL MEDIA PROJECT DUE

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

PART 8 – Workplace Ethics

WEEK 12
3 April   DISCUSSION

5 April   CASE STUDIES

7 April   EASTER – NO CLASS

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

WEEK 13
10 April   EASTER – NO CLASS

12 April   CASE STUDIES

14 April   CASE STUDIES
WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

PART 9 – Information Overload

WEEK 14
17 April   DISCUSSION

19 April   CASE STUDIES

21 April   CASE STUDIES

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

FINAL GROUP PROJECTS

WEEK 15

24 April   PRESENTATION   (ALL PRESENTATIONS DUE THIS DAY)

26 April   PRESENTATION

28 April   PRESENTATION

WEEKLY BLOG POST DUE

WEEK 16 – FINALS WEEK

Final Paper due during exam time